

Revelation 22:1-11

REVIEW...

- **New Jerusalem...**
 - The Holy City...
 - One of the SEVEN angels took John in the Spirit to see the Bride of the Lamb...
 - She lives in the New Jerusalem – that came down from heaven – and was the GLORY of God!
 - The Description...
 - The city was made of clear Jasper and Gold – so the light of Jesus can shine out from her...
 - There are TWELVE gates – guarded by angels – marked with the TWELVE tribes of Israel...
 - There are TWELVE foundations – which at the TWELVE apostles of Jesus...
 - And the city is HUGE – it is a 2400 kilometer CUBE – providing MANSIONS for all!
 - What is missing...
 - There is no TEMPLE – because God will walk with us on the streets of gold...
 - There is no SUN – because Jesus is the light of the world – **John 8:12**
 - There is no NIGHT – so the gates of the city are always open [whosoever]
 - There is no SIN – because only those in the Lamb's book of Life can come in!

COMING QUICKLY...

- **1ST – INSIDE THE CITY... vs. 1-5**
 - 1st – River of Life... vs. 1
 - Pure Water...
 - He showed me a pure river of water of life - clear as crystal!
 - As the ANGEL continued to TOUR John through the NEW Jerusalem...
 - He showed him - THREE more things that are found INSIDE the City...
 - FIRST – there is a RIVER that runs through it...
 - It is PURE – CLEAR – like CRYSTAL – all three adjectives emphasize it has NO impurities!
 - There are certain things we NEED to survive...
 - Other than AIR - WATER is the most essential thing needed for LIFE...
 - But imagine picking up a cup of water on a hot day – only to see it is FILTHY...
 - The last thing we want when we are THIRSTY – is DIRTY water!
 - Life - TRUE life – cannot be found in drinking DIRTY water...
 - Yet the WATER of this world – is FILTHY – so it can NEVER satisfy us – **John 4:13**
 - The WATER of this life only serves to remind us we are still THIRSTY...
 - We will ONLY be satisfied when we drink the PURE water in the NEW Jerusalem!
 - **John 4:14** – “The water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.”
 - The Throne...
 - [The river] proceeds from the throne of God and of the Lamb!
 - Do NOT miss the source of this RIVER – it flows out of God and Jesus [the Lamb]
 - This is NOT the only place we read about this – it was prophesied in the Psalms!
 - **Psalm 46:4** – “There is a river whose streams shall make glad the city of God... God is in the midst of her - she shall not be moved.”
 - Everyone in life has a World View – what they see as the meaning of LIFE...
 - The problem is the World View of most people is based on a LIE ...
 - Therefore they are confused – because they are NOT content...
 - Because rather than believe the TRUTH - they believe the LIE this world can satisfy them!

- We were NOT created by God to be fulfilled by the things of this world...
 - We were created by God to know Him - worship Him - **John 17:3**
 - And only when we are willing to come to the TRUTH – and drink from the RIVER of LIFE...
 - Will we find that we are IMMOVABLE – because we have found the meaning of LIFE!
- o 2nd - Tree of Life... vs. 2
- From the Garden...
 - In the middle of her street - and on either side of the river - was the tree of life!
 - SECOND – there is a TREE that grows beside the RIVER – next to the MAIN street of the city...
 - It is a TREE that we have seen before in the Bible – the TREE of LIFE...
 - It was planted in the Garden of Eden for Adam and Eve – **Genesis 2:9**
 - But when they SINNED – their access to the TREE was cut off!
 - **Genesis 3:24** – “[God] placed cherubim... to guard the way to the tree of life.”
 - We lost access to the TREE of Life – because we chose the TREE of Knowledge...
 - We thought we did NOT need God – and would be ok on our own...
 - We have spent the last 6000 years proving we were WRONG!
 - Twelve Fruits...
 - Which bore twelve fruits - each tree yielding its fruit every month!
 - The TREE is ALWAYS bearing fruit – a different kind for each MONTH of the year...
 - TWELVE fruits – likely a reference to the GOVERNMENT of the NEW Jerusalem!
 - Just like there were TWELVE tribes of Israel – and TWELVE apostles of Jesus...
 - The TREE of life will produce a FRUITFUL government to rule over the city!
 - We do NOT have a perfect Government today – it is VERY flawed...
 - And it does not matter what COUNTRY – or WHO gets into power...
 - EVERY government today will be flawed – because they are led by SINFUL men!
 - Healing leaves...
 - The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations!
 - This is not some new fad vegetarian diet...
 - I do not think the NATIONS [ἔθνος] will eat the leaves to be healed [θεραπεία]
 - It is a reference to the health of the NATIONS because of a good GOVERNMENT!
 - When Israel demanded that Samuel give them a KING...
 - God told the prophet – they are not rejecting you – they are rejecting Me – **I Samuel 8:7**
 - Because Israel already had a KING – they were ruled by God!
 - The best form of government is not DEMOCRACY – that looks to SINNERS to make CHOICES...
 - It is not SOCIALISM – because that depends on SINNERS to do what is RIGHT...
 - The only GOVERNMENT that works – is a THEOCRACY – where God is on the THRONE...
 - Because then we are NOT trusting in FLAWED men to lead...
 - We look to the LORD – who brings LIFE – to HEAL the nations!
- o 3rd – The Throne... vs. 3-5
- The Curse...
 - When Adam and Eve chose to eat of the TREE of knowledge – that God told them NOT to...
 - They rejected the WORD of God – and the CURSE began!
 - **Genesis 3:17** – “Cursed is the [earth] for your sake.”
 - We are still under that CURSE – because people still reject the WORD of God...
 - Rather than look to the Jesus [the Word] – people still look to KNOWLEDGE...
 - We live in a world that DENIES our creator – believing they are an accident [Evolution]
 - Not because it is true – they believe it because they LOVE their SIN!
 - **I Corinthians 16:22** – “Anyone does not love the Lord Jesus - let him be accursed [ἀνάθεμα].”
 - Or they DENY the Word of God – because they follow the RELIGIONS of men...

- All RELIGIONS are an attempt by men to be GOOD – but they all come up short!
- Galatians 1:9 – “If anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received - let him be accursed [ἀνάθεμα].”

▪ Jesus Throne... vs. 3

- There shall be no more curse [singular].
- The throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in [the city] - and His servants shall serve Him!
- THIRD - in the NEW Jerusalem there will be NO more CURSE...
- Because the THRONE of God and Jesus [Lamb] will be there...
- And everyone will CHOOSE to be SERVANTS [δοῦλος] of the Lord...
- They will CHOOSE to obey His Word – and Love Jesus!
- John 14:15 – “If you love Me – [obey] My commandments”.
- If it seems like no matter what we do in life is NOT working – perhaps we are CURSED...
- Because the ONLY way to have a BLESSED life – is by OBEYING and LOVING Jesus!
- Often – we get frustrated with our CHOICES - NOT knowing what to do...
- We want to know which way we should go – but it really does not matter...
- Rather than worry about the DECISION – all we have to do is CHOOSE who to trust in...
- If we are looking to Jesus – no matter what we do – we will be BLESSED!
- Psalms 1:3 – “[Then] whatever [we] do will prosper!

▪ Jesus Face... vs. 4

- They shall see His face - and His name shall be on their foreheads!
- Because the THRONE is in the NEW Jerusalem – we will SEE the face of God...
- Which makes sense – if we are in the city WITH God – we will SEE God...
- And He will write His name on our foreheads [we will be marked as His]!
- Moses wanted to see the FACE of the Lord – Exodus 33:18
- God would let His GOODNESS [כֶּלֶם-טוֹב] pass before Moses - and He would call out His name...
- But no man can look on His FACE and live - Exodus 33:20
- Because God is HOLY – therefore SINFUL man would perish in the pure light of God!
- When we come to the NEW Jerusalem – we NO longer have sin...
- We will be in our glorified bodies – and be able to look upon our HOLY God!
- Job 19:26 – “After my body has [died] - yet in my [new] body I will see God.”

▪ Jesus Light... vs. 5

- There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun.
- For the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever!
- Because the THRONE is in the NEW Jerusalem – there will be NO night – Revelation 21:25
- No more need for a light on our cell phones to see at night...
- Because the Lord [κύριος] who is THE only God [ὁ θεός] – will be the LIGHT!
- John 1:9 – “[Jesus] is the true Light... that [came] into the world.”
- People can get so excited when they see something they have always wanted...
- But that excitement does NOT last – and they move on to something else!
- But when we see Jesus [who is God] - no one will want to move on...
- Which is why once we get there - we will STAY – and REIGN [indicative] with Him FOREVER!

● 2ND – THE TIMING... vs. 6-7

o 1ST – Time is near... vs. 6

▪ The Words...

- Then he said to me - These words are faithful and true.
- And the Lord God of the holy prophets sent His angel to show His servants!
- The Angel then told John – these the [ὁ] WORDS [λόγος] are FAITHFUL and TRUE...
- FAITHFUL – because they are meant to cause us to have FAITH [πίστις] in a crazy world...

- TRUE – because we can be absolutely certain they will come to pass...
- The WORDS – are referring to the WHOLE book of Revelation:
- THREE times – PAST – PRESENT – FUTURE – **Revelation 1:19**
- THREE events – RAPTURE – WRATH – RETURN of Jesus
- THREE judgements – SEAL – TRUMPET – and BOWL judgments
- And the same God who spoke in the PAST through the Holy [ἅγιος] Prophets...
- Now sent the ANGEL – to show His servant [δοῦλος] what is coming!
- The Timing...
 - The things which must shortly take place!
 - The events of the book of Revelation – must be done QUICKLY [τάχος]
 - It has been 2000 years since these WORDS were given to John...
 - That certainly does not qualify for happen SOON...
 - What this means that once the events begin – this will all happen FAST!
 - When a mother is carrying a new child – not much seems to happen...
 - Until the very last minute – when the LABOR begins – then things move FAST!
 - **Matthew 24:8** – “These are the beginning of birth pains.” [NIV]
 - It is easy to get comfortable – and think we still have TIME...
 - After all – it has already been 2000 years – why would Jesus come now...
 - But we are NOT waiting for the RETURN of Jesus – we are WAITING for the RAPTURE...
 - And that could happen at any MOMENT – when we least expect it!
 - **I Thessalonians 5:2** – “The day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night.”
- o 2nd – Jesus is coming... vs. 7
 - Behold - I am coming quickly!
 - BEHOLD – a command [imperative] to LOOK...
 - Because Jesus is coming [present] – and it will happen QUICKLY [τάχος]
 - How FAST will Jesus come – in the BLINK of an eye!
 - **I Corinthians 15:52** – “In a moment - in the twinkling of an eye... we shall be changed.”
 - The simple point being – if we are not READY – we will miss out on the Rapture...
 - We do NOT know the day or the hour when Jesus will return – **Mark 13:32**
 - But we must be preprepared – live each day like this might be THE day!
 - **Luke 21:28** – “Look up and lift up your heads - because your redemption draws near.”
 - Blessed...
 - Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book!
 - HAPPY [μακάριος] is the person who pays ATTENTION [τηρέω] to this BOOK!
 - HAPPY - because we are going to understand that time is SHORT...
 - And understand what is at STAKE – the Lake of FIRE – or NEW Jerusalem...
 - We know who WINS – and are HAPPY if we chose to be on His side!
- 3rd – THE WARNING... vs. 8-11
 - o 1st – Unprepared... vs. 8-9
 - Overwhelmed...
 - Now I – John - saw and heard these things. And when I heard and saw.
 - I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who showed me these things!
 - When John saw and heard all of this he was OVERWHELMED...
 - He fell down and WORSHIPED the ANGEL who was showing Him the NEW Jerusalem...
 - This is the SECOND time that John tried to worship and Angel – **Revelation 19:10**
 - Worship God...
 - Then he said to me - See that you do not do that. For I am your fellow servant...
 - Of your brethren the prophets - and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God!

- Immediately the ANGEL told him NOT [imperative] to do that...
 - He was no different than John – he was also just a SERVANT [σύνδουλος]
 - Like one of the PROPHETS – or anyone who keeps the word of this BOOK [all of us]
 - Instead – only WORSHIP [imperative] God!
 - We tend to worship the messenger – rather than the one who sent the message...
 - The danger is people [including pastors] are destined to fail – we are ALL sinners...
 - And if we have put our faith in a FLAWED man - rather than in a PERFECT Lord...
 - When that man stumbles - makes a mistake - we will fall with him!
- o 2nd – Unsealed... vs. 10
- He said to me - Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book - for the time is at hand!
 - When Daniel had finished his prophecy – he was told to SEAL the book – **Daniel 12:9**
 - Because it was NOT yet TIME for the PLAN of God to be revealed...
 - But the Angel asked John – do NOT [subjunctive] seal this book...
 - Because NOW was the time for the PLAN of God to be revealed...
 - And the only way people are going to KNOW what that PLAN is – is through the WORD!
 - The two most important parts of any STORY – are the BEGINNING and the END...
 - Yet the two books of the Bible that most churches avoid – are Genesis and Revelation!
 - Many churches argue Genesis is IRRELEVANT – contrary to approved modern Science...
 - And they argue Revelation is too CONFUSING – or too CONTROVERSIAL...
 - But what they are actually doing is choosing to SEAL up the words of the BOOK...
 - We need to stand up and UNSEAL it – let people KNOW!
 - **Romans 10:17** – “Faith comes by hearing - and hearing by the word of God.”
- o 3rd – Unchanged... vs. 11
- Sinners...
 - He who is unjust - let him be unjust still. He who is filthy - let him be filthy still!
 - Why is it so IMPORTANT for us to UNSEAL the Word...
 - Because when Jesus comes – there will NOT be time for anyone to CHANGE...
 - The SINNER [ἀδικέω] will just keep on [present] choosing [active] to SIN...
 - The FILTHY [ρυπαίνω] will be continually [present] choose [active] to be UNCLEAN!
 - Until it is TOO late – and they end up standing before the Great White Throne!
 - Righteous...
 - He who is righteous - let him be righteous still. He who is holy - let him be holy still!
 - But the RIGHTEOUS [δίκαιος] – are [aorist] made [passive] RIGHTEOUS...
 - The HOLY [ἅγιος] – are [aorist] made to be [passive] HOLY still!
 - There is a SUBTLE - but MAJOR - difference between the UNJUST and RIGHTEOUS...
 - Where men CHOOSE [active] to live [present] a SINFUL life – that makes them FILTHY...
 - God can MAKE [passive] us RIGHTEOUS and HOLY – in a moment [aorist]
 - **I Peter 3:21** – “Removal of the filth [ρυπαίνω]... comes through the resurrection of Jesus.”
 - We have the ANSWER the world needs – we have the WORDS of the BOOK...
 - But like John we have a CHOICE – do we SEAL those words – or SHARE them...
 - If we are willing to tell others – the Gospel has POWER – **Romans 1:16**
 - It can take who are SINNERS and make them into SAINTS!