

Chapters 21 & 22: I Make All Things New

Hallelujah! We have made it to the end! What happens in these last two chapters is God fulfilling every promise, every covenant, and every bit of prophecy throughout the Bible.

What John saw: (vs. 1-8) John sees a new Heaven and a new Earth and notes that there is are no seas. He sees a new Jerusalem this time with no Temple. God will wipe away all the tears; there will be no more sorrow, no more death, no more crying, no more pain. He will _____ the curse of sin from the earth! There are 7 promises given to those who overcome:

- 1) They will eat from the Tree of Life
- 2) They will escape the Second Death
- 3) They will receive a new name
- 4) They will have authority over nations
- 5) They will rule and reign with Christ
- 6) They will be spiritual pillars
- 7) They will be given a white stone and robes of righteousness

Those who will not inherit this are listed by John as well. At the top of the list are the “cowardly”. This references those who turned back from following God, not those who have doubted or questioned at their faith at times. They are put in the same list as idolaters, unbelievers, the vile, the murderers, liars, sexual immoral, and those practicing magic arts. The rest of the chapter is dedicated to the description of Heaven John saw.

Starting in verse 9, John sees an angel (one of the prophets according to 19:10) and he is told to come and see the bride of Christ. He is carried away in the Spirit and sees a new city, a new Jerusalem or Holy City coming down from Heaven.

What John sees: The foundation of the city will be square. The city itself is as long as it is wide, 12,000 stadia or _____ miles. It will shine with the glory of God like a jewel made of jasper. The city itself will be shaped like a cube. The gates will stand 1400 miles tall and have an angel at each one. On those gates will be written one of the twelve tribes of Israel. There are 3 gates on the East, 3 on the North, 3 on the South and 3 on the West. The wall of the city will have 12 foundations and on the foundations each of the twelve names of the disciples. The walls are approximately 200 feet thick. The wall was made of jasper and the city of pure gold, like glass.

What John doesn't see: He is careful to note that he does not see a Temple because the Lord God and Lamb are its Temple. He does not see a sun or moon or stars. The glory of the Lord in all its fulness will illuminate it. There will be no night there and the gates will be open. Nothing impure will ever enter it and only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of Life can enter.

In Chapter 22, John continues his description of this new city with the River of Life. It will flow clear as crystal from the throne of God down the middle of the city. On each side of the river stood the Tree of Life. It will bear 12 crops of fruit, a new one each month. The leaves of the tree will bring healing to the nations. The curse of sin will be gone. We will have access to the throne of God and we will see His face and will bear his name on our foreheads. We will reign with Him forever and ever.

In verse 10, the "angel" tells John do not seal up these words as Daniel was commanded to do. This book is to be left open so that all can read and understand.

As we close this study, my prayer for you is that we can have clarity and understanding into one of the most important books in all the Bible. Jesus' final warning was this: do not add or take away from this book, either Revelation or the Bible! For to do so risks our very eternity with Him. His grace be with us until His glorious return! Come Lord Jesus come.