The Study of the Book of Revelation

Revelation's Heaven City
Chapters 21 & 22

PREVIEW:

God has provided us the Greatest Story Ever Told - the story of Mankind and the Earth - in His Holy Word, the Bible. He starts off the account in the first couple of chapters of the Book, describing the creation of the Heavens and the Earth, of all the animals, and of mankind. He describes the perfect nature of the place He created for Mankind to live - the Garden of Eden. (See Genesis 1 & 2). Then, in Genesis Chapter 3, we see the entrance of sin into the world, and the beginning of the destruction of God's creation by Satan -- we see the entrance of evil, suffering, and death.

Between Genesis Chapter 3 and Revelation Chapter 20, we see God's dealings with mankind, and his provision, through Christ, for overcoming the effects of sin in the world. We see how God leads and cares for those who accept and trust Him, and who become "His Spiritual Israel," and His dealings with those who reject Him. Finally, in Revelation Chapter 19 and 20, we see the prophetic description of LAST HOURS OF SINFUL EARTH AND THE 2ND COMING OF CHRIST, and then what happens LEADING UP TO, DURING, AND AT THE END OF THE 1000 YEARS (THE MILLENNIUM) following Christ's second coming.

The "FINAL CHAPTERS" of Bible show us the ULTIMATE VICTORY of those who are Christ's. We see the Creation of the New Heavens and New Earth. The New Earth, or NEW EDEN, is a place where righteousness dwells - where God and Christ (the Lamb) will live with Mankind (their creation) in a perfect environment of everlasting life, love, joy and learning. Suffering and death will have been destroyed -- the Great Controversy between Christ and Satan, between good and evil, will have been forever ended, and sin will be no more. All creation will declare that God is love, and HE shall reign forever and ever.

REVIEW:

In our last study, of Revelation Chapter 20, we looked at Revelation's 1000 Year period, popularly referred to as the Millennium. The graph below helps us understand what the Bible says happens at the beginning, during, and end of the Millennium.

Graph:

1st Resurrection-Christ's 2nd Coming		2 nd Resurrection
Righteous Dead Raised		New Jerusalem
Righteous Living-caught up		comes down
w/ those just raised		with Jesus &
All Righteous go to Heaven	All Saints in Heaven	the Saints
	1000 Years	

HELL FIRE

Satan Loosed

Satan Bound All Wicked Dead Wicked are Raised Wicked Dead stay dead No-one to Deceive Earth Dark & Desolate Wicked Living slain by Gathered together The brightness of God's to battle the city Shekinah Glory

Key Point:

We saw that the Millennium started with the first resurrection, at the second coming of Jesus, after the pre-advent judgment. The earth during this time is broken down, dark and desolate and only Satan and his angels are alive. At the end, the second resurrection takes place, the wicked are raised to receive the penalty for their sins. Satan gathers them together for one final attempt to battle Christ and take the New Jerusalem. Fire then comes down from God out of heaven and devours the wicked. Hell fire is the final execution of sin and sinners, along with Satan and his angels. After the earth is cleansed by fire, Jesus will create the earth all over again.

This Study: Revelation 21 &22

Revelation 21:1

"And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea."

Revelation 21:1 really provides the ending to Revelation Chapter 20. Look back at Revelation 20:11-15. In verses 14 & 15, we see the destruction of death and hell, and of "whoever was not found written in the book of life" by the lake of fire. This lake of fire corresponds to the final cleaning of the earth - with Revelation 21:1 ushering in the new heaven and the new earth:

2 Peter 3: 7, 10-12

"But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men." "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and

godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat."

Revelation 21:1

"And <u>I saw a new heaven and a new earth</u>: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea."

2 Peter 3:13

"Nevertheless we, according to his promise, <u>look for new heavens and a new earth</u>, wherein dwelleth righteousness."

Matthew 5:5 "Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth."

"and there was no more sea." - Does this mean that in the New Earth there will be no more large bodies of water - no ocean or "seas"? We can't be sure, but considering that prophetic nature of this material, it might make more sense to understand "no more sea" in the light of what we have learned "sea" stands for symbolically -:

Revelation 17:15

"And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues."

Isaiah 57:20

"But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt."

Isaiah 27:1

"In that day the LORD with his sore and great and strong sword shall punish leviathan the piercing serpent, even leviathan that crooked serpent; and he shall slay the dragon that is in the sea."

We see the sea equated to the wicked multitudes - the unsaved. And, we see that this is where the serpent (Satan) lives. Thus, we see symbolically stated that Satan and his evil influence, along with sinful, unrepentant men, "are no more". (The dragon = Satan, See Rev. 12:9)

Other verses that correlate to Revelation 21:1 include:

Isaiah 65:17-19

"For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind. But be ye glad and rejoice for ever in that which I create: for, behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy. And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people: and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying."

Isaiah 66:22-23

"For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the

LORD, so shall your seed and your name remain. And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the LORD."

These, and other prophetic verses, talk of the "new heaven and new earth" to come. And, as Isaiah 66:22-23 shows, God's Sabbath will be kept in the new earth.

Revelation 21: 2-4

"And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."

"bride adorned for her husband" - We see that theme we have discussed before - that of a Bride and bridegroom. We have discussed how that Christ, used parables drawing our attention to the picture of the pure church as the bride and Christ being the bridegroom. Thus, we are seeing the reference to the New Jerusalem as the symbol of the eternal home of Christ's true followers. (SEE also Rev. 21:9b "the bride, the Lamb's wife".)

"the tabernacle of God is with men..." When all sin and evil have been destroyed forever, God himself will live with His creation -- the perfect fellowship that existed in the original Garden of Eden - when God personally walked and talked with Adam and Eve - will be restored in the New Eden.

Revelation 21: 5-8

"And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."

"Write: for these words are true and faithful" - (See also Revelation 22:6) - Twice in these last two chapters, we see GOD telling John to write these things that are "faithful and true". Clearly God it affirming to you and I that what He has said will come to pass -- that we can trust in Him and His Word. We can have confidence and steadfastness in our Faith!!

"It is done." - What is done? The Great Controversy between Christ and Satan. Satan, and sin, and evil are fully defeated and finally destroyed. And Christ will reign victorious over all the New Earth.

"He that overcometh shall inherit all" - Who are those that overcome? Remember our prior studies - we learned about the faithful remnant - about those who were saved by faith in and obedience to the Lamb of God:

Revelation 12:11, 17

"And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death." "...which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ."

Revelation 19:10

"... of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

"But the fearful, and unbelieving" - Those who KNOW God, and understand that He is a God of love, and who are redeemed by the blood of the Lamb, will be happy at God's presence. But those who are sinful, who do not "believe on the Lord Jesus Christ", will be fearful at the presence of God. These will be destroyed in the second death.

Revelation 6:15-17:

"And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?"

Remember, in our Daniel 3 study, we talked about the question of "Who can stand in the presence of the Lord? (See Isaiah 33:14-17)

Revelation 21:9-21

"And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife. And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal; And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates. And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. And he that talked with me had a golden reed to measure the city, and the gates thereof, and the wall thereof. And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal. And he measured the wall thereof, an hundred and forty and four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of the angel. And the building of the wall of it

was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass. And the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones. The first foundation was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, a chalcedony; the fourth, an emerald; The fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, a topaz; the tenth, a chrysoprasus; the eleventh, a jacinth; the twelfth, an amethyst. And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; every several gate was of one pearl: and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass.

In these verses, we see a description of the New Jerusalem by John the Revelator. Let's look at a few of the features and thoughts that come out of these verses.

"seven last plagues" - One of the Angels that John had seen previously, with the vials of the seven last plagues - (Rev. 16 -18. Note parallel to Rev. 17:1, where one of the Angels - maybe the same one - showed John the Judgment of the Great Whore. Thus, we see the Angel helping to clarify to John the details that he is to write down for us to see.)

"the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven" - John saw the New Jerusalem descending from Heaven. As with other parts of Revelation, the visions presented are most likely not presented in exact time sequence. (Remember the idea of Repeat and Enlarge!) John here sees the Holy Jerusalem descending out of heaven. Yet in Revelation 20:9, we see a reference to the resurrected dead gathered together to attack "the beloved city", just before they are devoured by fire from God.

"Having the glory of God" - cross reference to Rev. 15:8, Rev. 21:23 and Rev. 22:5 - God's glory filled the City - the brightness of His Shikinah Glory lighted the City.

"twelve gates ... twelve tribes of the children of Israel" - symbolic of the idea that only those who are part of Spiritual Israel - saved by the blood of the Lamb and written in the Lamb's book of life - will be able to enter into the Holy City. (See discussion following for Rev. 21:24-27)

"twelve foundations ... the twelve apostles" - symbolic of the fact that the foundation of the Holy City, of the eternal home of the righteous, is built upon the foundation and faith of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 2:19-21

"Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:"

(Temple - "naos" - according to Strong's Concordance - used metaphorically [symbolically] of the spiritual temple consisting of the saints of all the ages joined together in and by Christ)

Revelation 21:22-24

"And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it."

There will be no need of a temple to meet with God in - for God and Christ will be present with men in the City. And the Shekinah glory of God and Christ's presence will light the City.

Isaiah 24:23

"Then the moon shall be confounded, and the sun ashamed, when the LORD of hosts shall reign in mount Zion, and in Jerusalem, and before his ancients gloriously."

Isaiah 60:19-20

"The sun shall be no more thy light by day; neither for brightness shall the moon give light unto thee: but the LORD shall be unto thee an everlasting light, and thy God thy glory. Thy sun shall no more go down; neither shall thy moon withdraw itself: for the LORD shall be thine everlasting light, and the days of thy mourning shall be ended."

"kings of the earth" - Who are these kings? See Rev. 1:6 & Rev. 5:10. In the next verses, we see that there will be no "wicked" that enter (Ref. Rev. 21:27). The "Kings" are the saints of God. The wicked can't enter, because they "Are No More" (ref. Rev. 21:8).

Revelation 21:25-27

"And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there. And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it. And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life."

There will be no need to shut the gates. For the wicked will be destroyed.

Isaiah 60:11-12

"Therefore thy gates shall be open continually; they shall not be shut day nor night; that men may bring unto thee the forces of the Gentiles, and that their kings may be brought. For the nation and kingdom that will not serve thee shall perish; yea, those nations shall be utterly wasted."

Joel 3:17

"So shall ye know that I am the LORD your God dwelling in Zion, my holy mountain: then shall Jerusalem be holy, and there shall no strangers pass through her any more."

Revelation 22:1-5

"And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads. And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever."

"river of water of life" - Christ is the source of the life giving water. He was the Spiritual Rock that provided the water to the Children of Israel in the wilderness. (Ex. 17:1, 1 Cor. 10:4) He told the woman at the well that he was the source of the spring of water that would lead to eternal life. (John 4:14) He also referred to himself as the source of living water on the last of the Feast of Tabernacles . (John 7:2)

Exodus 17: 6

"I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel."

John 7: 2, 37-39

"Now the Jews' feast of Tabernacles was at hand"... "On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, 'Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water'** Now he said this about the Spirit, which believers in him were to receive; for as yet there was no Spirit, because Jesus was not yet glorified."

** The significance of the this statement is founded in the symbolism of one of the pouring of wine and water into funnels at the base of the alter in the Temple during the Feast of Tabernacles. The Feast of Tabernacles was a celebration of the wilderness wandering when God fed his people manna and gave them water from the rock. On this day, Jesus proclaims He is the source of living waters.

"The Pool of Siloam was fed by the living spring farther up in the narrowest part of the Kedron Valley...When the Temple-procession had reached the Pool of Siloam, the Priest filled his golden pitcher from its waters ...[Arriving at theTemple] There were two silver funnels here, with narrow opening, leading down to the base of the altar. Into that at the east, which was somewhat wider, the wine was poured, and, at the same time, the water into the western...We can have little difficulty in determining at what part of the services of the "last day", the Great Day of the Feast, "Jesus stood and cried, 'If any one thirst, let him come unto Me and drink."

Alfred Edersheim, *The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah*, Vol. 2, pages 158 & 160.

Once the water and wine were poured into the funnels by the Priest, the streams would unite and mix as one and flow into the Gihon Spring located under the Temple mount. From the Gihon, the waters flow into the Kidron,

which empties into the Dead Sea. The symbolism was that life flowed out of the Temple, from God, to make even the lowest "Dead Sea" to live.

"tree of life" - the Tree of Life was last seen in the Original Garden of Eden (Gen. 2:9). We see Eden Restored here.

"healing of the nations" -Ezekiel prophetically saw the rivers of life flowing out of the temple - and bringing "Healing" wherever the waters flowed. (Ezekiel 47:1-12)

"shall be no more curse" - Following their sin in the Garden of Eden, God put a curse upon the Ground - the Earth (rather than upon man). (Gen. 3:17-19) Now this curse is gone. The "Garden" is restored.

"and his name shall be in their foreheads" - this draws our attention back to Rev. 14:1, where we saw the redeemed of God standing on Mount Zion with "his Father's name written in their foreheads". (For more information see study on Revelation chapter 14).

"they shall reign for ever and ever." - The redeemed shall reign with Christ on the new earth for eternity.

Revelation 5:9-10

"They sing a new song: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slaughtered and by your blood you ransomed for God saints from every tribe and language and people and nation; you have made them to be a kingdom and priests serving our God, and they will reign on earth."

Revelation 22:6-12

"And he said unto me, These sayings are: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew unto his servants the things which must shortly be done. Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book. And I John saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which shewed me these things. Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God. And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand. He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

"faithful and true" - God reaffirms that His Words are faithful and true. They WILL come to pass - just as He says.

"which must shortly be done" - We have already seen that most of the prophecies given in Revelation

already have been fulfilled and/or are being fulfilled at this very time in Earth's history. Only the FINAL portions remain to be fulfilled.

"Behold, I come quickly" - Three times in Revelation 22 God gives this warning (Rev. 22:7, 12, 20) If God included this warning three times, we would do well to heed it.

"worship God" - Two times we see John start to worship the messengers (Rev. 19:10, Rev. 22:8). Both times he was admonished to Worship God, not God's messengers. We have already seen the primary focus of the Beast Power (Rev. 13) is going to center around false worship. God's True Worship, is to worship Him as the Creator on the Seventh day Sabbath.

"Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book" - In the last chapter of Daniel, Daniel was told to "shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end". We started our studies in Revelation 10 with the unsealing of the prophecies of the Book of Daniel. John is told not to seal of the prophecies of Revelation -- we are to study and understand them NOW - "for the time is at hand".

Revelation 22:13-17

"I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie. I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star. And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely."

"Blessed are they that do his commandments" - Those that love Christ, and serve Him as Lord of their lives, will keep His commandments - through the power of the Holy Spirit. It is those, who are Christ's, who will have the right to eternal life - "have right to the tree of life" and who will enter into the New Jerusalem - the New Eden .

"And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely."

The Gift of salvation and eternal life, through Christ Jesus, is available to WHOSOEVER WILL. All you have to do is believe in Jesus as your personal Saviour and accept Him into your heart. Even now, God invites you to open the door of your heart to Him:

Revelation 3:20

"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me."

Revelation 22:18-20

"For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book. He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus."

The Revelation of Jesus Christ given to John, though written in symbolic language, is a message that Jesus has given for His people to understand what to expect in last days of earth's history. It was given so that people wouldn't be deceived by the errors that Mother Babylon has spread. Therefore, God declares that anyone that adds to or takes away from the words of this prophecy will have their names taken out of the book of life. They will be lost.

Deuteronomy 4:2

"Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you."

Deuteronomy 12:32

"What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it."

Exodus 32:33

"And the LORD said unto Moses, Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book."

Key Point:

We all are sinners, but through the gift of Salvation through Christ, our sins can be forgiven. Unforgiven sins, however, can be a problem for us. We need to abide in His word and walk daily in Christ, through the Holy Spirit, and seek forgiveness when we do sin.

1 John 1:9

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Revelation 22:21

"The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen."

The closing Benediction of John and of God's Holy Scriptures --- **The Grace Of Christ** is how we are saved. It is because of the Grace of Christ that salvation is possible - that we can be forgiven - that we can look forward with hope and anticipation to seeing the prophecies of Revelation fulfilled.

Ephesians 2: 8

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:" Thus, this is a fitting way to end the Book of Revelation.