

THE REVELATION

NOVEMBER 10, 2024

Chapter 21:9 – 22:15

7. A New Bride (21:9)

Rev 21:9 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and spoke with me, saying, "Come here, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb."

The angel wants to show John the “*bride, the wife of the Lamb*,” as she exited the bridal chamber just before departing from heaven to take care of things in the valley of Megiddo. That story was told in the *seventh bowl of the wrath of God*. The same angel, charged with pouring the contents of the *seventh bowl*, wants to show John that same “*Bride*” now, while John was alive, during the days of the Church age, before the doors of the seven Churches are closed and before the Lamb of God breaks the first seal. He wants to show John where the Church is at the time of this writing. In reality, he wants to show John where the LORD takes every saint who will one day transition from earth to heaven through the portal of the first death after giving the vision to John and until the *Great White Throne Judgment*. “*Come here, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb*.”

8. A New Jerusalem (21:10 – 22:5)

Rev 21:10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, ^{11a} having the glory of God.

John had been carried away in the Spirit to heaven, from the cave on Patmos hours before so he could see from heaven’s view; this angel must have taken him somewhere on earth where he could see a clear shot of the final approach of the city of God as it comes to earth. A high mountain will do. It was not on Patmos. No high mountains exist on Patmos. This must be the city John saw when he saw heaven pass away. Now, in a smaller and shorter vision, a supplement, we might say, John gives a close-up view of the New Jerusalem that is new only to John and perhaps to the earth, for it was established as God’s home on the first day of creation.

a) Crystal Clear Jasper (21:11b)

Rev 21:11b Her brilliance was like a very costly stone, as a stone of crystal-clear jasper.

As the city came into John’s view, it seemed to be made of an expensive “crystal-clear jasper.” To John, the whole city looked like the same material he described for which the LORD’s throne was made (Revelation 4:3).

b) Walls and Gates (21:12)

Rev 21:12a It had a great and high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels;

We do not know how high the wall is at this point in the story, but it will be measured soon. John sees twelve gates with twelve angel guards, one at each gate.

(1) Names of the Tribes (21:12a)

Rev 21:12a and names were written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel.

John notices that each gate has a name written on it. Being Jewish, he must have quickly seen that the names on the gates were those of the original twelve sons of Jacob who fathered the twelve tribes of the Nation of Israel.

(2) Number of the Gates (21:13)

Rev 21:13 There were three gates on the east and three gates on the north and three gates on the south and three gates on the west.

John also notices that the four-sided city has three gates on each side.

c) Foundation (21:14)

Rev 21:14 And the wall of the city had twelve foundation stones, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

Furthermore, John notices twelve steps or foundation layers under the city walls as the city comes closer. Each step has the name of one of the twelve Apostles on each layer. Here, we wish John would have given us the names of those twelve steps. It would have settled many Church-age arguments over who the true twelve Apostles were and who took Judas Iscariot's place in the eyes of God. Surely, it is Paul and not Mathias, but we will never know until the LORD comes to receive each of us by the hand and take us to this city while it is still in heaven.

d) Measurement (21:15)

Rev 21:15 The one who spoke with me had a gold measuring rod to measure the city, and its gates and its wall.

The angel who poured the *seventh bowl of wrath*, has a measuring stick in his hand. He will measure the city, and John must record the measurements.

(1) Its Size (21:16)

Rev 21:16 The city is laid out as a square, and its length is as great as the width; and he measured the city with the rod, fifteen hundred miles; its length and width and height are equal.

The square city is 1,500 miles long, wide and tall.

(2) Its Walls (21:17)

Rev 21:17 And he measured its wall, seventy-two yards, according to human measurements, which are also angelic measurements.

Even though the city was 1,500 miles high, its physical walls were only 216 feet high. This verse makes a special note. As the angel measures the city, he uses the same scale as humans on Earth.

(3) Its Material (21:18-21)

(a) Walls (21:18)

Rev 21:18 The material of the wall was jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass.

John has already told us the city walls look like “jasper.” John now tells us that the bulk of the city is “*pure gold*,” but it looks like “*clear glass*.”

(b) Foundation (21:19-20)

Rev 21:19 *The foundation stones of the city wall were adorned with every kind of precious stone. The first foundation stone was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, chalcedony; the fourth, emerald; ²⁰ the fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, topaz; the tenth, chrysoprase; the eleventh, jacinth; the twelfth, amethyst.*

With the city close enough, John can identify the types of stones used on each foundation layer. All of the stones are “*precious*,” meaning they are *valuable*.

(c) Gates (21:21)

Rev 21:21 *And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; each one of the gates was a single pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.*

John’s eyes return to the gates and streets of the city. Each gate is made of a single pearl, a precious gem, and the only one formed within the living flesh of an oyster irritated by an offending and hurtful object. In most cases, a single grain of sand harms it. The pearl is the oyster’s answer to that which harmed it. The pearl at the gates of this city is God’s answer to the wicked that harmed heaven’s beloved LORD. The pearl will forever be a reminder of the case of the event of Calvary.

The streets are pure but clear gold like the rest of the city.

e) Map (21:22-22:5)

(1) The Temple and Lamb (21:22)

Rev 21:22 *I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.*

John notices the absence of the Temple in the city. A Temple will not be needed. The “*LORD God and the Lamb are its Temple*.” Do not be confused at this point. The “*LORD God*” and the “*Lamb*” are the same person, the LORD Jesus. He is the Temple in the New Jerusalem.

(2) The Sun and Moon (21:23)

Rev 21:23 *And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb.*

The sun and the moon will no longer be seen in the sky. Their glow will be dim in the heavens. The world will be illuminated by the bright light of God alone, Who is the LORD God, the Lamb, Jesus.

(a) The Nations and Kings (21:24)

Rev 21:24 *The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it.*

Nations will still exist! When the LORD sent forth the families from the *Tower of Babel*, He forced them to do what He had instructed them to do. Each language represents a new nation. However, in this case, all the nations of the earth will be resurrected saints from all ages. Kings will also be on the Earth. They will hold positions in the government of God for all eternity. They, too, will be resurrected saints.

(b) The Day and Gates (21:25)

Rev 21:25 In the daytime (for there will be no night there) its gates will never be closed;

Although angels will theoretically and ceremonially guard each of the twelve gates, the “*gates will never be closed.*” They will never need to be closed. The earth will be sinless. The LORD will have dealt with evil, and no harm will ever come to anyone again!

(c) The Glory and Honor (21:26)

Rev 21:26 and they will bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it;

The nations will have a task and responsibility throughout eternity. All the glorified resurrected saints will be required to give “*glory and honor*” to the LORD God, the Lamb.

(d) The People and Book (21:27)

Rev 21:27 and nothing unclean, and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

No sinners will be there. All there will be saved, redeemed by the blood of the Lamb, with their names forever engraved in the “*Lamb's Book of Life.*”

Chapter 22

(e) The River and Throne (22:1-2a)

Rev 22:1 Then he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb, 22:2a in the middle of its street.

At least one particular street runs through the city, starting at the throne. In the middle of that street is the “*river of the water of life, clear as crystal.*” This river is where everyone will drink their water for all eternity. For perspective, the city is 1,500 miles deep. The throne of the LORD is in the middle of the city, 750 miles from the perimeter wall. For further perspective, the 7.6 billion people in the world today can all stand side by side on the *Big Island of Hawaii*. It contains 4,028 total square miles. That means that 1,886,792 people can stand in one square mile. One square mile has 27,878,400 square feet, which means that every person has almost 15 square feet per person. As for the river, it can be accessed from both sides or 1,500 miles of riverfrontage, meaning that 7,920,000 people can drink from the river simultaneously. That is just the riverfrontage inside the city without regard to the river's access outside the city and throughout the world. For a little more perspective, scholars estimate that 107 billion people have lived on the earth since creation. If 27,878,400 people can stand in one square mile on the *Big Island of Hawaii*, that means that every person who has ever lived could stand on the *Big Island of Hawaii* if they took up only about 1.04 square feet each. That would be tighter than sardines in a can, but the point is, everyone who has ever lived, if they were still alive today, could just about stand front to back and side to side on the *Big Island of Hawaii*. Just the floor level of this city of God is 1,500 miles times 1,500 miles or 2,250,000 square miles, 559 times larger

than the *Big Island*. Space in the city will not be a problem because the number of glorified saints in the future will be far less than the 107 billion that have lived in this world to date.

(f) The Tree and Fruit (22:2b)

Rev 22:2a *On either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.*

This one “*tree of life*” has grown since its day in the *Garden of Eden*. It has now grown large enough that the *river of life* can run through it, and most likely, it starts from just a short distance from the throne and past the perimeter wall. We do not know how wide the tree is, but the river runs at least 750 miles from the throne to the perimeter wall.

(g) The Curse and Servants (22:3)

Rev 22:3 *There will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His bond-servants will serve Him;*

The city and the world are sinless. The curse of sin is gone. Everyone serves God on the throne and the Lamb, the LORD Jesus.

(h) The Face and Name (22:4)

Rev 22:4 *they will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads.*

The face of the LORD will not be hidden from the glorified saints living in the world. John describes the LORD’s face in the REVELATION. His name will be on everyone’s forehead. His name was sealed on the 144,000 Israelites during the tribulation, but now, everyone will have the same name.

(i) The Night and Sun (22:5)

Rev 22:5 *And there will no longer be any night; and they will not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God will illumine them; and they will reign forever and ever.*

Once again, John remarks that the LORD will be the light illuminating the world. But more than that, night will never occur in the city with the LORD reigning with the saints “*forever and ever*.” This city is the home of the “*bride, the wife of the Lamb*” in all its glory and beauty, safe and secure, for all eternity.

III. The Conclusion of the Book (22:6-15)

A. Jesus the Author of these Words (22:6)

1. Timing of the Events (22:6)

Rev 22:6 *And he said to me, “These words are faithful and true”; and the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, sent His angel to show to His bond-servants the things which must soon take place.*

These words are clear and need little commentary; however, we must address one word in this English translation, “*soon*.” It is mistranslated. The Greek word is *tachos*, and it means *the speed at which it will happen*. It does not mean that the events recorded in this REVELATION will occur shortly after John writes them down. If that were the case, surely the LORD would have returned sometime

in these last 2,000 years since John put them on paper. Instead, the word should have been translated *suddenly*. The text should read “*the things which must suddenly take place.*”

2. Blessings of the Events (22:7)

Rev 22:7 "And behold, I am coming quickly. Blessed is he who heeds the words of the prophecy of this book."

What a promise for a blessing! He is coming; that is a fact. All people would do well to “*heed*” these words, but the world is filled with people who think it is all a bunch of religious mumbo-jumbo!

3. Testimony of the Events (22:8)

Rev 22:8a I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things.

John now gives a testimony and review of the vision. Here, he swears that what he has written is just as he “*heard, and saw.*”

a) John Falters (22:8b)

Rev 22:8b And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed me these things.

John also testifies that the things he “*heard and saw*” were so awesome that he fell to the feet of the angel helping him during the vision. This entry is not a new fault on John’s part but a reference to the event earlier in the story.

b) Angel Corrects (22:9)

Rev 22:9 But he said to me, "Do not do that. I am a fellow servant of yours and of your brethren the prophets and of those who heed the words of this book. Worship God."

John saw fit to repeat the angel’s response to his fault for worshiping the angel. The angel corrected his misstep with a purpose. This angel knew the One Who truly deserved worship—God (Revelation 19:10).

4. Fate of the Events (22:10)

Rev 22:10 And he said to me, "Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near.

Because of the thought pattern in this passage through verse 12, John must mean that the LORD is instructing him to spread the news of this vision in this book because “*the time is near.*” This statement comes from Revelation 1:3 at the beginning of the vision.

As we discovered when Jesus said, “*For the time is near*” in Revelation 1:3, it means the *season is at hand*, which is a good and proper translation. Did Jesus mean it was nearly time for the fulfillment of this prophecy? Hardly! Jesus meant that it was time for the fulfillment of this prophecy to begin! And so, it does here! The conclusion of the end of this vision portrayed to John does not mean the *Second Coming of the LORD* is about to happen; rather, the parade of the pageantry of this vision is about to begin!

5. Warning of the Events (22:11)

Rev 22:11 "Let the one who does wrong, still do wrong; and the one who is filthy, still be filthy; and let the one who is righteous, still practice righteousness; and the one who is holy, still keep himself holy."

Here is the warning for all to understand, which is why John has been instructed to include this verse. During the parade of this pageantry to the *Second Coming* and all the other events, sin will still be in constant conflict with righteousness. Notice the essential parts of this verse, “... *the one who is filthy, still be filthy ... the one who is holy, still keep himself holy.*” What powerful insight! Throughout the pageantry, filthy people will choose to remain filthy, and holy people must choose to remain holy. Do you see the word “*keep?*” That one word indicates that sin and righteousness, filthiness, and holiness are a choice.

6. Reward of the Events (22:12)

Rev 22:12 "Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done.

It is the LORD speaking to John as He says, “*Behold, I am coming quickly...*” *Behold* means to *pay attention* in every entry in the Scripture. “*I am coming quickly ...*” Here, the Greek word *tachus* is used again. It means *suddenly!* It has nothing to do with time; it means *without notice*, for example, *like a thief in the night* when the homeowner does not know what will happen.

a) The Beginning and End (22:13)

Rev 22:13 "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

For the third and final time, the LORD tells John in this REVELATION that He created everything and will be the final all-in-all.

b) The Blessed and Right (22:14)

Rev 22:14 Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter by the gates into the city.

John must return to the island of Patmos with the written record of this vision to send initially to the seven Churches. From there, this vision will be sent to all the rest of the Churches in place then and down through the Church ages. Here, the LORD tells everyone how to be assured of receiving the blessing and right to live in the New Jerusalem for all eternity. To enter those gates and eat from the *tree of life* requires a person to have *his robe washed*. It is not stated here; however, the whole Bible is filled with instructions on receiving a *washed robe* – by putting your faith in the LORD for shedding His blood on the cross to redeem sins. No other way can a person’s name be recorded in the *Book of Life!*

c) The Cursed and Wrong (22:15)

Rev 22:15 Outside are the dogs and the sorcerers and the immoral persons and the murderers and the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices lying.

The LORD wants John and everyone else in the world to know that, until the culmination of the ages, with the arrival of the *New Jerusalem*, and the inhabitation of God on earth after the *Great White Throne Judgment*, the world will still be filled with dogs, sorcerers, immoral persons, murderers, idolaters, and liars. They are cursed in the eyes of the LORD, and they will always be “*outside*” and around the beloved of God until He comes to rid the world of evil sin.