

## THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Week 11 – ETERNITY

March 27, 2018

Revelation 20:4 - *And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.* This is the resurrection of the martyred Tribulation saints (Jews and Gentiles).

Revelation 20:5-6 - *But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death (spiritual death) has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.* The “rest of the dead” are not believers; they will not be part of the first resurrection. The first resurrection is the resurrection of life – *blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection* (v. 6). The unsaved will go through the “second death” – eternal separation from God. The Millennial Kingdom, the 1,000 year reign of Jesus, separates the first resurrection from the resurrection of the “rest of the dead” which is the “second resurrection.

All the following come under the “first resurrection” which is the resurrection of life as opposed to the resurrection of condemnation (John 5:28-29):

- Jesus is our “firstfruits” (I Cor. 15:20). Jesus’ resurrection has paved the way for our resurrection. Jesus was crucified on the day of Passover. He rose from the dead on the Feast of Firstfruits!
- Many OT saints (Matt. 27:51-53).
- The resurrection of the Church at the rapture (I Thess. 4:16-18).
- The resurrection of the two witnesses (Rev. 11:11-12)
- The resurrection of the Tribulation saints and the OT saints at the end of the Tribulation (Dan. 12:1-2; Rev. 20:4)

What will our resurrected body be like?

- *I shall be satisfied when I awake in Your likeness* (Psa. 17:15)
- *And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man* (I Cor. 15:49)
- *For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, Who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body* (Phil. 3:20-21)
- *We know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him* (I John 3:2)

Will we know our loved ones in heaven?

- When Samuel returned from the dead, Saul knew him (I Sam. 28)
- When the rich man saw Lazarus in Paradise, he knew him (Luke 16:9-31)

- When Peter, James, and John saw Moses and Elijah on the Mt. of Transfiguration, they knew them (Matt. 17:1-13)
- When Thomas saw Jesus, he knew Him (John 20:24-29)
- *For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.* (I Cor. 13:12)

Revelation 20:7-8 - *Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea.* Tempting those who will be born during the Millennium will prove that eliminating sin is not as simple as changing our environment. Original sin is at the very nature of man's heart (Gen. 6:5). It appears that the number of those who are rebellious, whom Satan gathers, is massive – *as the sand of the sea!!!!*

Revelation 20:9-10 - *They (Satan and those whom he gathered) went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them.*<sup>10</sup> *The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.* Gog and Magog in Eze. 38 & 39 occurs either between the rapture and the Tribulation or during the first part of the Tribulation and involves an alliance of nations. Gog and Magog in Rev. 20:8 occurs after the Millennium and involves all nations and results in God devouring them with fire. The use of the same title, Gog and Magog, demonstrates the same rebellion against God.

Revelation 20:11 - *Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them.* Could this courtroom scene occur after the earth and heavens are dissolved and then removed? Some say – yes. What is being displayed in the disappearing of heaven and earth? God's power and the futility of all that they craved and cherished on earth. After the Millennial Kingdom and the Great White Throne Judgment, the same God Who created this present heaven and earth will destroy it and create a new heaven and earth, ushering in the Eternal State.

We see in Scripture...

- The dissolving of the present heaven and earth – before the new heaven and new earth can be created, the present heaven and earth must be destroyed. The old heaven and old earth will disappear (Psa. 102:25-26; Isa. 34:4; Isa. 51:6; Matt. 24:35; II Pet. 3:7, 10, 12)

- The creation of the new heaven and new earth – the Greek word for “new” in Rev. 21:1 is *kainos*, which means “unprecedented,” “recently made,” “never before known,” “a new kind.”

- II Pet. 3:10b - *the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up....* What are the “elements”? Any first thing from which all has come; the material cause of the universe” (i.e. atoms).

What will occur at the Great White Throne Judgment?

Revelation 20:12-15 - *And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the*

dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.<sup>13</sup> The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.<sup>14</sup> Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.<sup>15</sup> And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire. "The dead" at the GWT have already made the decision not to place their trust in Jesus for their salvation. They will be judged according to their works to justify their condemnation. At the GWT all the non-believing dead from all time will be resurrected. Dan. 12:2; John 5:28-29; Acts 24:15 describe a resurrection of the just (raised to eternal life) and the unjust (raised to shame and condemnation). The books are opened which reveal every deed and thought (Rev. 20:12-13; Eccl. 12:14; Heb. 2:2). None of those standing before the GWT are in the Book of Life as they have rejected the source of life – Jesus.

*The lake of fire* – the punishment of the wicked dead in hell is described throughout Scripture as "eternal fire" (Matthew 25:41), "unquenchable fire" (Matthew 3:12), "shame and everlasting contempt" (Daniel 12:2), a place where "the fire is not quenched" (Mark 9:44-49), a place of "torment" and "fire" (Luke 16:23-24), "everlasting destruction" (2 Thessalonians 1:9), a place where "the smoke of torment rises forever and ever" (Revelation 14:10-11), and a "lake of burning sulfur" where the wicked are "tormented day and night forever and ever" (Revelation 20:10).

God is infinitely just. The price for sin must be paid. Rom. 6:23a – *the wages of sin is death*. Jesus bore the wrath and punishment of God for our sin – for individual sin – for your sin, for my sin. Each person must either accept the infinite pardon Jesus has freely offered or pay the infinite eternal price himself/herself. Rom. 6:23b – *but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord*.

Revelation 21:1-10 - *Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea.*<sup>2</sup> *Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.*<sup>3</sup> *And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, 'Behold, the tabernacle (the dwelling place) of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.*<sup>4</sup> *And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.'*<sup>5</sup> *Then He who sat on the throne said, 'Behold, I make all things new.'* (unprecedented; recently made; a new kind; not before known) *And He said to me, 'Write, for these words are true and faithful.'*<sup>6</sup> *And He said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts.'*<sup>7</sup> *He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.*<sup>8</sup> *But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death. Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, "Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife."*<sup>10</sup> *And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,*

John is carried away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain to a vantage point where he could see the entire scene. John sees *the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God*. Nothing is said about the New Jerusalem being created at this point. The language seems to imply that it has already existed in heaven – prior to it descending.

John calls the New Jerusalem, the city... *the bride, the wife of the Lamb*. Throughout Scripture we read of the marriage relationship as it applies to God's relationship with Israel and Jesus' relationship with the Church. Within the Jewish custom of the wedding feast, the bridegroom, the husband, left the bride in her home following the betrothal and traveled back to his house to prepare rooms where they would dwell together once he returned to take away his bride.

The occupants of the city are the redeemed. Heb. 12:22-23 - *But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels,<sup>23</sup> to the general assembly (festal gathering) and church (NT believers baptized into the body of Christ [I Cor. 12:13]) of the firstborn (Jesus is the firstborn [Col. 1:15 – He is the Creator] – having priority of position – being given the inheritance of the firstborn) who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect (saints from other ages)*. There is only one eternal resting place for all the redeemed – the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem.

Revelation 21:3 - *And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, 'Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.* What we are seeing in the New Jerusalem is the merging of heaven and earth! Believers will continue to reside in heaven while they are on the earth.

Revelation 21:11 - *having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal.* The city is seen as a brilliant jewel, compared to a jasper stone which is clear as crystal. The brilliant light of God's glory shining out of the city will stream over the new heaven and new earth. All of eternity is bathed in the splendor of the glory of God.

Revelation 21:12-21 - *Also she had a great and high wall with twelve gates, and twelve angels at the gates, and names written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel:<sup>13</sup> three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west.<sup>14</sup> Now the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.<sup>15</sup> And he who talked with me had a gold reed to measure the city, its gates, and its wall.<sup>16</sup> The city is laid out as a square; its length is as great as its breadth. And he measured the city with the reed: twelve thousand furlongs. Its length, breadth, and height are equal.<sup>17</sup> Then he measured its wall: one hundred and forty-four cubits (over 200 ft.), according to the measure of a man, that is, of an angel.<sup>18</sup> The construction of its wall was of jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass.<sup>19</sup> The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with all kinds of precious stones: the first foundation was jasper, the*

*second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald, <sup>20</sup> the fifth sardonyx, the sixth sardius, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst. <sup>21</sup> The twelve gates were twelve pearls: each individual gate was of one pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass. <sup>22</sup> But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. <sup>23</sup> The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light*

The names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel will be written on the twelve gates. The names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb will be written on the twelve foundations (Eph. 2:20-22). Through noting the huge foundation stones it appears that this heavenly city will come down and rest on the new earth.

The city is laid out as a square – it's a cube. The 12,000 furlongs equates to 1380 miles – height, breadth (width/depth), and length. Some have rounded it out to 1,500 miles. In going with that calculation here is what has been suggested:

- The footprint of the city will spread from the southern boundary of Canada to the northern boundary of Mexico and from the Atlantic Ocean to the Rocky Mountains. Surface area: 2.25 million sq. miles!

- If the city has stories/floors equating to 13 feet high, the city would have 660,000 stories. The Twin Towers had 110 stories in each!!!! Again, the New Jerusalem will be 1,380 miles high!

- The city will allow for 20 billion residents each having their own private 75 acre section. If each residence section is smaller, the city will have room to accommodate 100,000 billion residents with a good deal of room left over for parks and common area.

- The Holy of Holies in Solomon's Temple was a thirty-foot cube. The New Jerusalem will be a cube. Consider: God dwelled in the Holy of Holies in Solomon's Temple. God is dwelling in the entire New Jerusalem. The city is likened, therefore, to an eternal Holy of Holies.

*The construction of its wall was of jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass*

The wall will be transparent. And, the city will be made of pure gold, as glass.

Transparent. The light of the glory of God will beam out of the city. The precious colorful stones (the precise colors are not certain) seen in the foundation walls (vv. 19-20) appear to be designed to reflect the glory of God in a spectrum of brilliant color.

*But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.* It has been suggested that a temple will not be necessary since sin will not be present in the Holy City. The glorious presence of God the Father and God the Son will permeate the entire city! Our fellowship/communication with God will never be broken in the New Jerusalem for eternity!

*The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light.* God the Father and God the Son spoke light into existence when they created. Their presence in the New Jerusalem will eliminate the need for other heavenly lights. Here, in this New Jerusalem, the shadows are dispelled.

No longer is the structure of a temple necessary for all the redeemed are in the immediate presence of the Lord.

It's interesting to observe that we can also describe the New Jerusalem by the things that are missing. There will be no temple, no sacrifice, no sun, no moon, no darkness, no gates to shut, no abomination.

Revelation 21:24-27 - *And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it.* <sup>25</sup> *Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there).* <sup>26</sup> *And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it.* <sup>27</sup> *But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.* The word *nations* (Gk. *ethne*) is the word for Gentiles. These kings are saved Gentiles who belong to the non-Jewish races will be in the new city. Read Isa. 60. In the Eternal State we see the redeemed among Israel and among the Gentiles in addition to the Church. The kings bringing their glory and honor into the city means that those among the saved who have had honored positions on earth will now ascribe the glory and honor to God! We are specifically told that only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life will enter the city.

Revelation 22:1-2 - *And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb.* <sup>2</sup> *In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.*

Through *The pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne* (singular) *of God and of the Lamb* – we see the abundance of eternal life/spiritual life that will characterize those who are living in the eternal city. (John 7:37-38)

*Tree of life* – the last time we read of the tree of life was in Genesis 3, in the Garden of Eden, where Adam and Eve had sinned. Paradise was lost. Now, in the Eternal State, Paradise is restored! And we again see the tree of life – of eternal life. How appropriate that the tree of life is highlighted in the Eternal State. The leaves on the tree will be for the healing of the nations. The Gk. word for healing is *therapeia* from which we derive “therapy”. The word carries the idea of “health-giving”. The leaves of the tree promote the enjoyment of life in the New Jerusalem and are not for correcting ills that do not exist. The purposes of God are fulfilled. God's plan of salvation for the world from eternity past is fulfilled.

Revelation 22:3-5 - *And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him.* <sup>4</sup> *They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads.* <sup>5</sup> *There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.* Will we see our tri-une God – the three persons of the Trinity in the Eternal State?

- I Tim. 6:16 - *who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power.*

- I Cor. 2:9 - *Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.*
- Because of God's holiness, it appears that we may never be able to look upon His face.
- Rev. 5:6 tells us that the Lamb stands in the center of the throne and there are descriptions of Him clothed in brilliant white. The Lamb is Jesus. Human eyes have beheld Him after His resurrection and glorification. I'm suggested that we will be able to look upon our Lord and Savior.
- The Holy Spirit, by the very nature of His Being, is able to move at will and take various forms. When Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit descended on Him in the form of a dove (Matt. 3:13-17). At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit was accompanied by a loud rushing noise and was seen as tongues of fire (Acts 2:1-4). It may not be possible to see the Holy Spirit unless He chooses to manifest Himself in some form. This is speculation, of course.

We, as humans, do not have the ability to grasp the wonders of heaven. It is entirely beyond our comprehension. Heaven, the Millennial Kingdom, the Eternal State will far exceed our wildest imaginings! We do know that we will be MARVELING and worshipping our great God Who provided the way for us through the shed blood of the Son of God to become citizens in the New Jerusalem!

Revelation 22:6-7, 12-13, 18-21

*Then he said to me, "These words are faithful and true." And the Lord God of the holy prophets sent His angel to show His servants the things which must shortly take place. <sup>7</sup> "Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."*

<sup>12</sup> *"And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. (BEMA) <sup>13</sup> I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last."* This statement of eternity could apply only to God

<sup>18</sup> *For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; <sup>19</sup> and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.*

The *things* are the events and facts which are recorded by the words of the prophecy of this book. Early on, God gave a general prohibition against adding to or subtracting from His inspired word (Deu. [4:2](#); [12:32](#); Pr. [30:6](#); Jer. [26:2](#)). This principle applies to all of Scripture, including the book of Revelation.

<sup>20</sup> *He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming quickly."*

*Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus! <sup>21</sup> The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.*