

# The Book of Revelation—Part 2

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## Chapter 14

*Verse 1—Kai eidov* (“and I saw”). John uses this phrase frequently in the book (14:6, 14; 15:1, 2, 5). The point is that John is giving us observations, not interpretations or applications. He’s simply telling us what he saw and what he heard. He saw the Lamb (Jesus) standing on Mt. Zion. He’s with the 144,000 named in chapter 7 (12,000 of each of the 12 tribes of Israel, except Dan—we don’t know why Dan is not included). The number is still 12 because the tribe of Levi is included, in the place of Dan. I believe this Mt. Zion is on earth, in the Old City of modern day Jerusalem.

*Verse 2*—John hears a loud voice—like the sound of many waters, thunder, and harps.

*Verse 3*—They sang a song, but no one could learn the song except the 144,000. Why? We don’t know. But it shows how God has different plans and jobs for different believers. For example, there are saints who are martyred, who have a different blessing than those who are not martyred, and theirs are different from the 144,000 which are different than the blessing for the church, which is different than for believers in the Old Testament.

*Verse 4*—The 144,000 have not been defiled with women—that is, they are celibate bachelors. They followed the Lamb wherever He goes. They don’t lie. They are blameless (unblemished, not that they are perfect, they are sinners who need to confess their sins like other believers, but they don’t have “baggage”—no divorce, etc.).

*Verse 6*—John now sees 3 angels:

1. The first angel is flying in the atmosphere, having an eternal Gospel he preaches to the whole earth. Every nation, tribe, tongue, and people hears the Gospel, fulfilling Matthew 24:14. (The Gospel of the Kingdom will be preached to the whole world—many believers today think it is our responsibility to preach the Gospel before Christ returns. But in Matthew 24, it is in the context of the Tribulation, not the church age. Here in Revelation we see it is not only in the Tribulation but is also carried out by an angel.) This is the only mention of the “Gospel” in Revelation.

*Verse 7*—The Gospel message: Fear God, give Him glory because His judgment has come, worship Him as the Creator.

*Verse 8*—

2. The second angel says, “Fallen is Babylon ... who made the nations drink of immorality.” This is a dominant theme from here on—the fall of Babylon. (See chapter 18.) Babylon is the headquarters of the antichrist and false prophet. I believe Babylon is really Babylon (located in modern day Iraq).

*Verses 9-10*—

3. The third angels says that if anyone worships the beast or has the beast’s mark on his forehead or hand, he will receive the wrath of God. Two things are emphasized: (1) worshipping the beast and (2) receiving the mark. It’s this beast who sets up a marketing system where no one can buy without the mark (13:15-18). Those who accept this mark will be tormented forever and ever.

*Verse 11*—There is a theory today that unbelievers do not suffer. They are simply burned up. But verse 11 goes against that. Their torment goes on forever and they have no rest day and night. It seems from verse 10 that Christ and some of the angels witness this torment.

*Verse 12*—Here is the perseverance of the saints. The saints are those who keep the commandments of God and keep their faith in Jesus (in contrast to verse 11 unbelievers). There’s a difference between assurance of salvation and security of salvation. Those who are ordained by God to be saints from eternity past are secure in

their salvation. But if you are not keeping His commandments or faith in Jesus, then you have no assurance of that salvation (1 John 2:4). Not taking the mark of the beast is an obedience of God's commands and keeping faith in Jesus.

*Verse 13*—John now hears, “Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on!” They have rest from their labors and their deeds follow them. This is the opposite of the Old Testament concept of blessings, which are always on earth and usually in the land of Israel. New Testament blessings are always in heaven and are not connected with this world. This is the bema judgment of tribulation believers who are rewarded for their deeds. Judgment is always based on works and salvation is always based on faith. Works have nothing to do with salvation and faith has nothing to do with judgment.

*Verses 14-16*—John saw a white cloud, and Jesus is sitting on the cloud with a crown on His head and a sickle in His hand. Another angel comes out of the Temple and says the hour of reaping has come. It's not a good harvest. It's a harvest of sinners—like in the days of Noah, where everyone who was evil was taken away (see Matthew 24:37-41).

*Verse 17-19*—Another angel comes with the sickle and he harvests the grapes (unbelievers), and they are put in the winepress of the judgment of the wrath of God.

*Verse 20*—Blood came up to the horses' bridles, for a distance of 200 miles. This is the description of the final battle of the antichrist before Christ's Second Coming. The fault line that runs down the Jordan River Valley from the Sea of Galilee down through the Dead Sea to the Gulf of Aqaba is about 200 miles. This is where most of the “Battle of Armageddon” is fought, in this Jordan Valley. (Armageddon is where the armies gather—16:13-16.) Then they will march against Jerusalem.

### ***Applications:***

1. *Three things to pursue if you want to be a people of God: sexual purity, following Christ, and not lying (verse 4).*
2. *The Gospel message (and our teaching about the Kingdom of God) should include the 3 things the angel gave: fear God, give glory to Him because He will judge the earth, and worship Him because He is the Creator (verses 6-7).*
3. *Perseverance of the saints is not just God's choice of who will be saved. It's those who keep God's commandments and their faith in Jesus (verse 12).*

## **Chapter 15**

*Verse 1*—John saw 7 angels who have 7 plagues, and in them the wrath of God is finished—this will satisfy the justice of God. It is the reason for judgment. God's character requires judgment for sin, and the judgment has to match the sin. The reason the judgment on the earth has been so severe is because the sin has been so severe.

*Verse 2*—John saw a sea of glass mixed with fire. Then he saw those who had been victorious, who have not worshipped the beast nor took the number 666. They were standing on the sea of glass.

*Verses 3-4*—They sang a song of Moses (probably referring to Exodus 15:1-18). Eight things about God are mentioned:

1. God's righteous acts
2. God is Almighty
3. God is righteous
4. God is true
5. God is the King of the nations (His sovereignty)
6. God is exclusive (no other gods—He alone is holy)
7. God is holy
8. He is a God of revelation

*Verse 5*—Then John saw the Temple of the tabernacle of testimony in heaven.

*Verse 6*—The 7 angels come out, clothed bright and clean, with golden girdles.

*Verse 7*—One of the 4 living creatures hands to the angels the 7 golden bowls full of the wrath of God in a sort of ceremony.

*Verse 8*—The Temple is filled with the smoke from the glory of God and from His power. Then the Temple was closed (apparently it was usually open) until the plagues of the 7 angels were completed.

### ***Applications:***

- 1. Part of our prayer life should be to praise God for His attributes and His works.*
- 2. Don't teach or proclaim a God without judgment. God is not tolerant. Sin must be judged. The reason Christ died on the cross was to satisfy the justice of God. But that doesn't mean God overlooks sin today. Sin is never overlooked. It is always judged.*

## **Chapter 16**

*Verse 1*—A loud voice from the temple in heaven told the seven angels to go and pour out the seven bowls of the wrath of God.

### **Seventh Trumpet—The Announcement of the Seven Bowls**

*Verse 2*—**First Bowl—Malignant Sores**—Loathsome and malignant sores came upon all the people who had the mark of the beast.

*Verse 3*—**Second Bowl—The Sea Is Turned to Blood**—All the oceans will be turned to blood. It will kill all of the sea life.

*Verse 4*—**Third Bowl—The Fresh Water Is Turned to Blood**—Now the drinking water is gone.

*Verses 5-6*—An angel declares that God is righteous and Holy for pouring out these judgments because the people of the earth deserve it because they poured out the blood of saints and prophets.

*Verse 7*—From the altar a voice says, “Yes, O Lord God, the Almighty, true and righteous are Thy judgments.”

*Verse 8*—**Fourth Bowl—Scorching Fire**—The fourth angel pours out his bowl on the sun and it scorched men with fire and fierce heat.

*Verse 9*—But the men of the earth do not repent. Instead they blaspheme God who has the power over these plagues. They believe God is responsible for doing it, and then they blaspheme Him for doing it. There are two different perspectives of the work of God—those in heaven who say it is righteous and those on earth who blaspheme because of it.

*Verse 10*—**Fifth Bowl—Darkness**—Darkness covered the earth, and people gnawed their tongues because of the pain. Once again, people did not repent but blasphemed God because of their pains and sores.

*Verse 12*—**Sixth Bowl—Invasion from the Armies of the East**—The Euphrates River dries up. Remember, Babylon is on the Euphrates.

*Verses 13-16*—Demons come out of the mouth of the antichrist and the false prophet, performing signs. They go out to the whole world to gather them together to war against God. They gather in the Jezreel Valley, which in Hebrew is Armageddon. Megiddo is in the middle of the valley along the Carmel Ridge on the south side. “Har” means hill. It's the Megiddo Tel. It's not the place of the battle, but the place where the army gathers. Satan has them there to fight against Christ at the Second Coming in Jerusalem.

*Verse 17*—**Seventh Bowl—The Greatest Earthquake and Widespread Destruction**—The seventh bowl is poured out upon the air. A loud voice came out of the Temple from the throne, saying, “It is done.” There's

lightening, thunder, a great earthquake so great that Babylon splits into 3 parts. Islands disappear. Huge 100-pound hailstones come down from heaven. Men blasphemed God because the plague was so severe.

### ***Applications:***

- 1. Truth and justice are not defined by man but by God. Truth is the way things actually are. But it's the way things are from God's perspective. The same for justice. Justice is leveling the scales, but it's God's definition of righteousness that balances the scale. It's not the same as human opinion balancing the scale.*
- 2. Pain does not naturally bring people to repentance. The natural man responds to pain like natural animals—that is, with anger. Only the heart convicted by the Holy Spirit of God responds to pain with repentance.*
- 3. The world will always conclude that sin should not be judged. That evil should be overlooked is the world's idea. For example, most of the world was going to overlook the evil of Saddam Hussein. Most of the world overlooked the evil of Hitler in World War II. The world will not believe that sin has to be dealt with.*

## **Chapter 17**

*Verses 1-2*—One of the angels who had the seven bowls came to John and said he wanted to show John a great harlot who sits on many waters. The harlot is the false religious system. The waters represent the people and the nations (verse 15). The kings of the earth commit acts of religious immorality with her.

*Verses 3-4*—The harlot woman (false religion) sits on the beast (verses 9-12). The harlot is beautifully dressed in scarlet, purple, and gold stones. In her hand she has a cup full of abominations and unclean things.

*Verse 5*—On her forehead is the name, “Babylon the Great, mother of harlots and of the abominations of the earth.”

*Verse 6*—She is drunk with the blood of the saints (martyrs). John wonders about her.

*Verse 7*—The angel says he will explain it to John.

*Verse 8*—The beast that was are the five empires already gone into history. The beast is not because during the church age this timetable is not running. But it's about to come up again (revival of the Roman Empire under the antichrist). The nations are the five major empires of the world as civilization moved west: (1) Egypt, (2) Assyria, (3) Babylon, (4) Medo-Persia, and (5) Greece. [See also Daniel 2 and 7.]

*Verses 9-10*—The 7 heads are the 7 mountains on which the woman sits, that is, empires. Of these 7, 5 have fallen (they are the beast that was, in verse 8). One is, that is, at the time of John, which would be the Roman Empire. The other has not yet come (the antichrist's empire). The beast represents all these Gentile nations that God is working through. The one that “is not” (yet) in verse 8 is the one that “is” in verse 10 (the Roman Empire). The antichrist's empire grows out of the revival of the Roman Empire from the time of John.

The 7 heads are seven mountains—These seven mountains are not a description of Babylon. They are the empires of history.

*Verse 11*—The 8<sup>th</sup> is also the 7<sup>th</sup>, that is, the antichrist himself is considered an empire.

*Verse 12*—The ten horns are ten kings (of the antichrist's empire) who have not received a kingdom but have received authority for one hour. It's the same as the ten toes of Daniel's statue (Daniel 2 and 7). There's a coalition of ten nations out of which comes the antichrist. He takes control over 3 of them before taking control of 10 of them. These 10 nations are the revived Roman Empire. It's Europeans. He then puts his own leaders (kings) over these nations, but it is very short—only one hour before the end.

*Verse 13*—The purpose of this antichrist empire is to give power and authority to the antichrist.

*Verse 14*—This empire will then wage war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome them because He is Lord of Lords and King of Kings.

Verse 15—The waters are the peoples, nations, and tongues.

Verse 16—The nations of the antichrist will hate the religious system and destroy it so that only the political empire is left. Why?

Verse 17—Because God has put it in their hearts to execute His purpose by giving their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God should be fulfilled. So Satan is doing God's will and His purpose.

### **Applications:**

1. *Religion and religious systems will always look like the harlot of Babylon—clean and elegant on the outside (dressed with scarlet and precious stones) but full of immorality on the inside.*
2. *We need to be a witness to everyone, but we need to realize that some people are predestined to not be saved.*
3. *The world will move into a one-world religion, whether gradually or quickly, we don't know, but it will be a religion which everyone agrees to follow. The recent call to do that is around the doctrine of tolerance. It's not to get the religions to conform to one standard but to get them to tolerate each other. For example, the pope has declared the Muslims to be "our brothers." Some sort of pantheistic practice is being carried out in many churches throughout America (such as karate, yoga, meditation, etc.). We are moving toward a one-world religion—the only people standing in the way are evangelical Christians, but a Rapture would solve that problem.*
4. *I suggest God's purpose in history is not to set up a war between good and evil or God vs. Satan, or angels vs. demons, but God revealing His glory by using Satan, demons, and evil people to bring about His purpose. Whether you are good or evil will not affect the plan of God—He will get the glory either way. You only hurt yourself, not God's purpose. Jesus said it was inevitable that evil come, but woe to him through whom it comes. So don't be impressed that God uses you. God uses good and evil people.*

## **Chapter 18**

Verses 1-2—After these things, another angel came down from heaven with great authority. He cried out, "Fallen is Babylon the great!" Babylon has become a dwelling place of demons.

Verse 3—The nations have participated in her immorality, the kings have committed acts of immorality (spiritual, i.e., idolatry), and the merchants have become rich with the wealth of her immorality. The two most common guesses is that Babylon is New York or Rome, but there is also a strong possibility that it really is Babylon. It's a good idea to take God's Word literally. Babylon was a ruins under the control of Saddam Hussein until March 2003. Now Iraq has the possibility of being the richest country in the world and could be the city mentioned in Revelation. Babylon is also more than a city. It represents the whole materialistic world system. Under capitalism, as materialism increases, morality decreases—It's the picture of Babylon in Revelation, i.e., high technology and low morality.

### **Applications:**

1. *We're headed for a market system, used by the antichrist's world system during the Tribulation. That market system will favor sexual immorality and living in luxury—they go together. Somehow that is also connected with the world religion. The political system gets rid of the religious system so there is only one religion.*
2. *To come out of the world means to avoid sexual immorality and living in luxury.*
3. *The problem with luxurious living is that it makes people insensitive to their spiritual condition and the suffering of the world.*
4. *A focus on materialism, whether it be sex or luxury, tends to ignore the message of God or persecute the messengers of God.*

## **Chapter 19**

Here we see the Second Coming from above. Looking from the top down. From heaven toward earth.

*Verses 1-2*—After these things, that is, the Tribulation. There is a great sound of a multitude in heaven saying, “Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God. Because His judgments are true and righteous, for He has judged the great harlot ... He has avenged the blood of His bond-servants.”

*Verses 3-4*—A second time they said, “Hallelujah! Her smoke (Babylon) rises up forever and ever.” And the 24 elders and the 4 living creatures fell down and worshiped God, saying, “Amen. Hallelujah!”

*Verses 5-6*—A voice comes from the throne saying, “Give praise to our God, all you His bond-servants, you who fear Him, the small and the great.” And the multitude said, “Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty, reigns.”

*Verse 7*—The marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready. Who is the bride? She is not specifically identified here. But in John 3:29, John the Baptist says that he who has the bride is the bridegroom. Ephesians 5:23, 32 refers to Christ as the bridegroom of the church (the bride). I believe these are believers from the church age who have gone through the *bema* seat judgment, rewarded, and are here with Christ, as His bride.

*Verse 8*—The bride has been given by God clean and bright linen clothes, which are their righteous acts. It is not those of the tribulation or those of the Old Testament, not the 144,000. The bride has already gone through a judgment and been rewarded.

*Verse 9*—He told John, “Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb,” that is, the bride. The blessings for the church age are always in heaven, not on earth. They are blessed because their righteous acts have followed them to heaven and show up as these clean white clothes.

*Verse 10*—John fell down in worship of the angel, but the angel said for John not to do that. The angel is a fellow servant of believers. He told John to worship only God. This tells us that when the angel of the Lord in the Old Testament is worshipped and receives the worship, it is Jesus pre-incarnate, not a regular angel. “The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”

*Verse 11*—Then John saw heaven opened (the sky that had been darkened), and a white horse, and He who sat upon it was called Faithful and True (Matthew 24:26:31—the same event but viewed from earth). This is the Son of God. He has four names: (1) faithful, true, and in righteousness He judges and wages war.

*Verse 12*—(2) This name no one knows but Himself. He has many diadems.

*Verse 13*—His robe is dipped in blood. (3) His third name is “The Word of God.”

*Verse 14*—Armies are with Him, those from heaven clothed in fine linen (see verse 8), and they are following Him on white horses.

*Verse 15*—From His mouth comes a sword that He smites the nations with.

*Verse 16*—On His robe and on His thigh are written (4) His fourth name— “King of Kings, and Lord of Lords.”

*Verse 17*—An angel calls out to the birds in the mid-heavens to come eat the flesh of the kings and men who have been killed.

*Verse 19*—John saw the beast (antichrist), the kings of the earth of the nations, and the armies are assembled to make war with Jesus and His army (us). They are in the Jordan Valley from the Sea of Galilee to Gulf of Aqaba. But there is no war. They are destroyed by the sword from Christ’s mouth, and blood is deep (14:20).

*Verse 20*—The beast (antichrist) is seized and the false prophet is seized, and the two of them are given a resurrected eternal body and cast directly into the Lake of Fire with no judgment—no good works.

*Verse 21*—And the rest of the unbelievers were killed by the sword from Jesus’ mouth. And the birds come and eat their flesh.

## ***Applications:***

1. *Don't teach or proclaim a Jesus who does not judge. Compassion and mercy are works of God, but they are not attributes of God because compassion and mercy also come to an end. Judgment and vengeance are also works of God. Attributes of God are character descriptions of God which are always true and they never come to an end. Works of God are things He sometimes does but they come to an end. For example, truth is an attribute of God because God is always true and always tells the truth.*
2. *Don't teach or proclaim a Jesus who gives comfort in this life without also proclaiming that He is coming to judge the world. Jesus saves, but Jesus also kills.*

## **Chapter 20**

*Verses 1-3*—“And I saw”—John saw an angel coming down from heaven—he has a key to the abyss and a great chain. He takes hold of Satan. This is the first time we are told in the Bible that the serpent of the Garden of Eden is Satan. This angel binds Satan with the chain, with the key he opens the abyss and throws Satan into it and seals it over him, so he cannot deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years are completed. Then he will be released for a short time (see verse 7). During the Millennial Kingdom, everyone going into the Kingdom in physical bodies are believers. The unbelievers have been put to death. They are not in the Lake of Fire. They are in Hades, waiting for judgment. Only the antichrist and the false prophet are in the Lake of Fire at this time.

Besides God, there are 3 different kinds of beings on earth during the Millennial Kingdom: angels, resurrected bride of Christ (believers from church age), and those believers physically alive from the Tribulation. Those physically alive will continue to have children during those 1000 years. Those children will need to have faith in Christ to be saved. At the end of the 1000 years, the earth is full of people, many of which are not believers. Satan is released at the end of the 1000 years and persuades these unbelievers to rebel against God (v. 7).

Could the 1000 years be metaphorical rather than literal? It's possible. There are metaphors in the book of Revelation. But the reality is, most metaphors sound like metaphors in the context. This 1000 years does not sound like a metaphor. “Thousand years” is used 6 times here, and each time it sounds like a description. When a number appears with an article, it's usually literal. Here 1000 years has an article 3 of the 6 times. “A thousand years.”

*Verse 4*—John saw thrones. We don't know who sits on those thrones, but judgment is given to them. And John then saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of the (1) testimony of Jesus and the (2) Word of God during the Tribulation, and who (3) had not worshipped the beast (antichrist) or his image, and (4) they had not taken the mark of the beast. These are resurrected and judged and join the bride who had returned with Christ. So they all reign with Christ on the earth.

*Verse 5*—The “rest of the dead” did not come to life until the 1000 years were completed. The verse should end here.

*Verse 6*—“This is the first resurrection” belongs with verse 6. The one who is part of the first resurrection (believers) is blessed because over these the second death (Lake of Fire) has no power.

*Verses 7-8*—When the 1000 years are finished, Satan will be released. Satan will deceive the nations from one end of the earth to the other. Gog and Magog are general terms for leaders in battle (does not refer to battle in Ezekiel). Satan uses Gog and Magog to deceive them. There is so many, it's like the sand of the sea. Even after 1000 years with the perfect government of Jesus Christ and without Satan, there are still many unbelievers. We don't need Satan to sin. Our own sin nature will get us to sin.

*Verse 9*—The only description of the final world war. These armies come and surround the “beloved city,” which would be the Millennial Jerusalem. Fire comes down from heaven and devours them. Like the end of the Tribulation, the unbelievers are put to death.

*Verse 10*—The devil is now thrown into the Lake of Fire, where the false prophet and antichrist have been for the last 1000 years. They are tormented day and night forever and ever.

*Verse 11*—And John saw a Great White Throne, and Jesus, who sat on it. The people want to flee away from Him and judgment. There is a resurrection of all of the unbelieving dead (as opposed to the first resurrection of believers in verse 6, this is the second resurrection, which is for unbelievers).

*Verse 12*—The great and the small are standing before the Throne. The books are opened which show the deeds of the one who is judged. Everything they did has been recorded, and that recording is being read back to them as the reason they are being judged. One specific book, which is the Book of Life, is opened. If their name is not found written in the Book of Life, then they go through the judgment. Apparently, there are varying degrees of punishment because their judgment is based on their deeds (see John 19:11). There are (Mark 12:40; Luke 12:46) greater levels of sin.

*Verse 13*—The sea gave up the dead which is in it, and death and Hades (where souls of unbeliever dead are) are resurrected, judged for their deeds, and cast into the Lake of Fire.

*Verse 14*—Then death and Hades were thrown into the Lake of Fire. The Lake of Fire is the second death.

*Verse 15*—If anyone's name was not found written in the Book of Life, he was thrown into the Lake of Fire.

### ***Applications:***

1. *Everyone has a bodily resurrection—both believers and unbelievers, good and bad, great and small.*
2. *Believers after death are in the presence of God in heaven, in a bodily form that is different than a bodily resurrection. Bodily resurrection comes after death at a different time. Bodily resurrection after death is at different times for different groups.*
3. *All judgment is based on works, for both believers and unbelievers.*
4. *Eternity in the presence of God or in the Lake of Fire is determined by whether or not one's name is in the Book of Life.*

## **Chapter 21**

*Verse 1*—“And John saw” a new heaven and a new earth. The first heaven and the first earth passed away. So these new ones are not in addition to the old one, they are not a re-building or re-making of the old ones, they are a replacement. 2 Peter 3:10-13 says the old earth is completely burned up. The new earth no longer has any sea (either means a large body of water, or no salt water). And it has mountains (v. 10).

*Verse 2*—The New Jerusalem comes down out of heaven, made ready like a bride.

*Verse 3*—A loud voice from the throne says that God will live with men in the New Jerusalem on the new earth. This is the eternal state of believers.

*Verse 4*—(1) There will no longer be any death. (2) There will no longer be any sorrow. (3) There will no longer be any crying or mourning. (4) There will no longer be any pain. All because the first things have passed away.

*Verse 5*—The One who sits on the throne says, “I am making all things new.” Then He tells John to write about it.

*Verse 6*—The One on the throne says, “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.” History is linear, it has a beginning and an end. It is not cyclical like pantheism and reincarnation. The first story that God made is burned up and gone, but now in chapters 21-22 He begins a new story. But He doesn't tell us much about it, just enough to get our interest.

*Verse 7*—“He who overcomes shall inherit these things”—Those who chose God (see v. 27 and 3:5).

*Verse 8*—The characteristics of those who will not be in the New Jerusalem: cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, immoral persons, sorcerers, idolaters, and liars—those who have been burned up in the second death, in the Lake of Fire.

*Verse 9*—The angel told John to come and see the bride, the wife of the Lamb, that is, the New Jerusalem city.



*Verse 10*—John is taken to a high mountain and sees the city coming down out of heaven from God.

*Verse 11*—It has the glory of God, with a brilliance like crystal-clear jasper.

*Verses 12-13*—It had a great and high wall, with 12 gates. At the 12 gates are 12 angels. The gates have the names of the tribes of the sons of Israel on them. There are 3 gates on each side.

*Verse 14*—The wall of the city had 12 foundation stones with the names of the 12 apostles of the Lamb.

*Verse 15-16*—The city is laid out in as a square or pyramid, with all 3 dimensions being 1342 miles in length.

*Verse 17*—The wall is 72 yards high.

*Verses-18-20*—The foundation stones of the city are adorned with every kind of precious stone.

*Verses 21*—Each gate was a single pearl. And the street of the city is pure gold, like transparent glass.

*Verse 22*—And there is no temple in it, for the Lord God, the Almighty, and the Lamb, are its temple.

*Verse 23*—The city has no need for the sun or the moon for light because the glory of God will illumine it.

*Verse 24*—The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. Who are they? We don't know.

*Verse 25*—There will be no night there. Its gates will never be closed.

*Verse 26*—The nations will bring their glory and honor into the New Jerusalem.

*Verse 27*—Nothing unclean and no one who practices abomination and lying shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life (see 3:5).

### ***Applications:***

1. *This earth should be seen as temporary. It will pass away. We should take care of it as we take care of our car because it gets us from one place to another, but it has to ultimate value.*
2. *Faith, such as we have in an unseen God, is a virtue for this life only.*
3. *Suffering, pain, and sorrow are not something God has planned for His saints in the future. So we don't have to like it.*
4. *Be an overcomer (verse 7), by not being involved in the things of verse 8.*
5. *Creativity is godly when it is a godly creation, that is, consistent with His character.*
6. *Those in the presence of a holy God must be holy, not just pretty good or better than most.*

## **Chapter 22**

*Verses 1-2*—There is a river coming from the throne of God. It is crystal clear water. It's in the middle of the street, with the Tree of Life on either side of the river, bearing 12 kinds of fruit, yielding fruit every month (indicating time in the eternal state).

*Verse 3*—There is no longer any curse from Genesis 3. The throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it. There His bondservants shall serve Him.

*Verse 4*—They will see His face. God will be visible to us. His name will be on their foreheads.

*Verse 5*—There will no longer be any night. They will not need the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun because the Lord God will illumine them. They will reign forever and ever.

Summary of points of the New Jerusalem from chapters 21-22:

1. God will be personally there.
2. There will be no sorrow or suffering.
3. There will be brilliant light.
4. There will be a great high wall around the city.
5. There will be 12 gates, which have the names of the 12 tribes of Israel.
6. There will be 12 foundation stones, with the names of the 12 apostles.
7. The size is a cube or pyramid.
8. The glory of God is there.
9. There are nations outside of the city that depend on the city for their life and they bring their treasures into it.
10. Only those written in the Lamb's Book of Life will come into the city.
11. There is a special river that comes from the throne of God.
12. There is a Tree of Life.

### **Conclusion to the book—**

*Verse 6*—Then he told John, “These words are faithful and true.” God sent His prophets and His angel to show His bondservants the things which must shortly take place. Four times He says in the next few verses that these things will quickly or shortly take place (verses 6, 7, 10, 12). “Near” means that it is the next thing to happen. John lives in the church age, and this revelation is of the next thing that will happen. There will be no other age between the church and this revelation.

There are 7 Beattitudes in Revelation:

1. 1:3
2. 14:13
3. 16:15
4. 19:9
5. 20:6
6. 22:7
7. 22:14

*Verse 8*—John is the one who saw and heard these things. He fell down to worship to the angel, but the angel again told him not to do that. Only worship God.

*Verse 10*—The angel told John to not seal up the words of the prophecy of the book. Do not keep it from people.

*Verse 11*—Sad verse in Bible because there is no longer an appeal for repentance. There is no appeal for anyone to change any more when these things are over.

*Verse 12*—Jesus is coming quickly, and His reward is with Him.

*Verse 15*—Outside of the city are immoral persons.

*Verse 16*—Jesus gives His final testimony—He has sent His angel to testify of these things for the churches. He is the Savior of the church and the Messiah of Israel.

*Verse 17*—The universal appeal, still in our time, for people to “Come, let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost.”

*Verse 18*—No one should add or take away from the words of this book. Adding to this book would be adding things such as church traditions, practices, or new revelation (such as Book of Mormon or Koran). To take away would be to deny that it is true.

This closes the canon of Scripture. John is referring just to this book of Revelation, but it is the last book written. Therefore, it closes all Scripture.

*Verse 19*—If anyone takes away from the words of this book, God will take away his part from the Tree of Life—This phrase is mentioned several times in the Bible:

- Revelation 3:5
- Revelation 13:8; 17:8
- Revelation 20:15
- Revelation 21:7
- Exodus 32:33
- Psalm 69:28
- Daniel 12:1

Clearly, throughout Scripture, a Book of God is described. It contains the names of those who will inherit eternal life. But there seems to be other kinds of people, those whose names are never written in it (Revelation 13:8; 17:8). There seems to be a third group of people whose names are erased from the Book of Life. It's tempting to say that these people lose their salvation. But that denies the concept of the eternal plan of God and God's promises of security. Rather, these seem to be people who are called to salvation but who are not chosen. Jesus said many are called, but few are chosen. In Matthew 22:14 Jesus describes a man who comes to a wedding feast but without the proper clothing. These are people who might have been saved, that is, they were in the path of the Gospel, possibly in Christian leadership positions. They are part of Christianity but do not know Christ. Many will call Him "Lord," but He'll say He never knew them (Matthew 7:21-23)—they were not willing to keep His commandments.

*Verses 20-21*—Jesus says, "Yes, I am coming quickly." John says, "Amen. Come, Lord Jesus."

### ***Applications:***

1. *We're living in the last age. The end is next. We don't know how long away it is, but we know there is no other age (like Israel or the church) until these events take place.*
2. *The appeal of the Gospel and the call to repentance is coming to an end.*
3. *Never add to or take away from the Word of God as recorded in the Old and New Testaments. Don't know more than the Bible knows.*