

Revelation: The Time is Near

## The Holy City (No More Curse)

Revelation 21:9-22:5

### Revelation Review:

- John on Patmos, **revealed** Jesus in glory, in heaven
- **The end of the world (as we know it) - The Great Tribulation** most of earth, cities, climate, oceans, peoples destroyed - great earthquake at end levels everything
- **Judgment on the nations and those who follow satan (it's clear)**
- **A last ditch effort to get the world to repent**
- **Judgment for the sins of everyone without Jesus and destruction of the universe corrupted by sin**

Today: **A New Heaven & Earth Revealed**

Remember: ***"Bible says more about the End Times than any other time in history."*** Missler

### Previously:

- Great White Throne Judgment
- All dead raised - some to eternal reward/life, some to eternal torment/death
- Creation destroyed - the real big bang
- The former things have passed away

Remember - all of this in Revelation is just the beginning.

[Pray]

### Re-read 21:1-8

V6 - I will give of the spring of water of life to him who thirsts

[John 4:6-15, 23-26 NKJV] Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied from [His] journey, sat thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour. A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink." For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans. Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water." The woman said to Him, "Sir, You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. Where then do You get that living water? "Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, as well as his sons and his livestock?" Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, "but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the

water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life." The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw." ... "But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. "God [is] Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When He comes, He will tell us all things." Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am [He]."

## **:9-14**

### **One of the angels with the seven bowls of the last plagues (Rev 15)**

He's got another job, what a relief to not be set apart for one awful task

Carried away in the spirit. Must be a cool experience! Can't wait for the rapture.

**The church - we are his bride. This is our dwelling place. But it is beautiful, adorned.**

**Marriage is a picture of oneness of God and his people - an earthly institution**

**Centered on God**

**Two people become one flesh, one person together in Him**

**A home is established**

**Children are raised within it**

**Family - fruit**

On this a society can be built.

**This is why the government, high thinking, etc. is against God, against marriage, against family - because it's driven by Satan. These are all extremely Godly institutions meant to be the foundation of a society. Society cannot exist without them. Even the most wicked nations of the past knew the importance of this.**

**Only in modern times, with the introduction of wicked beliefs meant to say we come from nothing and have no purpose have these fundamental issues been uprooted.**

**[John 14:1-6 NKJV] "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. "In My Father's house are many mansions; if [it were] not [so], I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, [there] you may be also. "And where I go you know, and the way you know." Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.**

**Jesus is preparing this place for us.** Revelation is a bit like the brochure or the zillow listing.  
 We get to see pictures of it now, see the acreage on paper  
*Buying this house sight unseen*

### **Descending out of heaven**

Picture being on a high mountain, looking up, in the sky this city coming down  
 (We'll see it's a giant cube later on, star trek anyone?)

### **Having the Glory of God**

We build cities and skyscrapers to show the glory of man, and look at what they're descending into - chaos, murder, filth. People are fleeing them.  
 We're going to want to run into this city.

### **Bright and radiant, shining**

*Looking at the stars the other night with the family, milky way, planets, the light pollution*

God's city is lighted within, lighted by God as we'll see.  
 No more sun needed.

*Sustainable energy!*

Clear, crystal-like light.  
*You can tell high-quality light from low-quality. Temperature.*  
*Changing fog lights on my truck*

### **A great high wall!**

A wall? There are no more enemies in heaven.  
*Commentary - gives it definition*  
 not some ethereal place, but a real place  
 Also a foundation that only the bride may enter. Only those allowed by God are in this place.

Hell is immeasurably distant from the believer, totally separated from Heaven/New Earth forever.  
 Somehow this is a holy reminder, without the burden of sin.

See, walls are not wrong! If you love something, you will protect it. Guard it. You will not let anyone have their way with them or it.  
*More valuable things locked away*  
*The problem is today, we cast aside or mistreat what is truly valuable and value what is filth, unworthy of it*  
*NFTs anyone*

**12 gates**

**12 angels**

**12 tribes of Israel**

What a picture of the Old Testament

The Tribes of Israel, used to user in the messiah, the laws and commands of God, guarding this city, as an entrance and only way into this city.

**[Romans 11:17-24 NKJV] And if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive tree, were grafted in among them, and with them became a partaker of the root and fatness of the olive tree, do not boast against the branches. But if you do boast, [remember that] you do not support the root, but the root [supports] you. You will say then, "Branches were broken off that I might be grafted in." Well [said]. Because of unbelief they were broken off, and you stand by faith. Do not be haughty, but fear. For if God did not spare the natural branches, He may not spare you either. Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in [His] goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off. And they also, if they do not continue in unbelief, will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again. For if you were cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and were grafted contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, who [are] natural [branches], be grafted into their own olive tree?**

Remember the angel posted at the garden with a flaming sword?

Angels are greeters, door keepers.

Think of this new city being in the new creation. We can come and go in and out as we please. This is our home, but we have a world to enjoy safely outside the walls and in.

**I love how orderly God is. How symmetrical in all aspects this city is.**

Human symmetry (line down the middle)

Not 100%, and the slight variation can bring beauty. But we struggle when we see a difference.

We naturally view symmetry as health, beauty, perfection

**This city has it all. In its very design.**

*Whoever designed the layout of this living room obviously didn't understand that.*

*Government building in OCNV NOT a picture of this*

**Wall has twelve foundations**

The gospel that the first 12 preached - is what holds this all up. Not the words of those men, but the words of God those men were witnesses of to the entire world

**[Matthew 16:18 NKJV] "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.**

**[Ephesians 2:19-22 NKJV] Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner[stone],**

in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

**:15-21**

**The angel has a golden rod**

A divine measuring instrument, perfect in nature

Floorplan is a square

1,400 miles!

Border of Iowa and SD to the Pacific

Same corner down to almost Mexico City

**or**

Bangor Maine to Miami Florida

Miami to Western Texas/NM

Back up to deep into Saskatchewan

**AND HEIGHT**

So that far into the sky

Space right now, technically starts at only **62 miles**

Traces of the atmosphere only go to **621 miles**

That's not even half-way to the top of this city!

*I hope there's elevators!*

*I think we'll be able to fly or teleport, so-to-speak - like Jesus appearing in the room, John just now carried by the Spirit...*

**There's more than enough room for everyone who ever lived, probably even on the first floor**

But remember, not everyone makes it. So it will be full, but we'll all have mansions, plenty of property and space

Crystal clear - you're not going to need a window or aisle seat, you'll be happy at any place inside

**Gates Pearls**

**Matthew 13:45**

**"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, 46 who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it.**

**Streets, walls pure Gold**

Streets of gold!

Gold isn't transparent. Not today it isn't, but we live in a fallen world. This is a better creation.

Interesting that some of the elements and things we have in this world are markers of a future world. Relics pointing to the future, if you will.

## **:22-27**

### **No temple**

We go to a temple to worship, we go to a church to fellowship with God and people

We can worship in spirit and truth now

We will so then

**God will be immanuel - with us - in every sense, all the time**

### **The Glory of God is it's light, the lamb is the lamp**

Jesus on the mount of transfiguration

Jesus when revealed to John

Out of every nation saved and in there. Every tribe and color of people who believed.

These racists never read the Bible!

Kings bring glory of their power and nations as gifts, in a sense, like the three wise men

Gates don't need to be shut - no threat.

*Locking the house at night, never needed*

**A reminder that the only way into this new creation and new heaven is through your name being in the Lamb's Book of Life**

No works. No bribes. No feat can earn it. Only the blood of Jesus gains us access.

## **22:1-5**

### **River of Life**

Clear as crystal

Rivers in the Bible - Eden, Tigris, Euphrates, Jordan River

Healing - king dipped 7 times to be healed of leprosy

Baptisms

Crossing Jordan into the promised land, etc.

*Rivers & lakes here vs. East Coast*

### **Each side was the tree of life**

Not one tree, a kind of tree - same species

The one we decided to skip and go for knowledge of good and evil in the garden

The one we were locked out from after the fall

Now free everywhere

Food for heavenly bodies. Eternal life. Sustained life. Don't need to cultivate it, sweat, drive away pests.

**[Psalm 1:1-3 NKJV] Blessed [is] the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; But his delight [is] in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.**

### **Healing of the nations**

That we'd all be one. No more wars. No more fighting. All one in Jesus

#### *DG commentary*

*i. The terms holy and new distinguish the city. Because it is holy and new, it is different from any earthly city. The name Jerusalem gives it continuity with earth, especially with the place of our redemption.*

*ii. It is significant that this glorious dwelling place of God and His people is described as the holy city. Cities are places with many people, and people interacting with each other. This isn't isolation, but a perfect community of the people of God.*

*iii. The Christian concept of heaven as a city — a place of life, activity, interest, and people — is very different from Hindu conception of a blank Nirvana. "The consummation of the Christian hope is supremely social. It is no 'flight of the alone to the Alone' but life in the redeemed community of heaven." (Hunter)*

*iv. Man has never known a community unmarred by sin. Adam and Eve only knew a limited community, and community in a larger context only came long after the Fall. Here, in the New Jerusalem, we have something totally unique: a sinless, pure, community of righteousness, a holy city.*

*v. Problems arise when believers expect this kind of community now, or fail to realize that it only comes down out of heaven. This city is not and never can be the achievement of man, but only a gift from God.*

### **No more curse**

The sin was the curse. Nakedness. Separation. Pain. Suffering. Sorrow, Hurt. Etc. All wiped away.

We will serve God forever. Living here. Living life. Enjoying the city, the new creation. (How high does this atmosphere go?)

No more night. No sun and moon and stars - God is the light.

Those things were given as a picture now and to determine days and months and seasons and years.

**We will reign with him forever.**

This is it. Nothing else, in a sense, comes after this.

There won't be another rebellion.

There won't be yet another creation.

There is eternity past. There is creation. There is eternity future, and this is what it is like.

**It is no mystery. God doesn't want us to know what we're in for.**

**He loves us.**

**He's gone before us.**

**He's prepared a place for us.**

**And he's coming soon for us.**