

A STUDY OF REVELATION

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PART XXVIII

A NEW ORDER CONTINUED

Revelation 22:1-21

Introduction: As the lesson title implies, this chapter is a continuation of the subject in chapter 21. It is the description of the final abode of the saved in a new order of life. Completely new and different laws govern life in this place and state of total righteousness. Some of the verses of scripture here are extremely difficult, if not impossible to explain due to the above facts. However, a glimpse of this future is greatly appreciated in general as it is your future and mine. In this final chapter we also note more promises and warnings for us in the present time and the authority of the book expressed once again.

I. CONTINUED DESCRIPTIONS OF THE NEW JERUSALEM.

- A. A river of water of life is there.
 - 1. It is clear as crystal.
 - 2. It flows from the throne of God and the Lamb.
- B. The tree of life is there.
 - 1. It is in the midst of the street of the city.
 - 2. It is on either side of the river.
 - 3. It bears twelve manners of fruits.
 - 4. It yields these fruits each month.
 - 5. Its fruit is for the healing of the nations.
- C. There shall be no more curse.
- D. The throne of God and the Lamb are there.
- E. The bond servants of God are there.
 - 1. They will serve Him.
 - 2. They will have access to His face.
 - 3. His name will be in their foreheads.
 - 4. God gives them light.
 - a. They will not need candle or sun.
 - b. There is no night there.
 - 5. They shall reign for ever and ever.
- F. General Comments
 - 1. Both the river of life and the tree of life are viewed as literal.
 - a. Apparently eternal life is somehow replenished by them.
 - b. The manner of fruits and their use, the healing of nations is most interesting, but beyond explanation.
 - 2. No curse there means total righteousness will prevail with the possibility of evil being non-existent.
 - 3. This will be the principal dwelling place of God and His people.
 - 4. The servants of God will have access to His face.
 - a. This is humanly impossible, now. Remember Moses' request to see God on Mt. Sinai.

- b. This is made possible by our transformation, I John 3:2.

II. ANGELIC DECLARATIONS

- A. About the Revelation.
 - 1. These sayings are faithful and true.
 - 2. The God of the holy prophets sent the revelation to His servants by His angel.
 - 3. These things must shortly be done.
 - 4. Christ is to come quickly.
 - 5. Those keeping the sayings of this prophecy are blessed.
 - 6. The prophecy of this revelation is not to be sealed up.
- B. About worship.
 - 1. John is forbidden to worship the angel.
 - a. The angel declared himself to be a fellow-servant.
 - b. He is of the brethren, the prophets.
 - c. He is of those who keep the sayings of the book.
 - 2. It is God Who is to be worshipped.
- C. About the present conditions of men.
 - 1. The unjust are to remain unjust.
 - 2. The filthy are to remain filthy.
 - 3. The righteous are to remain righteous.
 - 4. The holy are to remain holy.
- D. General Comments.
 - 1. The revelation is not to be sealed up because the time is at hand.
 - a. These things must be done shortly.
 - b. Christ is to come quickly.
 - 2. The above underscores the uniqueness of the church age.
 - a. All other instruments or manners of service have deteriorated with time.
 - b. The church does not progress nor deteriorate. It is the same throughout the age.
 - c. This means conditions could develop for the return at anytime during the church age.
 - d. Also, Christ will come as soon as world conditions are right.
 - 3. Christ's coming "quickly" does not mean shortly, but the manner in which He will come even as lightning shining from east to west.
 - 4. Verse 11 is difficult. Possibly it refers to the sameness of institutions throughout the church age. Perhaps it means the future of the saved is fixed on decisions regarding His Church.

III. DECLARATIONS, WARNINGS, ADMONITIONS OF JESUS.

- A. I am Alpha and Omega.
- B. Those who do the commandments of God are blessed.
 - 1. They have right to the tree of life.
 - 2. They may enter in through the gates of the city.
- C. Those on the outside of the city.
 - 1. Dogs.
 - 2. Sorcerers.
 - 3. Whoremongers.
 - 4. Murderers.

5. Idolaters.
6. Whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.
- D. Jesus authorized the revelation.
 1. He is the root and offspring of David.
 2. He is the bright and morning star.
 3. He sent His angel to testify these things.
 4. This revelation is given to the churches.
- E. The present witnesses.
 1. The Spirit and the Bride say come.
 2. He who hears says come.
 3. Whoever is thirsty is to come.
 4. Whosoever will is to come.
 5. The water of life is now freely offered.
- F. Warning about treatment of the revelation.
 1. What happens to those deleting words of the book.
 - a. His part is taken from the book of life.
 - b. His part is taken from the holy city.
 - c. He will forfeit blessings written in the book.
 2. What happens to those adding to the words of the book.
 - a. He shall suffer the plagues of the book.
- G. Warning about the coming of Christ.
 1. Surely, I come quickly.
- H. General Comments.
 1. Those who do the commandments of God are blessed.
 - a. It appears the right to the tree of life and the city are a reward somehow connected to faithfulness in the present Christian life.
 - b. It cannot be assumed that saved backsliders and false religionists will be brought to maturity during the millennium.
 2. Those outside the city do not appear to be lost ones, but people who would not yield themselves in faithful discipleship to Jesus.
 3. Jesus expresses His authority at ending of book similarly as at the beginning
 4. Present witnesses.
 - a. The Spirit and the bride (church) are spoken of as one: God authorized.
 - b. But those who hear should also testify and invite.
 - c. The water of life: life saving, doctrinal purity in the church is freely available to all presently.
 5. Warnings about treatment of prophecy.
 - a. Some view this as applicable to the whole Bible.
 - b. Probably only Revelation is intended.
 - c. The book of life probably refers to the roll of the faithful and their reward.

IV. THE APOSTOLIC CLOSING

- A. A prayer for Jesus to so come as He stated.
- B. A benediction of the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ upon recipients of the prophecy.