

Revelation

Notes #6:

Chapters 21--22

I. The New Heavens and New Earth

A. New Creation

Now, to go with the new life that the believer possesses, God destroys the old sinful and cursed earth and creates a new heavens and earth.

B. A new holy city, Jerusalem.

The City of Jerusalem (the one that Jesus went away to prepare in John 14 now descends from heaven to take its place on the earth.

C. God dwelling among His people.

From the beginning the reconciliation between heaven and earth was desired. It now takes place as the holiness of God is in both places.

D. The Genesis 3 curse removed (crying, death, mourning, pain)

This curse removal is referenced in Genesis 3 and came on the whole earth because of sin. Now that the earth and heavens are new, the things that came with that sin are now gone.

WARNING: Overcomer to inherit these things. Cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, immoral have part in the lake of fire.

As the reader sees this warning he recognizes that his ultimate place is here, and that he should be faithful unto death.

II. The New Jerusalem

A. The 12 tribes, the 12 apostles written on gates & foundations.

The text now pauses to describe the new city which is the focal point for both Israel and the church (12 tribes on the gates, 12 apostles on the foundation), clearly identifiable as separate groups.²

¹ Some argue that this scene is actually taking place during the previous chapter which describes the millennium. Thus the New Jerusalem will occupy a place above the earth during the 1000 year kingdom. While that may be the case, this scene seems to occupy a place in time following the new creation which is after the millennium.

² Walvoord in the Bible Knowledge Commentary, New Testament Edition, "Revelation", feels the two groups share quarters in the New Jerusalem. Others argue that the 12 tribes will be outside the city and the gates signify the route to each tribe, while the church alone would reside in the city. This would rely on

- B. Length, width, height = 1500 miles. Wall = 72 yards

The city is quite large as in today's standards it would stretch west from Tampa past Texas and north well into Canada. It's height would extend 10 times past the orbit of the space shuttle. Truly the literal city's "top reaches into heaven" which was the desire of the Tower of Babel (Gen. 11), yet was prophesied to only occur to the City which Jacob's sons occupied (Gen. 28 "ladder")

- C. Made of stone. (cf. Gen. 11, 28:11, Dan. 2)

While the Tower of Babel was made with human works and man-made equipment, this city is made with natural (created) materials.

III. The Temple

- A. No Temple - The Lord God, the Almighty, the Lamb

The temple had always been a partial indication of the dwelling place of God, yet now the Lamb is accessible and visible.

- B. No need of the sun, moon - Glory of God illumines it.

The first creation is now gone. Darkness was present on the scene of the first creation and had been considered part of the evil chaos. Now it was removed with the second creation, and the light (which was sourced in God before the creation of the sun) is now an attribute of the Lamb.

- C. Gates never closed (cf. Neh. 13:19)

The Old Testament had never accomplished this feat. The Gentile enemies were to be suppressed, yet it never occurred and even in Nehemiah the gates had to be closed to keep the Gentiles out. Now the holy access is open at all times to approach the Lamb.

WARNING: Nothing unclean and no one who practices abomination and lying shall ever come into it. Only those whose names are written in Lamb's book of life.

IV. The River of the Water of Life

- A. Comes from the throne of God and of the Lamb.

The source of life is God and the Lamb.

- B. The Tree of Life

The Tree of Life which was in the garden at the beginning is now accessible for those to eat and live. This was promised to the Church at Ephesus, and they now participate in it forever and ever.

the Ezekiel 40-48 city and the divisions of tribes outside the city in the land, although in Ezekiel the tribes are not adjacent to the city.

V. The People of the City

- A. No longer under the curse
- B. They serve God. They shall see His face
- D. His name shall be upon their foreheads.
- E. The Lord God shall illumine them.
- F. They shall reign forever and ever (Gen. 1:26,28).

In the last chronological statement of the Bible, God's intent for man is now fulfilled which He described in Genesis 1:26, 28. Man now will reign forever.

VI. Concluding Statements

- A. Purpose: To show His bond-servants the immediate future.
- B. Exhortation: Blessed is he who heeds the words of this book.
- C. The pursuit of holiness (1 John 3:3, 7, John 11:55, Gen.15:6, Lev. 16:15-19.)
- D. The Reward - The enjoyment of the Kingdom - rule.
- E. The Means: Washing of robes
- F. The excluded: Dogs, sorcerers, immoral, murderers, and idolaters, and all liars.

**COME
LET THE ONE WHO IS THIRSTY COME
LET THE ONE WHO WISHES TAKE THE WATER OF LIFE WITHOUT COST**

EXHORTATION: "EVEN SO, COME LORD JESUS!"