

## Revelation - Chapter Fifteen

Chapter 15 returns us to the basic chronological order of events leading up to the return of Christ. As previously indicated, the seventh seal consisted of seven trumpets, and the seventh trumpet consists of seven vials. The seventh vial will conclude with the dramatic crescendo of the battle of Armageddon and thus complete the opening of the seven seals, which are all-inclusive of the tribulation period.

### Introduction to the Seven Last Plagues (Rev 15:1-8)

#### Verse 1

**A. What do the seven last plagues contain? Rev. 15:1** *And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvellous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God.*

Plague means that which smites or troubles; calamity.

**This judgment can be compare with the judgment that was poured upon Egypt. There were ten plagues that fell upon Egypt and the final result was devastation.**

#### Verse 2

**A. Where are those who have gotten the victory over the beast standing? Rev. 15:2** *And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God.*

The sea of glass; as we have already noted in chapter four, is symbolic of the righteousness of God as reflected in the Word. The fact that it is mingled with fire suggests the divine judgment proceeding from God's Holiness. For more information concerning the sea of glass refer back to the note under verse six in chapter four. Those standing on the sea of glass are clearly those saints martyred during the tribulation. John's vision is a projection of what is going to be rather than what is, since the resurrection has not taken place as yet; **Rev. 20:4-6.**

#### Verse 3

**A. What are those on the sea of glass singing? Rev 15:3** *And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints.*

These songs represent the song of victory and deliverance made possible by the power of God and the sacrifice of the lamb.

**Deut. 31:30-32:4** *And Moses spake in the ears of all the congregation of Israel the words of this song, until they were ended.*

*32 Give ear, O ye heavens, and I will speak; and hear, O earth, the words of my mouth.*

*2 My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distil as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass:*

3 *Because I will publish the name of the Lord: ascribe ye greatness unto our God.*

4 *He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.*

**Hosea 14:9** *Who is wise, and he shall understand these things? prudent, and he shall know them? for the ways of the Lord are right, and the just shall walk in them: but the transgressors shall fall therein.*

#### Verse 4

**A. Who shall come to worship before the Lord? Rev. 15:4** *Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? For thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest.*

Although the nations of the world neither fear God nor glorify Him during the tribulation, the day will come when they will not only fear Him, but be forced to acknowledge Him as God.

#### Verse 5

**A. What is opened in Heaven? Rev. 15:5** *And after that I looked, and, behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened:*

The "Tabernacle" is a reference to the entire tent like structure; including the court, which was constructed in the wilderness after the exodus from Egypt. It was God's dwelling place among His people. It is described as the "Tabernacle of the Testimony", because of the presence of the tables of stone containing the commandments or testimony of God located there. The "Temple" of the Tabernacle refers to the inner part of the Tabernacle; that is the sanctuary or more specifically the Holy of Holies. The earthly tabernacle was made to resemble; at least symbolically, the Heavenly Tabernacle which is God's throne. The fact that the angels are coming out of this sanctuary indicate that the judgments to be poured out are in accordance to God's law.

#### Verse 6

**A. How were the angels clothed? Rev. 15:6** *And the seven angels came out of the temple, having the seven plagues, clothed in pure and white linen, and having their breasts girded with golden girdles.*

The white linen represents the righteousness of these angels. The golden girdles about the breasts, shows their judicial status.

#### Verse 7

**A. Who gives the seven angels the seven vials? Rev. 15:7** *And one of the four beasts gave unto the seven angels seven golden vials full of the wrath of God, who liveth for ever and ever.*

The word "vial" comes from the Greek word meaning "a shallow cup or bowl".

The fact that one of the four beasts gives the vials to the angels indicates that the judgment, about to be poured out, comes directly from the throne of God.

## Verse 8

**A. With what was the temple filled? Rev. 15:8** *And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God, and from his power; and no man was able to enter into the temple, till the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled.*

There are many scriptural references where the glory of the Lord is revealed as a cloud, consider the following verses for examples:

**Exodus 40:34-38** *Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.*

*35 And Moses was not able to enter into the tent of the congregation, because the cloud abode thereon, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.*

*36 And when the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the children of Israel went onward in all their journeys:*

*37 But if the cloud were not taken up, then they journeyed not till the day that it was taken up.*

*38 For the cloud of the Lord was upon the tabernacle by day, and fire was on it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel, throughout all their journeys.*

**I Kings 8:10-12** *And it came to pass, when the priests were come out of the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the Lord,*

*11 So that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud: for the glory of the Lord had filled the house of the Lord.*

*12 Then spake Solomon, The Lord said that he would dwell in thick darkness.*

There is a difference between a cloud and smoke. It would seem that a cloud indicates grace, where as smoke indicates judgment. It is clear that access into the presence of God is made impossible until the judgments are fulfilled.

## Review Questions – Chapter fifteen

1. What do the seven last plagues contain?
2. What does the sea of glass represent?
3. What is suggested by the sea of glass mingled with fire?
4. To what is the temple of the tabernacle referring?
5. Who gives the seven angels the seven vials and what does this suggest?
6. How are the seven angels clothed?
7. What is a vial?
8. What is the difference between “seeing God in a cloud” and “seeing God in smoke”?

## Revelation - Chapter Sixteen

In chapter 16, the angels to whom were given the seven vials full of the wrath of God are now commanded to pour out the divine judgment upon the earth. These judgments will fall in rapid succession. It is the writers position that the vials are poured out during the last half of the seven years of the Anti-Christ reign, and that the last vial includes the Battle of Armageddon.

### The Seven Vials

#### Verse 1

**A. Upon what are the vials poured? Rev. 16:1** *And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth.*

The "Great voice" which is described as coming out of the temple is most likely the voice of God.

#### First Vial (Rev 16:2)

#### Verse 2

**A. Describe the first vial. Rev. 16:2** *And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshipped his image.*

Boils or ulcerated sores, the same as in Egypt; **Exod. 9:9-11**. Since these plagues are poured out upon the earth there is no reason to assume that they are not literal.

The fact that the Image of the beast exists, confirms that these judgments occur in the last half of the tribulation since the image is not erected until after the Anti-Christ has been raised from the dead in the midst of the week; **Rev. 13:3-5**.

#### Second Vial (Rev 16:3)

#### Verse 3

**A. What happens to the sea when the second vial is poured out? Rev. 16:3** *And the second angel poured out his vial upon the sea; and it became as the blood of a dead man: and every living soul died in the sea.*

The Sea does not become blood, but it becomes as the blood of a dead man. When a man dies, the stoppage of circulation in the blood stream causes his blood to coagulate, that is, it begins to congeal, or becomes thick. The only association that I can make with this is to compare it with water that has become stagnant, or polluted. Today it is not uncommon to hear of oil spills or of industries pumping waste into the sea causing the death of thousands of fish. The sea or at least a portion of the sea may very well become so polluted as to become like the blood of a dead man. The Greek word "Psuche" translated "soul" is the equivalent of the Hebrew word "Nephesh" which is translated "soul" in **Gen. 2:7** and is also translated "creature" in **Gen. 1:24**. The word soul is a general term used to express life or self-awareness.

## Third Vial (Rev 16:4-7)

### Verse 4

**A. What does the third vial affect? Rev. 16:4** *And the third angel poured out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of waters; and they became blood.*

There is no reason to assume that the rivers and fountains of water are to be taken symbolically. This plague should be taken as literally as the plague that fell upon Egypt; **Exod. 7:17-18**.

### Verse 5

**A. What does the angel of the waters declare? Rev. 16:5** *And I heard the angel of the waters say, Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art, and wast, and shalt be, because thou hast judged thus.*

It is unclear whether this angel is the angel with the third vial or an angel that has power over the waters; however, it seems clear that angels; both good and evil, have a very real part in the changing conditions of our environment. Notice in **Mark 4:35-41**, where Jesus rebuked the wind and the sea as though it were driven by an evil force.

The wicked will meet with divine retribution as a result of their hardness and impenitent hearts:

**Rom. 2:5-6** *But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God; 6 Who will render to every man according to his deeds:*

**Isa. 49:25-26** *But thus saith the Lord, Even the captives of the mighty shall be taken away, and the prey of the terrible shall be delivered: for I will contend with him that contendeth with thee, and I will save thy children.*

*26 And I will feed them that oppress thee with their own flesh; and they shall be drunken with their own blood, as with sweet wine: and all flesh shall know that I the Lord am thy Saviour and thy Redeemer, the mighty One of Jacob.*

**Psa. 129:4-5** *The Lord is righteous: he hath cut asunder the cords of the wicked. 5 Let them all be confounded and turned back that hate Zion.*

### Verse 6

**A. Why is this judgment considered just? Rev. 16:6** *For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy.*

It seemed fitting to the angel of the waters; that a blood thirsty people would be given blood to drink.

### Verse 7

**Rev 16:7** *And I heard another out of the altar say, Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are thy judgments.*

A voice from the altar confirms the declaration made by the angel of the waters. This voice may represent the martyrs who have sacrificed their lives for the testimony of Christ. Notice **Rev. 6:9-11**

## Fourth Vial (Rev 16:8-9)

### Verse 8

**A. What is affected by the fourth vial? Rev. 16:8** *And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire.*

**B. How much brighter will the sun become? Isa. 30:26** *Moreover the light of the moon shall be as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun shall be sevenfold, as the light of seven days, in the day that the Lord bindeth up the breach of his people, and healeth the stroke of their wound.*

The Environmental Protection Agency has expressed great concerns, warning that man-made global environmental changes could occur in the near future. Man-made chemicals known as chlorofluorocarbons are destroying the planet's protective ozone shield. Many scientists are predicting that if the trend continues and the atmospheric levels of carbon increase, it is going to cause a greenhouse effect in which the earth's temperature is going to rise.

### Verse 9

**A. Do men repent under this treatment? Rev. 16:9** *And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory.*

**B. Re-state the reason for the earth being cursed. Isa. 24:5-6** *The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant.*

*6 Therefore hath the curse devoured the earth, and they that dwell therein are desolate: therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men left.*

## Fifth Vial (Rev 16:10-11)

### Verse 10

**A. What is the result of the fifth plague? Rev. 16:10** *And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain,*

**Exod. 10:21-23** *And the Lord said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, even darkness which may be felt.*

*22 And Moses stretched forth his hand toward heaven; and there was a thick darkness in all the land of Egypt three days:*

*23 They saw not one another, neither rose any from his place for three days: but all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings.*

The noun clause "the seat of the beast" could more accurately be stated "the throne of the beast". It is said, "They gnawed their tongues for pain", which is a description of severe agony. This pain is the result of the accumulated effect of the preceding plagues.

## Verse 11

**A. Does the darkness and pain soften men's heart, or cause them to confess their sins? Rev. 16:11** *And blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds.*

## Sixth Vial (Rev 16:12-16)

### Verse 12

**A. Upon what is the sixth vial poured? Rev. 16:12** *And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared.*

The river Euphrates is one of the prominent rivers of the world and forms the eastern boundary of the ancient Roman Empire.

The Kings of the east are the oriental rulers from such nations as; Japan, China, India, as well as other lesser nations. These nations will rise in revolt against the Anti-Christ at the end of the seven years of tribulation.

### Verse 13

**A. From where do the unclean spirits come? Rev. 16:13** *And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.*

This vision is parenthetical in nature but still relates to the sixth vial. The unclean spirits are not frogs; they are only compared to frogs. Frogs are found in swamps or sloughs which illustrates the nature of the dialog between the beast system and the Kings of the east. The conflict will become so hostile that the kings of the east will march against the Anti-Christ.

**B. What are evil spirits sometimes called? I Tim. 4:1** *Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;*

### Verse 14

**A. To whom do these spirits go? Rev. 16:14** *For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.*

At the very time that the armies of the world are contending for power on the battlefield, Jesus will return. These armies will combine their efforts against Christ and challenge His divine sovereignty.

**Zach. 14:1-15** *Behold, the day of the Lord cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee.*

2 For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city.

3 Then shall the Lord go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle.

4 And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.

5 And ye shall flee to the valley of the mountains; for the valley of the mountains shall reach unto Azal: yea, ye shall flee, like as ye fled from before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah: and the Lord my God shall come, and all the saints with thee.

6 And it shall come to pass in that day, that the light shall not be clear, nor dark:

7 But it shall be one day which shall be known to the Lord, not day, nor night: but it shall come to pass, that at evening time it shall be light.

8 And it shall be in that day, that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the former sea, and half of them toward the hinder sea: in summer and in winter shall it be.

9 And the Lord shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one Lord, and his name one.

10 All the land shall be turned as a plain from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem: and it shall be lifted up, and inhabited in her place, from Benjamin's gate unto the place of the first gate, unto the corner gate, and from the tower of Hananeel unto the king's winepresses.

11 And men shall dwell in it, and there shall be no more utter destruction; but Jerusalem shall be safely inhabited.

12 And this shall be the plague wherewith the Lord will smite all the people that have fought against Jerusalem; Their flesh shall consume away while they stand upon their feet, and their eyes shall consume away in their holes, and their tongue shall consume away in their mouth.

13 And it shall come to pass in that day, that a great tumult from the Lord shall be among them; and they shall lay hold every one on the hand of his neighbour, and his hand shall rise up against the hand of his neighbour.

14 And Judah also shall fight at Jerusalem; and the wealth of all the heathen round about shall be gathered together, gold, and silver, and apparel, in great abundance.

15 And so shall be the plague of the horse, of the mule, of the camel, and of the ass, and of all the beasts that shall be in these tents, as this plague.

## Verse 15

**Rev. 16:15** Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.

This verse uses a familiar custom to illustrate the importance of being prepared when the Lord returns. Within the ministry of the Temple, there was an officer known as the overseer. His responsibility was to make rounds during the watches of the night; and if he found a Levite sleeping on His watch, He had authority to beat him with a stick, and burn his ceremonial garment. Such a person being found on his return home naked, it was at once known that he had been found asleep at his post, thus his shame was seen.

## A. To many the coming of the Lord will be unexpected. What are we encouraged to do?

**Matt. 24:42-44** Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.

43 But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up.

44 Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.



## Verse 16

**A. Where are the armies of the world gathered? Rev. 16:16** *And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.*

Geographically, Armageddon relates to the mount of Megiddo located adjacent to the plain of Megiddo to the west and the large Plain of Esdraelon to the Northeast. Megiddo is the Hebrew word corresponding to the Greek word Armageddon. This area will be the central point for the military conflict.

## Seventh Vial (Rev 16:17-21)

### Verse 17

**A. What is declared after the seventh angel poured out his vial? Rev. 16:17** *And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done.*

The seventh vial is poured out into the air, which indicates that Christ will destroy the military weapons in the air as well as on the earth.

### Verse 18

**Rev. 16:18** *And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great.*

**A. How does this great earthquake relate to the return of the Lord? Zach. 14:4-5** *And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.*

*5 And ye shall flee to the valley of the mountains; for the valley of the mountains shall reach unto Azal: yea, ye shall flee, like as ye fled from before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah: and the Lord my God shall come, and all the saints with thee.*

The Dead Sea; which lies along the line of a great fault from the head of the Red sea to Mt. Hermon, will become a flowing body of water as a result of this earthquake.

**Ezek. 47:1-12** *Afterward he brought me again unto the door of the house; and, behold, waters issued out from under the threshold of the house eastward: for the forefront of the house stood toward the east, and the waters came down from under from the right side of the house, at the south side of the altar.*

*2 Then brought he me out of the way of the gate northward, and led me about the way without unto the utter gate by the way that looketh eastward; and, behold, there ran out waters on the right side.*

*3 And when the man that had the line in his hand went forth eastward, he measured a thousand cubits, and he brought me through the waters; the waters were to the ankles.*

*4 Again he measured a thousand, and brought me through the waters; the waters were to the knees. Again he measured a thousand, and brought me through; the waters were to the loins.*

*5 Afterward he measured a thousand; and it was a river that I could not pass over: for the waters were risen, waters to swim in, a river that could not be passed over.*

6 And he said unto me, Son of man, hast thou seen this? Then he brought me, and caused me to return to the brink of the river.

7 Now when I had returned, behold, at the bank of the river were very many trees on the one side and on the other.

8 Then said he unto me, These waters issue out toward the east country, and go down into the desert, and go into the sea: which being brought forth into the sea, the waters shall be healed.

9 And it shall come to pass, that every thing that liveth, which moveth, whithersoever the rivers shall come, shall live: and there shall be a very great multitude of fish, because these waters shall come thither: for they shall be healed; and every thing shall live whither the river cometh.

10 And it shall come to pass, that the fishers shall stand upon it from En-ge-di even unto En-eglaim; they shall be a place to spread forth nets; their fish shall be according to their kinds, as the fish of the great sea, exceeding many.

11 But the miry places thereof and the marishes thereof shall not be healed; they shall be given to salt.

12 And by the river upon the bank thereof, on this side and on that side, shall grow all trees for meat, whose leaf shall not fade, neither shall the fruit thereof be consumed: it shall bring forth new fruit according to his months, because their waters they issued out of the sanctuary: and the fruit thereof shall be for meat, and the leaf thereof for medicine.

## Verse 19

**A. What happens to the great city? Rev. 16:19** *And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath.*

The Great city is most likely referring to Jerusalem since it is referred to in this manner in **Rev. 11:8**. It is unclear as to what is meant by the city being divided into three parts, however it seems clear that it has to do with its destruction. It may indicate a threefold judgment, or a succession of judgments, as if one part were smitten at a time.

"The cities of the nations" refer to the capitols of various nations.

Babylon represents the false religious system and society that has supported and worshipped the Anti-Christ. A detail account of Babylon's involvement with the Anti-Christ as well as her fall will be dealt with in the next two chapters.

## Verse 20

**A. What physical changes will occur on the earth? Rev. 16:20** *And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.*

Just as we have been interpreting the other six vials in a literal way, this should be taken literally as well. This is not the only scriptural reference that indicates that the earth will experience some great topographical changes.

**Zach. 14:4-5** *And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.*

5 *And ye shall flee to the valley of the mountains; for the valley of the mountains shall reach unto Azal: yea, ye shall flee, like as ye fled from before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah: and the Lord my God shall come, and all the saints with thee.*

**Rev. 6:14** *And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.*

**B. Has the earth always been exactly as it is today? Explain. Gen. 10:25** *And unto Eber were born two sons: the name of one was Peleg; for in his days was the earth divided; and his brother's name was Joktan.*

It is quite possible that the earth will return to its original topographical appearance when the Lord returns. The earth appears to have been one solid land mass in the beginning as opposed to the different continents and Islands that exist today.

### Verse 21

**A. In addition to the earthquake, what other destructive element is revealed? Rev. 16:21** *And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great.*

The Jewish talent was about 113 lbs.

## Review Questions – Chapter Sixteen

1. In what part of the tribulation period are the vials poured out?
2. What is the result of the first vial?
3. What happens to the sea when the second vial is poured out?
4. What is the word soul a general term for?
5. What does the third vial affect?
6. What happens to the sun when the fourth vial is poured out?
7. How much brighter will the sun become?
8. What is the result of the fifth vial?
9. Why is the River Euphrates dried up when the sixth vial is poured out?
10. The River Euphrates was considered the eastern boundary of what empire?
11. Which vial is associated with the coming of the Lord?
12. What happens on the earth when Jesus' feet stand upon the Mount of Olives?
13. What happens to the Dead Sea as a consequence of the earthquake?
14. What is the condition in Jerusalem when Jesus returns to the earth?
15. How heavy is a Jewish talent?

# Revelation - Chapter Seventeen

## Mystery Babylon the Great

Chapter 17 is once again an informational chapter. It describes the nature of the false religious system, and her relationship to the Anti-Christ. Throughout the Bible there is presented a contrast between those who recognize the sovereignty of God and those who reject it. In the beginning man worshiped only one God; the Creator and Master of the universe, but shortly after the flood there was the beginning of apostasy; men began to make their own laws and erecting their own Gods. Since the Tower of Babel there has been an on-going conflict between these two irreconcilable value systems. Sometimes the Bible presents it as the Kingdom of God verses the kingdoms of this world, at other times it is referred to as Godliness verses worldliness, but it is basically the same thing. Babylon represents the worldly value system and its idolatrous practices.

### Verse 1

**A. How is Babylon described? Rev. 17:1** *And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters:*

**B. What does whoredom suggest? Judg. 2:17** *And yet they would not hearken unto their judges, but they went a whoring after other gods, and bowed themselves unto them: they turned quickly out of the way which their fathers walked in, obeying the commandments of the Lord; but they did not so.*

**C. What do the many waters represent? Rev. 17:15** *And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.*

**D. How does this whore see herself? Rev. 18:7** *How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow.*

Mystery Babylon could be regarded as the Anti-Christ's wife. Compare **Rev. 21:9** with **Rev. 17:1**. The bride of Christ is a virgin, pure and holy, while Babylon is vile, having a cup full of abominations.

### Verse 2

**A. How have the kings of the earth and all people been effected by Babylon? Rev. 17:2** *With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication.*

The relationship between Babylon and the kings of the earth have never been based upon commitment, but rather upon convenience; they just use each other. Untold millions have died as a result of this ungodly union. It is virtually impossible for any political power to rule without religious approbation. In order for the world to unite into one vast political unit it also has to unite in terms of social and religious values.

There is in the process today an unprecedented merger of various religions into a super world church, starting with the merger of Roman Catholic and Protestant Churches. The World Council of Churches was formally constituted on Aug. 23, 1948 in Amsterdam by an assembly representing 147 churches from 44 countries. At last account the member churches numbered 263 from 90 countries. The motto adopted in 1948 was, "one world, one church".

### Verse 3

John is spiritually transported into the "wilderness", which indicates the barrenness of this religious system.

**A. What is the woman sitting upon? Rev 17:3** *So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.*

The fact that the woman is atop the Anti-Christ political power indicates she has at least some influence over the political development of the Anti-Christ.

### Verse 4

**A. How was the woman arrayed? Rev. 17:4** *And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication:*

The ecclesiastical pomp of this religious system is in striking contrast to the simplicity of pious adornment worn by the bride of Christ; **Rev. 19:8**. Babylon may outwardly present to the world a dazzling appearance, but her "golden cup" is full of abominations.

### Verse 5

**A. What is written on her forehead? Rev. 17:5** *And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.*

The word "mystery" indicates that the true nature of this religious system is not self-evident. The description, "Mother of Harlots" clearly indicates that Babylon is the scriptural name for all apostate religions.

## MYSTERY BABYLON THE GREAT - THE TOWER OF BABEL

In his book, "Two Babylons", Alexander Hislop compares Egyptian, Greek, Roman, Babylonian, and other ancient Mythologies. He declares that all mythologies; though having different symbols, names, forms, etc, are all related with many similarities. He also states that most all mythologies trace their origin back to the same era, which was between the flood and the confounding of the languages. This is the time of the building of the Tower of Babel by Nimrod. According to Babylonian mythology, Nimrod was married to a woman by the name of Semiramis who was said to of been the Queen of Babylon and worshipped as Rhea the Great Mother of the Gods. She is also identified with Venus, the mother of all Impurity. She along with Nimrod raised the city of Babel where she reigned as queen of the grand seat of Idolatry and Consecrated Prostitution. One of the names of the primitive Hercules in Egypt was "Sem". He was said to of overcame the Giants or "Mighty One." This relates to the death of Nimrod who was killed by (Shem) the son of Noah who was fighting the Apostasy that was being infiltrated into that society. After Nimrod's death, Semiramis came to be with child. She said Nimrod was going to be reincarnated as a child. Many

people believed this, therefore great honor was extolled upon her and the child. It seems that Semiramis received most all her glory and deification from her son, who was referred to as (Husband of the Mother). In most all ancient Mythology their deities are represented with Mother and Child. In each case the Mothers received their glory from their sons. For example in Egypt it is Isis and Osiris; in India it is Isi and Iswara; in Asia it is Cybele and Deoiuss; in Rome it is Fortuna and Jupiter-puer. Semiramis's son is referred to in **Ezek. 8:14** as Tammus, but is more commonly known as Bacchus; that is, the Lamented One. The Lamented One relates directly back to the Assyrian god Ninus the husband of Sermirus. Ninus is the name referred to by the Assyrians, while Nimrod is the name referred to by the Babylonians. Both refer to the same man. Belus or Bel is the Father of Nimrod (Cush). Cush is the son of Ham, the ringleader of great Apostasy. Cush was referred to as Her-mes or Mercury by the Egyptians. Her-mes is just an Egyptian synonym for the "Son of Ham." Cush was known as the "divider of the speeches of man." He used a mystery beverage; an intoxicating drink used to stun one's senses, in his divination. Jeremiah said "Babylon hath been a golden cup in the Lord's hand, that made all the earth drunk, the nation have drunk of her wine, therefore, the nations are mad; **Jer. 51:7.**" Cush is the first to be referred to as Merodack, "Great Rebel;" **Jer. 50:2.** All Mythology interrelates and actually refers to the same historical events and persons, (Cush, Nimrod and Semiramis). Mystery Babylon refers to the false religious systems of this world, originating at the Tower of Babel.

## Verse 6

**A. On what was the woman drunk? Rev. 17:6** *And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration.*

It has been the history of the false religious system to be intolerant toward those maintaining a true faith in Jesus Christ. What has been true in the past will certainly be true in the future as the Anti-Christ's reign becomes a reality. The word "admiration" would be better translated "wonder" or "astonishment".

## Verse 7

**Rev. 17:7** *And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns.*

The angel now reveals to John the meaning of that which he has just seen. For explanation concerning the seven heads, refer to the note found in chapter twelve under verse three.

## Verse 8

The beast mentioned here is clearly the same beast identified in **Rev. 13:1-3.**

**A. How is the existence of the beast explained chronologically? Rev. 17:8** *The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.*

The word "bottomless" is translated from the Greek word "abyssos". It is a term used to design the abode of Satan and indicates that the power of this political empire is satanic in its origin. The word "perdition" means utter destruction.

**The satanic power of this political empire will be most convincing to great masses of mankind. Rev. 13:3-4**

## Verse 9

**A. What do the seven heads represent? Rev. 17:9** *And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth.*

Some have suggested that these seven mountains represent the seven hills on which Rome sits; however, it seems clear that the seven mountains are not to be taken literally because seven kings are associated with them; verse 10. Political empires are expressed as mountains. **Isa. 2:2** *And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it.*

**Jer. 51:25** *Behold, I am against thee, O destroying mountain, saith the Lord, which destroyest all the earth: and I will stretch out mine hand upon thee, and roll thee down from the rocks, and will make thee a burnt mountain.*

**Dan. 2:35** *Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.*

## Verse 10

**Rev. 17:10** *And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space.*

There have been thus far in history six political mountains that have taken control of Israel and have successfully risen to a place of world dominion. In John's day five had already fallen, these were: the Chaldean, the Assyrian, the Babylonian, the Medio-Persian, the Greek. The one ruling in John's day was the Roman Empire. The seventh mountain to rise will be the revived Roman Empire which will be a ten nation confederacy of the political powers of Europe. Keep in mind that these prophecies are not concerning all political powers that were to exercise world influence, but those powers that invade and dominate Israel.

**A. The one that is yet to come represents the diplomat that consolidates the ten political powers into one major world power. Why does he continue for a short space Rev. 13:3** *And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.?*

## Verse 11

**A. Which of the seven heads represents the beast that was, and is not, and yet is? Rev. 17:11** *And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seventh, and goeth into perdition.*

When the seventh head is wounded; that is assassinated, the spirit of Satan enters into his dead body and raises it up. That is why he is said to be the eighth and is of the seventh; he is not the same man only the same body. Satan has not the power to create life, only to imitate life. This is part of the "lying wonders" spoken of by the Apostle Paul in **II Thess. 2:9**. With the apparent resurrection of this diplomat, the spirit of Anti-Christ will be in full bloom and the abomination of desolation will take place. These events correspond with the expulsion of Satan from Heaven to the earth; **Rev. 12:7-14**.

## Verse 12

**A. How long will this ten nation confederacy exist? Rev. 17:12** *And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast.*

One hour would suggest a very short time.

## Verse 13

**Rev. 17:13** *These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.*

**A. Why do these kings give their power and strength unto the beast? Rom.8:7** *Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.*

## Verse 14

**A. How will the Anti-Christ kingdom come to an end? Rev. 17:14** *These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.*

See also Dan. 7:19-27 and Rev. 19:11-21

**B. What will the Lord reveal at His return? I Tim. 6:14-15** *That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ:  
15 Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords;*

## Verse 15

**A. What do waters represent? Rev. 17:15** *And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.*

## Verse 16

**A. What change of attitude does the political power have toward Mystery Babylon? Rev. 17:16** *And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire.*

As we have seen from the earlier verses, the political power is supported by the religious authority and actually shares world influence for a time. The world's cooperation and support of the political power will decline as the Anti-Christ becomes more and more dictatorial. Anyone who opposes him will be treated with absolute disdain and become his enemy. The society of that day will be destroyed as it falls into utter chaos. **(There will be Political upheaval; natural disasters; economic destruction; all manner of social unrest and decay with disease; famine; and violence in every area of life. Sorrow and suffering will be every where.)**

**Jer. 50:24** *I have laid a snare for thee, and thou art also taken, O Babylon, and thou wast not aware: thou art found, and also caught, because thou hast striven against the Lord.*



**Jer. 51:6-9** *Flee out of the midst of Babylon, and deliver every man his soul: be not cut off in her iniquity; for this is the time of the Lord's vengeance; he will render unto her a recompence.  
7 Babylon hath been a golden cup in the Lord's hand, that made all the earth drunken: the nations have drunken of her wine; therefore the nations are mad.  
8 Babylon is suddenly fallen and destroyed: howl for her; take balm for her pain, if so she may be healed.  
9 We would have healed Babylon, but she is not healed: forsake her, and let us go every one into his own country: for her judgment reacheth unto heaven, and is lifted up even to the skies.*

## Verse 17

**A. The destruction of Babylon is according to whose will? Rev. 17:17** *For God hath put in their hearts to fulfill his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled.*

**The ten kings will agree with the beast until the words of God shall be fulfilled.**

## Verse 18

**A. In conclusion, who is the woman? Rev. 17:18** *And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.*

The "Great City" is obviously a reference to Babylon. Just as Jerusalem represents the true church; **Rev. 21:9-10**, Babylon represents the false church or corrupt society of the Anti-Christ.

Notice the contrast between the people who make up the Kingdom of God vs. the people who make up the Kingdom of Anti-Christ.

- a. The queen of Anti-Christ is referred to as Babylon (Rev. 18). – The Bride of Christ is referred to as the new city of Jerusalem (Rev. 21).
- b. The queen of Anti-Christ is arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls (outwardly attractive). – The Bride of Christ is clothed in a garment that is clean and white; modestly or piously adorned (inwardly pure).
- c. The queen of Anti-Christ is full of abominations; a society whose social norms and moral values are evil, characterized by violence, idolatry, immorality, greed, Rev. 9:21. – The Bride of Christ is a society whose social norms and moral values are pure and holy; characterized by love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance. Gal. 5:22
- d. The queen of Anti-Christ is a whore committing fornication with the kings of the earth. – The Bride of Christ is a virgin (undefiled) married to Christ.
- e. The queen of Anti-Christ will reign with the anti-Christ during the tribulation. – The Bride of Christ will reign with Christ during the millennial.
- f. The queen of Anti-Christ will ultimately be destroyed. – The Bride of Christ will inherit eternal life.

## Review Questions – Chapter Seventeen

1. What does Babylon represent?
2. What is spiritual whoredom?
3. What is the relationship between Mystery Babylon and the Anti-Christ?
4. Babylon presents to the world a dazzling appearance, but what is in her golden cup?
5. What is suggested by the term “Mother of Harlots”?
6. List five things about Nimrod as a way of describing who he was.
7. What is the “Tower of Babylon” the origin of?
8. What are “mountains” symbolic of?
9. What do the seven heads represent?
10. How does Rev. 17:11 relate to Rev. 13:3?
11. What do the ten horns represent?
12. What do waters represent?
13. What ultimately happens to the society of Anti-Christ before the return of the Lord?
14. List the contrasts between the Bride of Christ and the Queen of Anti-Christ.

## Revelation - Chapter Eighteen

Chapter 18 gives a detailed account for the reason and consequence of the fall of Babylon. The entire civil and commercial fabric of the society will be destroyed in preparation for a new society to be ushered in at the Lord's return.

### The Fall of Babylon

#### Verse 1

**A. How is the earth affected by this Angel? Rev. 18:1** *And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory.*

Most likely the Angel in reference here is none other than Jesus. We base this conclusion on the fact that He has "great authority"; and on the statement, "the earth was lightened with His glory."

**B. Who only is given the authority to judge? John 5:26-27** *For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself; 27 And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man.*

**Luke 21:27** *And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.*

**Ezek. 43:2** *And, behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east: and his voice was like a noise of many waters: and the earth shined with his glory.*

#### Verse 2

**A. What is the cry of this Angel? Rev. 18:2** *And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.*

The words "hold" and "cage" are translated from the same Greek word.

#### Verse 3

Babylon has had a major impact upon the world spiritually, politically, and commercially.

**Rev. 13:11-17** *And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.*

*12 And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.*

*13 And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,*

*14 And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.*

*15 And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.*

*16 And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:*

17 And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

**A. How has Babylon affected the merchants of the earth? Rev. 18:3** *For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.*

The word "delicacies" indicates excessive luxury. This society is materially minded. Wealth and possessions are seen as a mark of spiritualism. This will be a society incapable of being content, they will always be looking for something more or better in which to purchase.

#### Verse 4

**A. What does the voice from Heaven; most likely the voice of God, declare? Rev. 18:4** *And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.*

**The twofold purpose for coming out of Babylon is that you not be partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.**

**II Cor. 6:14** *Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?*

**II Cor. 6:17** *Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,*

This declaration is probably directed more toward the 144,000 literal Israelites than toward the Christian element since the Christians will have already taken their stand against Babylon: some will have been raptured, others will have fled into the wilderness, and still others martyred for their testimony. Literal Israel has always been very business minded, but God says, "Have no part with this religious and economic system."

#### Verse 5

The plagues spoken of in this verse is in reference to the seven vials.

**A. How high had Babylon's sins reached? Rev. 18:5** *For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.*

The statement "her sins have reached unto Heaven" is an allusion to the multitude of sins of which she is guilty. She has committed one sin upon another until her judgment is now inescapable. **Heb. 12:25** *See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven:*

#### Verse 6

**A. The normal law of retribution is an "eye for an eye" and a "tooth for a tooth", but in view of the enormity of Babylon's sins; what is considered a just reward? Rev. 18:6** *Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double.*

## Verse 7

**A. What is the attitude of Mystery Babylon? Rev. 18:7** *How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow.*

## Verse 8

**A. How long will her destruction take? Rev. 18:8** *Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her.*

When the Bible prophetically speaks of God's Judgment upon Israel and a length of time is given, a day represents one year; Notice **Ezek. 4:5-6** and **Num. 4:34**, However in this case, since we are not dealing with Israel but Babylon, one day may not mean anymore than that the judgment will occur quickly. (Notice **Rev. 18:10**)

## Verse 9

**A. What will be the attitude of the world political leaders when they see the destruction of Babylon? Rev. 18:9** *And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning,*

## Verse 10

**A. Will the kings of the earth stand by Babylon to defend her? Rev. 18:10** *Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come.*

The kings of the earth try to disassociate themselves from the disasters that are destroying the economic and social fabric of the world, but the fact is that they are responsible for the conditions that exist.

## Verse 11

**A. Why do merchants mourn her destruction? Rev. 18:11** *And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more:*

## Verses 12-13

**A. Underline some of the different types of products affected by Babylon's fall. Rev. 18:12-13** *The merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and all thyine wood, and all manner vessels of ivory, and all manner vessels of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble,  
13 And cinnamon, and odours, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots, and slaves, and souls of men.*

## Verse 14

**A. The economy is completely devastated by the breaking up of this corrupt social and religious system. Will it ever recover? Rev. 18:14** *And the fruits that thy soul lusted after are departed from thee, and all things which were dainty and goodly are departed from thee, and thou shalt find them no more at all.*

## Verses 15-19

**A. Why does no one come to Babylon's aid? Rev. 18:15-19** *The merchants of these things, which were made rich by her, shall stand afar off for the fear of her torment, weeping and wailing,*

*16 And saying, Alas, alas, that great city, that was clothed in fine linen, and purple, and scarlet, and decked with gold, and precious stones, and pearls!*

*17 For in one hour so great riches is come to nought. And every shipmaster, and all the company in ships, and sailors, and as many as trade by sea, stood afar off,*

*18 And cried when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, What city is like unto this great city!*

*19 And they cast dust on their heads, and cried, weeping and wailing, saying, Alas, alas, that great city, wherein were made rich all that had ships in the sea by reason of her costliness! for in one hour is she made desolate.*

"Cast dust on their heads" was an expression of deep sorrow and mourning.

## Verse 20

**A. How are Christians to accept the fall of Babylon? Rev. 18:20** *Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her.*

## Verse 21

**A. How is Babylon's fall compared? Rev. 18:21** *And a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast it into the sea, saying, Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all.*

## Verse 22-23

**A. What trades are affected by her fall? Rev. 18:22** *And the voice of harpers, and musicians, and of pipers, and trumpeters, shall be heard no more at all in thee; and no craftsman, of whatsoever craft he be, shall be found any more in thee; and the sound of a millstone shall be heard no more at all in thee;*

*23 And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee: for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy sorceries were all nations deceived.*

The ecclesiastical activities; most of which are sorceries, also come to an end.

## Verse 24

**A. Why is Babylon's judgment so great? Rev. 18:24** *And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth.*

### Review Questions – Chapter Eighteen

1. How does the Bible describe the moral and spiritual condition of Babylon?
2. In what ways has Babylon impacted the world?
3. What are the people of God commanded to do in regard to Babylon?
4. How does Babylon see herself?
5. Explain what is meant by the statement, “her sins have reached unto heaven”.
6. How long does it take for Babylon (that is to say the society of Anti-Christ) to be destroyed after judgment is declared?
7. What position do the kings of the earth take when they see the economic and social fabric of the world crumble?
8. Who is actually responsible for the destruction of Babylon; Rev. 17:16?
9. What is the fall of Babylon compared to?
10. Why is Babylon’s judgment so great?

## Revelation - Chapter Nineteen

Chapter nineteen deals basically with two events: the marriage supper of the Lamb, and the battle of Armageddon.

### The Return of Christ (Rev 19:1-6)

#### Verse 1-2

Chapter nineteen begins with "a great voice of much people in Heaven..." The Greek words translated "much people" are the same words translated "great multitude" in **Rev. 7:9**. This great multitude is probably the angelic host since "His servants" are spoken of in the second person in verse two. Alleluia is the English transliteration of the Greek word "allelouia", the Greek equivalent for the Hebrew word Hallelujah, meaning "Praise the Lord".

**A. What attributes are ascribed to Christ in verses one and two? Rev. 19:1-2** *And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God:*

*2 For true and righteous are his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand.*

As we have previously noticed, Jesus avenges the blood of the martyrs by bringing judgment upon the great whore.

#### Verse 3

**A. How long will "her smoke" last? Rev. 19:3** *And again they said, Alleluia. And her smoke rose up for ever and ever.*

Once again the "smoke" or vapor that rises as a consequence of the destruction of the whore should not be regarded as an expression of eternal torment, but rather as an expression of the complete destruction; the consequence of which lasts forever. Once the false religious system is destroyed it will never be revived.

**Rev. 18:21**

#### Verse 4

**Rev. 19:4** *And the four and twenty elders and the four beasts fell down and worshipped God that sat on the throne, saying, Amen; Alleluia.*

It would probably be helpful to review the thoughts given on the explanations concerning the four beasts and the twenty four elders in Revelation chapter four.

**The 24 elders are a representative group, representing the saints of God of all the ages. The only saints around the throne of God during the tribulation is the 144,000 redeemed from the earth; Rev. 14:1-4.**



## Verse 5

It is probable that the voice heard here is the voice of an Angel rather than the voice of God or the voices of the saints since the one speaking is speaking in second tense; "his servants".

**A. Whose duty is it; now and always, to bring praise unto God? Rev. 19:5** *And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great.*

This declaration is from the throne of God but it appears to be directed toward His servants that are on the earth. Notice the statement, "all ye His servants", this would include the 144,000 literal Israelites as well as the saints of God that have fled into the wilderness and also those nations that are referred to as sheep nations in **Matt. 25:31-46**.

## Verse 6

From this multitude there rises a united thunderous chorus of praise.

**A. Why do these burst into Praise? Rev. 19:6** *And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.*

The word Omnipotent means all mighty or all powerful.

## The Marriage Supper of the Lamb (Rev. 19:7-10)

### Verse 7

**Rev. 19:7** *Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.*

**A. How does the bride of Christ make herself ready? Eph. 5:25-27** *Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; 26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, 27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.*

**II Cor. 11:2-3** *For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.*

*3 But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.*

**See also Titus 2:11-14**

Marriage is the coming together of a bride and groom. The marriage supper or festival was the first formal appearing of the bride and groom together; it is the beginning of a new life together. The marriage of the lamb represents the bride of Christ when she is caught up to meet Him in the air. The Marriage supper represents the formal appearing of Christ and His bride as they return to the earth to rule and reign for a thousand years.

## Verse 8

**A. In what is the bride dressed? Rev. 19:8** *And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.*

The present work of making the bride ready through Sanctification must be distinguished from Justification. Justification is an act of God by which a believer is declared righteous in contrast to the righteousness of Sanctification, as in **Eph. 5:26-27**, which is the work of God in the believer, and although it is a product of God it is also related to human works. Justification pardons past transgressions where as Sanctification produces within the believer inner strength to withstand and overcome temptation. Thus Sanctification is not just a legal declaration of righteousness but a moral elevation into righteousness.

**B. How must you be ranked to make the first resurrection and thus be a part of the bride of Christ? Rev. 20:6** *Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.*

## Verse 9

**A. What was John instructed to write? Rev. 19:9** *And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.*

The word "blessed" means happy or highly honored or favored.

**B. Study carefully the parable in Matthew 22:2-14. What happened to the man who did not have on the wedding garment? Matt. 22:13** *Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*

In royal weddings the wedding garments were provided for the guests, therefore there was no excuse for not having one on. **Zeph. 1:7-8** *Hold thy peace at the presence of the Lord God: for the day of the Lord is at hand: for the Lord hath prepared a sacrifice, he hath bid his guests.*

*8 And it shall come to pass in the day of the Lord's sacrifice, that I will punish the princes, and the king's children, and all such as are clothed with strange apparel.*

**C. Feasts were also offered in celebration of the confirmation of a new King. Read the account in I Kings 1:5-27. What made the supporters of Solomon think that Adonijah was about to be confirmed as King of Israel? (I Kings 1:9-11; 18-19; 24-25) 1 Kings 1:19** *And he hath slain oxen and fat cattle and sheep in abundance, and hath called all the sons of the king, and Abiathar the priest, and Joab the captain of the host: but Solomon thy servant hath he not called.*

**Luke 14:15-24** *And when one of them that sat at meat with him heard these things, he said unto him, Blessed is he that shall eat bread in the kingdom of God.*

*16 Then said he unto him, A certain man made a great supper, and bade many:*

*17 And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready.*

*18 And they all with one consent began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused.*

*19 And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused.*

20 *And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.*

21 *So that servant came, and shewed his lord these things. Then the master of the house being angry said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind.*

22 *And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room.*

23 *And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.*

24 *For I say unto you, That none of those men which were bidden shall taste of my supper.*

The marriage supper of the Lamb will not only be a celebration of the completion of redemption but also Christ's confirmation as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

### **Verse 10**

The one speaking in this verse is apparently the same angel as in verse five.

**A. Are Angels to be worshiped? Rev. 19:10** *And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.*

**At the heart of all true prophecy is the testimony of Jesus.**

## **The Battle of Armageddon (Rev 19:11-21)**

### **Verse 11**

The return of the Lord to this earth is now graphically pictured.

**A. Upon what is Christ riding? Rev. 19:11** *And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.*

As we have noted before the horse was symbolic of strength and courage; it was used by soldiers in campaigns of war. White horses were especially significant to rulers and in this case would probably represent Christ's holiness as He is called "the faithful and true".

### **Verse 12**

**A. How are the eyes of the Lord described? Rev. 19:12** *His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.*

This clearly illustrates the all penetrating nature of His vision and wisdom which is essential in order to execute a righteous judgment. The word "crowns" is translated from the Greek word "diadem" thus denoting political authority or conquest. The fact that He is wearing many crowns illustrates the multitude of His Conquests; all nations will be brought under His authority.

**B. There are many names ascribed to Christ in the Bible; give the names by which the character of Jesus is described in Isaiah 9:6.** *For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.*

It seems clear that Jesus will be known by a new name when He returns to the earth; a name which no man knows nor can know until that time.

### Verse 13

**A. With what is His garment stained? Rev. 19:13** *And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.*

Throughout the Bible, blood represents divine judgment. Although the Battle of Armageddon has not been fought yet, the vesture dipped in blood represents the judgment that is about to occur. **Isaiah 63:1-6** *Who is this that cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah? this that is glorious in his apparel, travelling in the greatness of his strength? I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save.*

*2 Wherefore art thou red in thine apparel, and thy garments like him that treadeth in the winefat?*

*3 I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the people there was none with me: for I will tread them in mine anger, and trample them in my fury; and their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments, and I will stain all my raiment.*

*4 For the day of vengeance is in mine heart, and the year of my redeemed is come.*

*5 And I looked, and there was none to help; and I wondered that there was none to uphold: therefore mine own arm brought salvation unto me; and my fury, it upheld me.*

*6 And I will tread down the people in mine anger, and make them drunk in my fury, and I will bring down their strength to the earth.*

**B. Who is the Word of God? John 1:1** (Jesus) *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

**John 1:14** *And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*

### Verse 14

**A. Who followed Jesus out of Heaven? Rev. 19:14** *And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.*

**In II Kings 6:8-17; the army which is in heaven assisted Elisha in capturing the Syrian army by blinding them; however there is no reference any where in the Bible that states or even suggests that the Angels of Heaven take an active part in the Battle of Armageddon.**

### Verse 15

**A. With what are the nations of the world smitten? Rev. 19:15** *And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.*

**Isaiah 11:4** *But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked.*

**II Thess. 2:8** *2 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:*

**Rev. 19:21** *And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.*

The term "rod of iron" suggests unyielding, absolute authority.

## Verse 16

**A. State Christ's position. Rev. 19:16** *And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.*

It was an ancient custom among many nations to place inscriptions on the thigh, the garments and different parts of the body of eminent persons to express character, conduct and qualities which might contribute to their honor.

## Verses 17-18

"I saw an angel standing in the sun;" in **Matt. 24:29-30** we are told that as Christ returns the sun shall be darkened, the vials of wrath will blot out the light of the sun but when the battle of Armageddon is finished the sun will shine again.

**A. The fowls of the air are provided with a great supper. Of what are they to eat? Rev. 19:17-18** *And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God;*  
*18 That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great.*

One should notice that the various classes of men are made equal when it comes to divine judgment. God is no respecter of persons or stations. The fowls are called to cleanup the earth following the battle of Armageddon.

## Verse 19

**A. What will the Anti-Christ and the Kings of the earth do when Christ returns? Rev. 19:19** *And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army.*

**B. What will be the condition in Jerusalem when Christ returns? Zach.14:1-2** *Behold, the day of the Lord cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee.*  
*2 For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city.*

**C. Describe the destruction of the armies of the world. Zach. 14:12** *And this shall be the plague wherewith the Lord will smite all the people that have fought against Jerusalem; Their flesh shall consume away while they stand upon their feet, and their eyes shall consume away in their holes, and their tongue shall consume away in their mouth.*

## Verse 20

**A. What will happen to the beast and the false prophet when the battle is finished? Rev. 19:20** *And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.*

While it is true that the Anti-Christ is empowered by Satan, it is clear that the Anti-Christ retains a separate identity from Satan; just as the demon possessed person retains his personal identity.

## Verse 21

**A. Will any escape who fight against the Lord? Rev. 19:21** *And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.*

## Review Questions

1. What two events are described in Revelation chapter 19?
2. What is meant by the phrase “and her smoke rose up forever and ever”?
3. Who are the 24 elders?
4. What does the marriage supper of the Lamb represent?
5. How does the bride make herself ready for the coming of the Lord?
6. What is the difference between justification and sanctification?
7. What is the spirit of all prophecy?
8. When Christ returns, what is suggested by the fact He is wearing many crowns?
9. What is significant about “His eyes were as a flame of fire”?
10. With what is Jesus’ garment stained?
11. When Christ returns to the earth, by what name will He be called?
12. How are the armies which were in heaven described in Revelation 19:14?
13. What will be the condition in Jerusalem when Christ returns?
14. Describe the destruction of the armies of the world.
15. How is the earth cleansed after the Battle of Armageddon?
16. What happens to the Anti-Christ and the false prophet after the battle of Armageddon?

## Revelation - Chapter Twenty

### The Millennial Reign

The expression 'millennial reign' is used to denote the physical reign of Christ on the earth. While there are many Biblical references to this period, this chapter is the only place that gives its length. The word "millennium" is of Latin origin; "Mille" meaning thousand and "annus" meaning year.

#### Verse 1

This angel is undoubtedly the same angel as referred to in Chapter 9. It may possibly be Christ but it would not necessarily have to be, since Michael is seen as having power over Satan as well; **Rev. 12:7-9**.

**A. What does this angel have in his hand? Rev. 20:1** *And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.*

One must bear in mind the symbolism of this passage. Since Satan is an immaterial being, it would be impossible to confine him with a literal chain. The chain simply illustrates the fact that Satan is not only confined but he is also rendered completely inactive. Review the note in chapter 9, verse 2.

#### Verse 2

**A. List some of the other names or phrases used in reference to Satan:**

**Eph. 2:2** *Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:*

**Eph. 6:11-12** *Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.  
12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.*

**II Cor. 4:4** *In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.*

**B. How long is Satan bound? Rev. 20:2** *And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,*

Angels or evil spirits have been bound before. **II Peter 2:4** *For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;*

**5** *And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness,...*

This has reference to the "sons of God" that took unto themselves the "daughters of men" in the days of Noah.

**See also 1 Peter 3:18-20**

### Verse 3

**A. What keeps Satan in the pit? Rev. 20:3** *And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.*

One might wonder why God does not cast Satan into the lake of fire at this time instead of waiting until the thousand years are finished. The answer seems to be in the fact that all; who are going to be a part of the eternal kingdom of God, are going to voluntarily choose to serve Him. During the Millennial Kingdom there will be literal people living and reproducing; **Isa. 65:17-25**. Satan is loosed out of his prison so the people born during this period; who have never been tempted by Satan, will be presented with the opportunity to reject Christ and choose their own leader; **Rev. 20:7-8**. Revelation declares that Satan finds many who are willing to follow him. The question might be asked, "Why have this thousand year period at all?" The reason; at least as far as the author is concerned, is so that God's Word can be vindicated, proving; as God has declared, that the only way this world can have peace is by allowing him to rule. Jesus is the answer to all of this world's problems, but men refuse to trust Him and submit to His authority, so corruption, violence, and chaos is the consequence. The Millennial reign of Christ will reveal that which man could have enjoyed down through the ages, had they chosen to honor the Lord and served Him.

**It is apparent that there will be literal nations on the earth during the Millennial Reign. Their relationship to the people of God is what qualifies these nations to be worthy to enter into the millennial age? Matt. 25:31-46**

### Verse 4

**A. What reward is granted to those martyred during the tribulation period? Rev 20:4** *And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.*

**Rom. 8:17** *And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.*

### Verse 5

**A. When will the first Resurrection take place? I Thess. 4:16-17** *For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:*

*17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*

**B. When will the second Resurrection take place? Rev 20:5** *But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.*

### Verse 6

**A. What is the special blessing associated with the first resurrection? Rev 20:6** *Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.*



The bride of Christ; which is changed from mortal to immortal when Christ returns, will reign with Christ over the literal nations that will enter into the millennial ages.

### Verse 7

**Rev 20:7** *And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,*

While there are those who reject the literal interpretation concerning the length of Christ earthly reign, I see no reason to regard the thousand years as anything but a thousand years.

### Verse 8

**A. What does Satan do when he is released from his prison? Rev 20:8** *And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.*

Gog and Magog are here used in a wider sense than in **Ezekiel 38**, and their invasions differs in time and details, although agreeing in character and object with that which he foretells. Ezekiel predicts an incursion by a great northern power called Gog, which, from certain geographical indication, is easily identified with Russia. In Revelation, however, Gog and Magog are used to designate the nations, not merely from the north, but from all parts, "the four quarters of the earth." The term "as the sand of the sea" indicates an innumerable company.

### Verse 9

**A. This last rebellion against God is directed toward what city? Rev 20:9** *And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.*

**Ps. 79:68** *Pour out thy wrath upon the heathen that have not known thee, and upon the kingdoms that have not called upon thy name.*

*7 For they have devoured Jacob, and laid waste his dwelling place.*

*8 O remember not against us former iniquities: let thy tender mercies speedily prevent us: for we are brought very low.*

**Ps. 87:2** *The Lord loveth the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob.*

The word "camp" indicates a dwelling place that is not permanent. This "Holy City" will give way to a "New Jerusalem" after the Millennial reign; **Rev. 21:1-2**.

**These rebellious nations were destroyed by the fire of God.**

### Verse 10

**Rev 20:10** *And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.*

**A. Who was the Lake of Fire prepared for? Matt. 25:41** *Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:*

Notice the phrase, "where the beast and false prophet are...", the word "are" is in italics meaning that it was supplied by the translators and there is no word in the Greek to correspond with it; therefore, it is merely the translators choice of words. It could have as easily been translated in the past tense "where the beast and false prophet were". The word "tormented" is used to express punishment but not necessarily a hideous unending torture. The nature of God is never expressed as excessive or malicious but rather as fair, just or righteous. Man, even in his depravation, finds no justice in torture in even the worst of criminals. In **Matt. 18:21-35**; in the parable of the debtors, the word "tormentors" which is taken from the same Greek word as used here in **Rev. 20:10**, is used in reference to those who are to execute the punishment for debts owned. Are we to suppose that Jesus by using this word was encouraging inhumane treatment to those incapable of paying their debts? No, Jesus was simply stating that unless the grace of God is extended to you, you will pay your debt for sinning against God. According to **Ro. 6:23**; "the wages of sin is death...", not unending torture. The most commonly used words in the Bible describing the judgment of the wicked are: perish, death, second death, consume, and destroy. The consequence of God's judgment is eternal but that is not to say that the wicked will burn forever. In **Jude 7** we read that Sodom and Gomorrah suffered the vengeance of eternal fire, but that does not mean they are still burning. The term day and night is an expression of time because our life consists of a series of days and nights. We are very time oriented because we are aware that time is limited on this earth. In eternity there will be no expression of time for eternity is expressed as endless day, there is no night there; **Rev. 21:25, 22:5**. Anytime the Bible refers to "day and night" it is expressing duration; it is not referring to endless eternity even if it uses the phrase "forever and ever". The common mistake made by many is thinking that "forever" is synonymous with "eternity". "Forever" in the scriptures is used to mean a period of time with an end; for instance, if a person became indebted to another; that person to whom he was indebted could place the lobe of his ear against a post, and bore a hole through it, and he became his servant "forever"; **Exod. 21:6**. This "forever" could mean only until the man died, or until the year of Jubilee when all slaves went free. God said to David that if he would serve in righteousness he might be a King forever; **I Chron. 28:4**. His rule lasted for forty years. Poor Jonah bewailed the fact that he was in the whale's belly forever; **Jonah 2:6**. It might have seemed so to him but it only lasted three days. There are several other examples that could be sighted to illustrate this point, but these are sufficient to cause us to conclude that "forever" refers to a period of time necessary to fulfill or complete a given purpose. One of the definitions of the Hebrew word "Olam"; translated "ever" in the Old Testament, is vanishing point, indicating as far as one can see, or as far as our mind can comprehend. Make no mistake; Satan will be delivered to the tormentors and he will pay his debt in full. How long that will be, I do not know, but it is not eternally for time is suggested by the term day and night. One thing is sure; his punishment will be complete.

## Verse 11

**Rev 20:11** *And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.*

**A. What is going to happen to this present world? II Peter 3:10** *But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.*

**Heb. 1:10-12** *And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands:*

*11 They shall perish; but thou remainest; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment;*

*12 And as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed: but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail.*

The "Great White Throne" is to be distinguished from any previously mentioned throne. Exactly where this throne appears is uncertain but it is obviously not on the earth, nor in the atmosphere called heaven, since both flee away. This is an introduction to the judgment bar of God in which the dead of all the ages are judged. This is the second resurrection.

## Verse 12

**A. How are the dead judged? Rev 20:12** *And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.*

**Heb. 9:27** *And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:*

The books that are opened are seen in two classifications: the Book of Life which is apparently a roll of those who are saved; **Phil 4:3**, and the Word of God which is a collection of books written by a number of prophets over 1400 years.

**Dan. 7:10** *A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened.*

**B. Who will judge the works of men? John 5:22** *For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:*

**C. Who will have to appear before the judgment seat of Christ? II Cor. 5:10** *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.*

**D. Study carefully Romans 2:5-16.**

**1. Will the Lord judge all men fairly? Rom 2:11** *For there is no respect of persons with God.*

**2. What will the Lord render to them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honor and immortality? Rom 2:7** *To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life:*

**3. What will the Lord render to them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness? Rom 2:8** *But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath,*

**4. Is it possible for those who have not the law to be justified? Rom 2:14** *For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves:*

**5. Will men be able to hide anything from the Lord? Rom 2:16** *In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.*

**Ecc. 12:14** *For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.*

### Verse 13

**A. What delivered up the dead? Rev 20:13** *And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.*

The Greek word "Hades"; translated "hell" in this verse, means the abode of the dead or grave.

### Verse 14

**Rev 20:14** *And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.*

**A. What is the last enemy to be destroyed? I Cor. 15:26** *The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.*

"The first death which we suffer for Adam's sin is spoken of as a sleep because from it there will be an awakening, but the second death is never spoken of as a sleep, for from it there will be no awakening". Not only death will be destroyed but the abode of the dead, indicating the completeness of the destruction of the wicked in so much that there will not be even a remembrance of them; **Obadiah 16**.

### Verse 15

**A. Who will be cast into the Lake of Fire? Rev 20:15** *And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.*

## Review Questions – Chapter Twenty

1. To what is the millennial reign referring?
2. Have evil spirits ever been bound, if so, when?
3. Why is Satan not cast into the Lake of Fire at the same time as Anti-Christ?
4. When does the first resurrection take place?
5. Who will take part in the first resurrection?
6. When will the second resurrection take place?
7. What does Satan do when he is released from his prison?
8. Compare the word 'forever' with the word 'eternal'.
9. What does the term 'day and night' express?
10. From what books are men judged?
11. What does the Greek word 'Hades'; generally translated 'hell' in the Bible, mean?
12. What happens to this present world during the White Throne Judgment?
13. How are the dead judged according to Rev. 20:12?
14. What is the last enemy to be destroyed?
15. Who was the Lake of Fire prepared for?
16. Why does Jesus associate man's first death as sleep?
17. What is the second death?
18. What is destroyed in the lake of fire?

# Revelation - Chapter Twenty One

## The New Heaven and the New Earth with New Jerusalem

Chapter 21 presents the new heaven and the new earth; however, very little is given as to the description of either. Most of this chapter consists of a symbolic description of the bride of Christ, which is identified as the New Jerusalem.

### Verse 1

**A. Has this earth ever been destroyed before? II Pet. 3:3-7** *Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,*

*4 And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.*

*5 For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:*

*6 Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:*

*7 But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.*

**B. How will the new earth be different from this earth? Rev. 21:1** *And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.*

The word "Heaven" is in reference to the atmosphere. Whether the new earth is a renovation of the old or a completely new creation is uncertain, but one thing is sure; the new earth will be different from the present in that today most of the earth is covered by water but the only water mentioned in connection with the new earth is the River of Life.

### Verse 2

**A. What did John see coming down from God out of Heaven? Rev. 21:2** *And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.*

As we noticed in the last chapter the White Throne Judgment takes place somewhere other than the earth. With that having been completed we now see the bride of Christ ascending unto the place that has been prepared for her.

Jesus said to His disciples, ... "I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." **John 14:1-4**

### Verse 3

**A. What does the great voice out of heaven declare? Rev. 21:3** *And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.*

## Verse 4

**A. How will man be blessed of God when we inhabit the new earth? Rev. 21:4** *And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.*

All of the aspects and associations of the former world that were the consequence of sin are now passed away.

## Verse 5

This is seen as a new beginning, all things are new. "He that sat upon the throne" is God for it is written that Jesus will surrender the mediatorial aspect of the kingdom back to the father after the judgment.

**I Cor. 15:24-28** *Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.*

*25 For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.*

*26 The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.*

*27 For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith, all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him.*

*28 And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.*

**A. Why is John encouraged to, write the things he has heard? Rev. 21:5** *And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.*

The statement "It is done" is in reference to the work accomplished throughout the whole drama of human history prior to the eternal state. This statement does not mean that there are no future works of God, but that a major work has been brought to completion and the works now relating to the eternal state are beginning.

## Verse 6

**A. What promise is given in this verse? Rev. 21:6** *And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.*

The provision necessary for the sustaining of life is assured to be in abundance and given gratuitously. Those who inherit the new earth will be in need of nothing for God will give them abundant life through His rich blessings.

## Verse 7

**A. What will the overcomers inherit? Rev. 21:7** *He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.*

**I Cor. 3:21-23** *Therefore let no man glory in men. For all things are yours;*

*22 Whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are yours;*

*23 And ye are Christ's; and Christ is God's.*

**B. List some of the things the Bible declares the overcomer will inherit.**

**1. Matt. 5:5** *Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.*

**2. Matt. 19:29** *And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.*

**3. Matt. 25:34** *Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:*

**4. Heb. 1:14** *Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?*

**5. I Pet. 3:9** *Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing.*

As sons of God we are heirs to all that Heaven affords, which is far beyond what our minds can comprehend.

**Rom. 8:16-18** *The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:*

*17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.*

*18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.*

**II Cor. 4:17-18** *For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;*

*18 While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.*

**Verse 8**

**A. In contrast to the promises given to the overcomers, what will happen to the unbelievers? Rev. 21:8** *But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.*

There will be no varying degrees of sin when it comes to judgment, either you will be found worthy of life or you will be cast into the Lake of Fire.

**Verse 9**

**A. What is now brought into John's view? Rev. 21:9** *And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife.*

This angel appears to be the same angel mentioned in Rev. 17:1, who showed John the vision of Babylon.

## Verse 10

**A. How is the bride of Christ characterized in this verse? Rev. 21:10** *And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,*

Since the physical structures of a city cannot be regarded as a bride, the truth represented here is that the prophecy is symbolically describing the beauty of those making up the city. After all, it is not the physical structures that make a city but the people who form a municipal corporation. What John saw transcended any earthly experience so one must be careful about making too much out of the literal terms used to describe this city. The mountain from which John sees the New Jerusalem is not literal but simply infers a vantage point in which the entire scene could be viewed; it was a vision. The most important aspect of interpreting this vision is in determining whether the vision is describing the city of Jerusalem during the millennial reign or whether it is describing the Jerusalem of the eternal state. While it is clear that the book of Revelation does not follow a strict chronological order, retrogression in these last two chapters would certainly seem out of place. Most expositors agree that the description of the New Jerusalem in **Rev. 21:2** is concerning the eternal state, and if that be the case then the Jerusalem referred to in **Rev. 21:10** must be concerning the eternal state as well since the descriptions are almost identical.

## Verse 11

**A. What special glory belongs to the New City? Rev. 21:11** *Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal;*

The glory of God is His righteous perfection; the bride of Christ will reflect or radiate the beauty of the righteousness of God. This city might be compared to a crystal chandelier as it refracts the light that is emitted from within. **II Cor. 3:18** *But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.*

**B. Where does the illumination of the cities light come from? Rev. 21:23** *And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.*

The stone here described as a Jasper has its name translated from a similar word in the original Greek, "Iaspis", a name used for stones of various colors, but here specifying the qualities "precious" and "clear as crystal". Some liken this stone to a diamond.

## Verse 12

**A. How many gates does the wall of this new city have and what names are found on them? Rev. 21:12** *And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel:*

The obvious symbolic element of a wall is protection. The wall prevents anything that is undesirable from entering into the city. (**Rev. 21:27**)

**B. The gates are described as being made of what? Rev. 21:21** *And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; every several gate was of one pearl: and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass.*



Christ is the "pearl of great price", He is "the way, the truth, and the Life; no man cometh unto the father" but through Him; **John 14:6**. The reason the names of the twelve tribes of Israel are written on the gates is because they represent God's covenant with man through the law; **Gal. 3:17**. The Law reveals to man the holiness of God, and what is required of man if he is to see God; **Gal. 3:24; 3:10**. It is clear that all have sinned and come short the glory of God; **Ro. 3:23**. So the law becomes our curse rather than our salvation. Christ came and redeemed us from the curse of the law, by fulfilling all of the demands of the law and then taking the curse upon himself; **Gal. 3:11-13**.

The association between the twelve tribes of Israel and the twelve Apostles clearly illustrates the association between the old covenant and the new. The old covenant is our schoolmaster which brings us unto Christ; **Gal. 3:24**, and *if we be Christ's, then are we Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise*; **Gal. 3:29**.

### Verse 13

**A. How are the twelve gates arranged? Rev. 21:13** *On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates.*

This arrangement remains consistent with the symbolism expressed by the arrangement of the twelve tribes around the Tabernacle. For thoughts concerning that arrangement see the notes under verse seven in Revelation chapter four.

### Verse 14

**A. How many foundations does the wall of the new city have and how are they named? Rev 21:14** *And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.*

**I Cor. 3:11** *For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.*

The foundation upon which the access to the city of God rest is the Word which was made flesh and dwell among us; **John 1:14**. The twelve Apostles were hand picked by the Lord to represent Him after His departure; they are the elders of the new covenant.

### Verse 15

**Rev. 21:15** *And he that talked with me had a golden reed to measure the city, and the gates thereof, and the wall thereof.*

Having introduced John to the wall, the angel next measures the major dimensions. A reed is a common measuring tool among the Jews, reaching about 10 feet in length.

### Verse 16

**A. Give the measurements of the city: Rev. 21:16** *And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal.*

A furlong is a Greek measurement adopted by the Jews. It was approximately 600 feet. Twelve thousand furlongs would be the equivalent of approximately 1500 miles. Some have assumed the city to be a cube, while others believe it to be in the form of a pyramid, which would seem more likely to the writer; however, there is not sufficient information given to be certain.

## Verse 17

**A. Give the height of the wall around the city. Rev. 21:17** *And he measured the wall thereof, an hundred and forty and four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of the angel.*

A cubit was the distance from the tip of the elbow to the tip of the middle finger; approx. 18 inches. John states that this was according to the measure of a man as opposed to the measure of an angel even though an angel measured it. 144 cubits would equal about 216 feet.

## Verse 18

**A. Of what was the wall and city composed? Rev. 21:18** *And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass.*

## Verses 19-20

**A. Name the precious stones that garnished the wall of the city. Rev. 21:19-20** *And the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones. The first foundation was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, a chalcedony; the fourth, an emerald; 20 The fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, a topaz; the tenth, a chrysoprasus; the eleventh, a jacinth; the twelfth, an amethyst.*

As has already been mentioned before the scene that John beholds transcends any earthly experience so the most precious and most beautiful stones known to man are used to describe the dazzling beauty transmitted from the glory of God. The constant mention of transparency indicates the purpose and design of the city; that is to reflect the glory of God.

## Verse 21

**A. How is the street of the city described? Rev. 21:21** *And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; every several gate was of one pearl: and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass.*

## Verse 22

**A. Why is there no temple in the new city? Rev. 21:22** *And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.*

There will no longer be a need of a structure to represent the presence of the Lord since the reality of His presence is made manifest everywhere.

## Verse 23

**A. Since the glory of the Lord is so prevalent, what will not be needed in the New Jerusalem? Rev. 21:23** *And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.*

**John 1:7-9** *The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe.*

*8 He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.*

*9 That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.*

**John 3:19** *And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.*

**John 8:12** *Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.*

**John 12:35** *Then Jesus said unto them, Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth.*

The fact that the New Jerusalem refers to the eternal state can be seen by the things that are missing: there is no temple, no sacrifice, no sun, no moon, no darkness, and no abomination.

#### **Verse 24**

**A. Who will walk in the light of the city? Rev. 21:24** *And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it.*

This would refer to the justified of all the ages; those not numbered among the bride of Christ, yet were found worthy of life. These will bring their glory and honor into the city, which we have already noticed represents the bride of Christ; **Rev. 21:9-10**. The fact that there are Kings on the new earth indicates that there will be those among the saved who will have honored positions of administration.

#### **Verse 25**

**A. Why will the gates never be closed? Rev. 21:25** *And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there.*

#### **Verses 26-27**

**A. Who can and who cannot enter into the New Jerusalem? Rev. 21:26** *And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it.*

**27** *And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.*

This is not to say that there are those who worketh abomination on the new earth, but rather that these things do not exist nor could ever enter into the lives of those who make up the New Jerusalem. Since the gates of the city are never closed, only those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life are eligible to inhabit the new earth.

## Review Questions

1. How is the bride of Christ identified in this chapter?
2. How will the new earth be different from this earth?
3. What are the former things that shall pass away?
4. It is clear that all judgment is given unto Christ until all things have been subdued; after that what happens? 1 Cor.15:24-28
5. What will the overcomers inherit? Rev. 21:7
6. What is the second death?
7. What is the 'glory of God'?
8. Where does the illumination of the cities light come from?
9. Whose names are written on the twelve gates of the New Jerusalem?
10. How are the twelve gates arranged?
11. What is suggested by the fact, that each gate was a pearl?
12. In what way can the twelve gates and the twelve foundations be associated with the picture described in Revelation chapter four?
13. Why do the twelve foundations have the names of the twelve apostles?
14. Give the measurements of the city.
15. What is the approximate length of a furlong?
16. Give the height of the wall around the city.
17. What is the approximate length of a cubit?
18. The constant mention of transparency in regard to the New Jerusalem; indicates the purpose and design of the city. What is that purpose?
19. Why is there no temple in the New Jerusalem?
20. To whom are the nations that inhabit the new earth referring?

# Revelation - Chapter Twenty Two

## The Restoration of the Paradise of God

The first five verses of this chapter is a continuation from the previous chapter. It describes the eternal kingdom of God pictured outside the New Jerusalem. The Paradise-lost through Adam's sin is now restored as well as the intimacy with God that was enjoyed by Adam and Eve. Verse six through the remaining part of the chapter is the epilogue of the book of Revelation.

### Verse 1

**A. What proceeds from the throne of God and of the Lamb? Rev. 22:1** *And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.*

The symbolism of the "water of life" is used in a number of places throughout the Bible. **John 4:10-14** *Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.*

*11 The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast thou that living water?*

*12 Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle?*

*13 Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again:*

*14 But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.*

The "water of life" seems to speak of spiritual truth which satisfies the yearnings of man's heart; **John 7:38** *He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.* The message of the Gospel; which is made manifest by the Holy Spirit, is as a well of water springing up into everlasting life; **John 4:14**. The water that comes from God is pure, clear as crystal; that is, it is absolutely true, holy, without corruption of any kind.

### Verse 2

**A. What grows on either side of the river of life? Rev. 22:2** *In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.*

The "Tree of Life" seems closely related to the "river of water of life". This too must be taken symbolically as it represents God's provision of health and happiness. Those who inhabit the New Earth will find many varieties of pleasure that will satisfy their every need; expressed by the fruit of the tree.

### The leaves of the Tree are for the healing of the nations.

Just as the "Tree of Life" was essential in order for Adam and Eve to have everlasting life; see **Gen. 3:22-24**, the same thing will be true of those who inherit the New Earth. When Adam was driven from the Garden he began the process of dying, it was the Tree of Life that gave him his perpetual youth and health. The word "healing" in this verse comes from the Greek word "therapeian", from which the English word therapeutic is derived, which means "health-giving". The everlasting life that will be enjoyed by all the nations of the earth must be seen in light of these partaking of the leaves of the Tree of Life. Make no mistake all life flows from the throne of God and the health-giving properties of the Tree of Life comes from God as well.

The information gathered from the last few verses of chapter 21 and the first two verse of this chapter seems to indicate that the Bride of Christ; represented by the New Jerusalem, and the nations of the New Earth are of two different natures, just as the nature of Angels and the nature of men are different. Those who inhabit the New Earth will be subordinate to those who make up the New Jerusalem, but all will enjoy the glory and blessedness of the presence of God. Many of the characteristics of the eternal state are anticipated in the millennial reign as can be seen by studying **Ezek. 47:1-12**.

### Verse 3

**A. What will be completely lifted from man in the eternal state? Rev. 22:3** *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:*

One of the results of the curse upon man was arduous toil, but in eternity our labor will be a blessed delight in service to God.

### Verse 4

**A. Under the curse of sin, when Moses ask to see God's glory, what did God say to Him?**

**Exod. 33:18-23** *And he said, I beseech thee, shew me thy glory.*

*19 And he said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the Lord before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy.*

*20 And he said, Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live.*

*21 And the Lord said, Behold, there is a place by me, and thou shalt stand upon a rock:*

*22 And it shall come to pass, while my glory passeth by, that I will put thee in a cliff of the rock, and will cover thee with my hand while I pass by:*

*23 And I will take away mine hand, and thou shalt see my back parts: but my face shall not be seen.*

**B. How will the servants of God bear evidence that they belong entirely to God? Rev. 22:4**

*And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads.*

### Verse 5

**Rev. 22:5** *And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.*

**Light; whether natural, spiritual, or eternal, always come from God. Gen 1:3-4** *And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.*

*4 And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness.*

**Ex. 10:23** *They saw not one another, neither rose any from his place for three days: but all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings.*

**Ps 119:105** *Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.*

## The Epilogue

### Verse 6

**A. What is declared about the sayings of this book? Rev. 22:6** *And he said unto me, These sayings are faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew unto his servants the things which must shortly be done.*

### Verse 7

**A. In light of the Lord's return, what are we exhorted to do? Rev. 22:7** *Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.*

### Verse 8

**A. How did John respond to the things he saw and heard? Rev. 22:8** *And I John saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which shewed me these things.*

### Verse 9

**A. How are Angels to be regarded and who alone is to be worshiped? Rev. 22:9** *Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God.*

### Verse 10

**A. Why is the book of Revelation not to be sealed? Rev. 22:10** *And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand.*

The "time" that is at hand is the period in which these prophecies will be fulfilled. This is called the "time of the end". At the beginning of this period the Holy Spirit will be lifted and there will be no longer opportunity to repent; the door of Grace will be closed.

### Verse 11

**A. What did the Angel of the Lord declare in this verse? Rev. 22:11** *He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.*

When we stand before God, we will be seen as we were when the door of grace closed. If we were unjust at that time we will still be unjust, if we were righteous we will still be righteous. As we have expressed before, the door of grace closes at the beginning of the tribulation; this is what allows the Anti-Christ to come into power. Today is the day of salvation and now is the accepted time.

## Verses 12-13

**A. The Lord will reward every man according to what? Rev. 22:12-13** *And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. 13 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.*

We are reminded once again that Christ is the beginning and the consummation of all things.

## Verse 14

**A. Once again, what is the reward for obedience to God's will? Rev. 22:14** *Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.*

## Verse 15

**A. Who are excluded from the "Tree of Life"? Rev. 22:15** *For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.*

The reference to "dogs" refers to men of low character not to the animal.

## Verse 16

**Rev. 22:16** *I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.*

**Isaiah 11:10-12** *And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious.*

*11 And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea.*

*12 And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.*

**Jeremiah 23:5-6** *Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.*

*6 In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE Lord OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.*

**Zechariah 6: 12-13** *And speak unto him, saying, Thus speaketh the Lord of hosts, saying, Behold the man whose name is The BRANCH; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the Lord:*

*13 Even he shall build the temple of the Lord; and he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his throne; and he shall be a priest upon his throne: and the counsel of peace shall be between them both.*

Jesus is the bright and morning star because His return will usher in a new day; a day of peace and rest for the earth, the millennial reign.



## Verse 17

**A. What is the universal invitation? Rev. 22:17** *And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.*

## Verse 18

**A. What will be the consequence of adding to this book? Rev. 22:18** *For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:*

This is a solemn warning to those who through intellectual arrogance tamper with the scripture declaring what is true and what is not true in the Word of God.

## Verse 19

**A. To subtract or withhold knowledge will bring what results? Rev. 22:19** *And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.*

## Verses 20-21

**A. How does John respond to the Lord's statement, "Surely I come quickly"? Rev. 22:20-21** *He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.*

*21 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.*

## Review Questions

1. What does the "water of life" symbolize?
2. What is suggested by the statement that the water of life is clear as crystal?
3. What does the "tree of life" symbolize?
4. What is the purpose for the leaves of the tree of life?
5. How is the bride of Christ; represented by the New Jerusalem, and the inhabitants of the new earth different?
6. List some of the characteristics of the eternal state.
7. In light of the Lord's return, what are we exhorted to do?
8. How are Angels to be regarded?
9. What is meant by "the time is at hand"?
10. Why is the book of Revelation not to be sealed?
11. Explain Revelation 22:11.
12. What is suggested by the statement that "Jesus is the bright and morning star"?
13. What is the warning concerning tampering or altering the scripture to suit ones preference?