

“In Light of All Things New”
The Revelation of Jesus Christ—Part 30
Revelation 22

1. The New Jerusalem—an inside look.

I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it. Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Revelation 21:22-27

The moon will be abashed, the sun ashamed; for the Lord Almighty will reign on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem, and before its elders, gloriously.

Isaiah 24:23

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.

Revelation 22:1-5

Points to consider:

Everything about the New Heavens and New Earth is different than we know now. How do you describe the indescribable?

the river of the water of life—Its pure, unobstructed flow symbolizes the constant flow of everlasting life from God's throne to God's people.

the tree of life—It is heaven's counterpart to the tree of life in the Garden of Eden.

bearing twelve crops of fruit—12 kinds of fruit emphasizes the variety that will fill heaven. The tree and the fruit symbolizes the blessings of everlasting life.

The term “month” does not refer to time, for there is no more time in Heaven.

the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations—Healing would probably be better translated “*health-giving*” or “*therapeutic*” because we already know there will be no sickness, pain or death.

The text does not say whether we will actually eat the leaves or the fruit, though it is possible.

Angels ate food with Abraham; Jesus ate with the Disciples after His resurrection. It is conceivable that we will eat in heaven, not out of necessity but for enjoyment!

What will we do throughout all eternity? “...his servants will serve him...”

They will see his face—Being perfectly holy and righteous, we will be able to endure the heavenly level of the blazing, glorious light from God's presence, without being consumed—something impossible for mortal men.

2. How are we to respond to the “Second Coming”?

The angel said to me, "These words are trustworthy and true. The Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, sent his angel to show his servants the things that must soon take place." "Behold, I am coming soon! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy in this book." I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I had heard and seen them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who had been showing them to me. But he said to me, "Do not do it! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers the prophets and of all who keep the words of this book. Worship God!" Then he told me, "Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, because the time is near. Let him who does wrong continue to do wrong; let him who is vile continue to be vile; let him who does right continue to do right; and let him who is holy continue to be holy." "Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done.

Revelation 22:6-12

Points to consider:

Do you remember how Revelation started?

The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, who testifies to everything he saw—that is, the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.

Revelation 1:1-3

keep the words of this book—Believers not only keep the words of the Book, they are to hold on to them and guard them. Paul said to Timothy, “Guard what has been entrusted to your care.”
1 Timothy 6:20

Let him who does wrong continue to do wrong...let him who does right continue to do right—This seems curiously out of place, but the truth it dramatically conveys is that people's response to the proclamation of the truth will fix their eternal destinies.

Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me—It should produce diligent, obedient, worshipful service to God, and urgent proclamation of the gospel to unbelievers.

3. God's Final Invitation

I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. "Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city. Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood." "I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star." The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life. I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds anything to

them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book. And if anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book. He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. Revelation 22:13-20

Points to consider:

I am the Alpha and the Omega—Jesus is the source of all that is true from beginning to end.

Blessed are those who wash their robes—This is a blessing and a reminder. The wicked will never be able to enter the gates of heaven.

the bright Morning Star—It heralds the arrival of Jesus' coming.

Notice the warning and seriousness of the message. The warning addresses those who would intentionally, maliciously, and deceptively, distort, or dilute God's Word.

Notice Jesus' words of assurance!

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All verses are taken from the New International Version unless otherwise noted.