

A STUDY OF REVELATION

W. A. Dillard

PART XXVII

A NEW ORDER

Revelation 21:1-27

Introduction: Great quantities of time and many wonderful events are being presented in these portions of Revelation. Most all of the book is presented and studied in relationship to a seven year period of time we call Daniel's seventieth week, the tribulation, etc. However, chapter 19 reveals the bodily return of Christ and His saints which stops the battle of Armageddon and signals the end of those seven years. Chapter 20 covers, without detail, a thousand year period of time including the second resurrection and Great White Throne Judgment at the end of it. Now, chapter 21 takes up the heaven ages. Time is no more. This is the new order, the eternal home of the redeemed.

I. THE NEW CREATION, V. 1-5.

- A. A new heaven and earth.
 - 1. The first were passed away.
 - 2. There was no more sea.
- B. New Jerusalem
 - 1. Descended from God out of heaven.
 - 2. Prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.
- C. A new order.
 - 1. The tabernacle of God is with men.
 - 2. God, Himself, shall dwell with men.
 - a. He will be their God.
 - b. They will be His people.
 - 3. Former things are passed away.
 - a. Tears, crying.
 - b. Death, pain, sorrow.
- D. All things new
 - 1. Made by Him on the throne.
 - 2. He commands this to be written as faithful and true.
- E. General Comments.
 - 1. The destruction of present earth and heavens, II Peter 3:10-12.
 - 2. New Jerusalem is to be described later in the study.
 - 3. The absence of the sea underscores the new order. Now it gives us:
 - a. The source of rainfall.
 - b. Purification of pollution.
 - c. Great storehouses of food.
 - d. Apparently none of these will be needed.
 - e. It is impossible to grasp details of the idea of completely new and different laws governing every detail of life.
 - 4. The absence of former things may mean absence of the causes of those things.

II. RETROSPECTIVE PROMISES AND WARNINGS, V. 6-8.

- A. Declarations of the Alpha and Omega.

1. It is done.
2. I will freely give to the thirsty of the fountain of the water of life.
- B. Promises to the overcomer.
 1. He shall inherit all things.
 2. I will be his God and he shall be My Son.
- C. Warning to the unbelieving.
 1. They shall have their part in the lake of fire.
 2. These enumerated.
 - a. Fearful
 - b. Unbelieving
 - c. Abominable
 - d. Murderers
 - e. Whoremongers
 - f. Sorcerers
 - g. Idolaters
 - h. All liars.
- D. General Comments
 1. Alpha and Omega is to Greek as A and Z is to English.
 2. "It is done" implies it is fixed, it is sure. This is the end of all things. Those who desire a future with God may have it on the merits of Jesus, the Fountain of Life.
 3. Overcomers are mentioned in Rev. 12:11. They overcame by:
 - a. The blood of the Lamb.
 - b. The word of their testimony.
 - c. They loved not their lives unto the death.
 - d. Overcomes are obviously more than the nominally saved.
 - e. This is implied in scriptures by the word "son" meaning a mature son.
 - f. Maturity is offered to God's people today through His church.
 4. The warning and naming of fearful, liars, murders, etc.
 - a. Who are these people?
 - b. Not everyone who commits such in the flesh for all do.
 - c. But those who are unforgiven by not accepting forgiveness in Christ.

III. THE NEW JERUSALEM DESCRIBED, V. 9-27

- A. Shown to John by one of the seven vial angels
- B. Introduced as the bride, the Lamb's wife.
- C. The description
 1. It came out of heaven from God.
 2. It had the glory of God.
 - a. It's light as a precious stone.
 - b. It was as a jasper stone, clear as crystal.
 3. It was walled in cubic form.
 4. It had twelve gates: three on each wall with angelic attendants and bearing the names of the twelve tribes of Israel.
 5. The walls rested upon twelve foundations bearing the names of the 12 apostles.
 6. The city measures 12 thousand furlongs in length, breadth and height.
 7. The wall is apparently 144 cubits thick and made of Jasper.
 8. The city itself is pure gold like clear glass.
 9. The foundations are garnished with precious stones.

- a. Jasper, Sapphire, Chalcedony, Emerald, Sardonyx, Chrysolyte, Beryl, Topaz, Chrysoprasus, Jacinth and Amethyst.
 - b. These are in order 1-12.
- 10. The twelve gates were twelve pearls; each gate a pearl.
 - 11. The street is pure gold as transparent glass.
 - 12. No temple is there. God and the Lamb are the Temple.
 - 13. God is the light thereof: no need for sun or moon.
 - 14. Saved nations walk in its light.
 - 15. Kings of earth bring their glory and honor into it.
 - 16. No night there: the gates never shut by day.
 - 17. Nothing unclean shall ever enter into it.
 - 18. Those in the Lamb's book of life live there.
- D. General Comments
- 1. The many precious stones and metal convey its splendor & majesty.
 - 2. The mention of Israel and the church indicate they will be there though maintaining separate identities in heaven.
 - 3. Pre-Israel saints and modern, unchurched saved folks are obscure.
 - 4. The city is approximately 1,200 miles square, more than enough room to accommodate several times the amount of people who have been born on earth for all time.
 - 5. The absence of a temple, the presence of God indicates a new total oneness of our relationship with God.
 - 6. Some (many) will live outside the city. These may be saved individuals who deemed discipleship unimportant or blindly followed grossly misguided orders in contradiction to the Bible.
 - 7. Total righteousness only will completely permeate that place forever.