



# Lesson 5. Heaven on Earth Revelation 21-22

## 1. The renovation of heaven

▲ **Heaven and earth renovated**

Revelation 21:1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea.

▲ **Heaven on earth revealed**

Revelation 21:2 I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. — 9 One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb." 10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. 11 It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal.

## 2. The righteous residents of heaven

▲ **Sinners excluded**

Revelation 21:8 But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.

▲ **Sin eradicated**

Revelation 21:27 Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful,

▲ **Saints enrolled**

Revelation 21:27 Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

## 3. The radiance and royalty of heaven

▲ **Great structures**

Revelation 21:12 It had a great, high wall with twelve gates, and with twelve angels at the gates. On the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel. 13 There were three gates on the east, three on the north, three on the south and three on the west. 14 The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. 15 The angel who talked with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city, its gates and its walls. 16 The city was laid out like a square, as long as it was wide. He measured the city with the rod and found it to be 12,000 stadia in length, and as wide and high as it is long. 17 He measured its wall and it was 144 cubits thick, by man's measurement, which the angel was using. 18 The wall was made of jasper, and the city of pure gold, as pure as glass. 19 The foundations of the city walls were decorated with every kind of precious stone. The first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald, 20 the fifth sardonyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst. 21 The twelve gates were twelve pearls, each gate made of a single pearl. The great street of the city was of pure gold, like transparent glass.

► four walls of jasper — 1,400 miles cubed — twelve foundations of precious stones — twelve gates of pearl — a great central street of gold

▲ **Glorious splendor**

Revelation 21:12 I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. 23 The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. 24 The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. 25 On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. 26 The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it. 27 Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life. 22:1 Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb 2 down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. 3 No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. 4 They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. 5 There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.

► no temple — Lamb is the light — gates never shut — river of life flowing — tree of life flourishing — face of God — no more curse

▲ **God's signature**

Revelation 21:5 He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." 6 He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End."

## 4. The rest and refreshing in heaven

▲ **The closeness of God**

Revelation 21:3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God."

▲ **The comfort of God**

Revelation 21:4 "He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

▲ **The contentment of God**

Revelation 21:6 He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. 7 He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son."

▲ **The clarity of God**

1 Corinthians 13:12 Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

## 5. The reservations required for heaven

▲ **Be warned**

Revelation 22:18 I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book. 19 And if anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.

▲ **Be wise and willing**

Revelation 22:17 The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life.

▲ **Be washed**

Revelation 22:14 "Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city."

▲ **Be watching**

Revelation 22:6 The angel said to me, "These words are trustworthy and true. The Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, sent his angel to show his servants the things that must soon take place." 7 "Behold, I am coming soon! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy in this book."

▲ **Be well as we wait**

Revelation 22:21 The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen.

# Revelation 21-22

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## Lesson 1. The Rapture of the Church

The rapture, or the catching up of the Church out of this wicked world, may happen at any moment. No one knows the day or the hour, and the rapture will take place "in a flash." All true Christian believers, along with the bodies of all Christian believers who have died, will rise to meet the Lord in the air. The disappearance of the Church from this world will mean the removal of the restraining power of godliness.

## Lesson 2. The Great Tribulation

The rapture will be followed on earth by seven years of great tribulation. This tribulation period will be marked by the rising of a wicked world leader, the Antichrist. Great spiritual darkness and deception will cover the earth. God's wrath will poured out from heaven upon the rebellious world that has rejected His grace and the lordship of His Son, Jesus. World war will erupt. Raging against God, the nations and their armies will curse God and "make war" against Him. Christ will come from heaven in his second coming and crush the wicked kingdoms of this world.

## Lesson 3. Christ's Kingdom Come to Earth

At the end of the great tribulation, Christ, the King of kings and Lord of lords, will come from heaven to earth, followed by the armies of heaven and the saints. This is the second coming. Destroying the rebellious armies of earth, throwing the beast and false prophet into the lake of fire, and binding Satan, Christ will establish his thousand-year kingdom on earth. His kingdom will be marked by rest and righteousness and peace and plenty. His glorified saints will reign with him on earth. At the end of the thousand years, Satan will be loosed and lead a large rebellion, but it will be consumed and crushed. Satan himself will be thrown into the lake of fire.

## Lesson 4. The Great White Throne

Once Christ's kingdom on earth has enjoyed its thousand years of righteousness and peace, the kingdom age will close. All attention will be turned toward heaven and the great white throne judgment. The wicked dead will be raised to stand before God. They will be judged according to their wicked works. Because their names were not written in the Lamb's book of life, they will be cast into the lake of fire. Death itself will be thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire will burn forever, tormenting those condemned to it. The lake of fire is the second death.

## Lesson 5. Heaven on Earth

God will make all things new, creating a new heaven and a new earth. The Holy City, the new Jerusalem, will come down out of heaven from God to the earth. The radiant city will shine with the splendor and glory of God and with the brilliant light of the Lamb. The river of life will flow through the city and the tree of life will flourish. No longer will there be any curse. God will wipe away all tears from our eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away. God's people, those redeemed by the blood of the Lamb, will live forever in the perfection and presence of God. *For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*