

Teacher Class Plan

Revelation: Lesson #108 – The New Heavens and the New Earth For Sunday, June 28th

Read Revelation 21-22 (a simplified explanation of the text will be supplied at the end of these notes.)

Memory Verse: Rev. 22:14 “Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.”

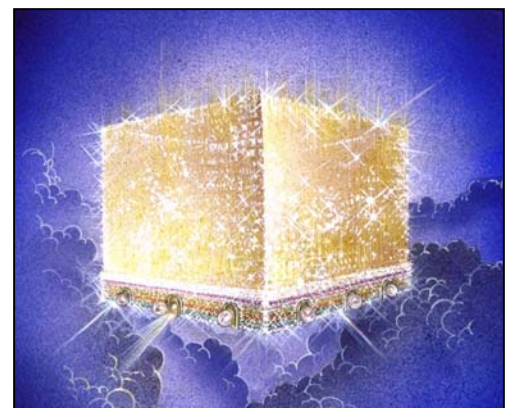
At last we have come to the last lesson both in our study of Revelation and of the Epistles. We have learned a lot about the Lord’s church and how the Lord’s people are to live. In this final lesson we are going to talk about our future home in Christ’s heavenly kingdom.

The Holy City

- John was allowed to see that the saints would reign with Christ for 1,000 years, then the end would come and the devil would be cast into the Lake of Fire. Everyone would who had followed the devil’s ways would also be cast into the Lake of Fire.
- The earth and everything in it had passed away. So what would happen to God’s people? If the earth and sky was gone, where will they live? We should remember several promises that were made in other passages of the Bible:
 - John 14:2,3 Jesus said, “In My Father’s house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also.”
 - The Hebrew writer says that those who walk by faith “desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for He has prepared a city for them.” (11:16)
 - II Peter 3:13 “But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.”
- Now at the end of Revelation we learn more things about this great City the Lord is preparing for us.
 - This is the “new heaven and new earth” the Lord has made for us to live in. Will this be a planet we will live on like earth has been? No, probably not. Calling it “earth” is kind of like calling it a “city” – it’s a way of explaining that God is making a new place for us to live.
 - This is also called the “new Jerusalem”. On earth Jerusalem was the capital of God’s people where the king reigned and where they went to worship. But the “new Jerusalem” is not the same as the one that was on the earth. The “new Jerusalem” is the “heavenly Jerusalem” (Heb. 12:22), “Jerusalem which is above” (Gal. 4:26).

Great Things About Our New City

- The Lord said about His new city, “Look, I am making everything new!” (Rev. 21:5). Revelation tells us many new and wonderful things about this new place that God’s people will live.
 - God will no longer be in a different place from His people. Right now we cannot see God. He reigns from heaven and we are on earth. We believe that He exists, but we don’t see Him. II Cor. 5 says “We walk by faith, not by sight.” But in the new City, God will dwell with His people. “God Himself shall be with them” (Rev. 21:3-4). They will see His face (Rev. 22:4)
 - The city will not have a temple like old Jerusalem had. God and Jesus will be our Temple. We won’t need a special place to go meet with God, we will be with Him all the time.
 - It won’t be necessary to have the sun and the moon or lamps to light this City because God and the Lamb will provide all the light we will need. There will never be nighttime in this City.
 - No one in this City will ever die. Remember “death and hades were throne into the Lake of Fire” (Rev. 20:14).
 - Nothing will ever happen in this City that will made us sad or make us cry. God will wipe away all the tears from our eyes.
 - No one in this city will ever experience pain.
 - This city will be beautiful like a bride dressed in her glorious sparkling wedding dress. The wall is described as being made out of twelve different jewels. These jewels seem to be the same ones that the High Priest in the Old Testament wore on his breastplate [The names of the 12 tribes were engraved on those stones, but in Revelation the names of the 12 apostles are put on the wall stones.] The gates into the city are made of pearls and streets made of gold. This is God’s way of showing us that the city He is preparing will be a beautiful place to live.
 - The City will be very large. John saw it measured and it was like a cube. It was 1500 miles long, 1500 miles wide, and 1500 miles high. [Here’s something interesting. Remember the tabernacle God had the Israelites make and how the innermost part of that tabernacle was called the Holy of Holies. It was the place where God dwelt with His people. It was like a cube, too, and it measured 15 feet long, 15 feet wide, and 15 feet high. Remember that Hebrews said that the earthly tabernacle was a copy of what was in heaven (Heb. 8:5; 9:24).
 - Wicked people will not be allowed to ever come to this City. You will never



hear about a murder taking place there. No one will lie to you there. No one will ever worship idols there. As Peter said, this will be a place “where righteousness dwells” (II Pet. 3:13).

- Coming from God’s throne is the River of Living Water. Rev. 22:17 says “if you are thirsty, come. Anyone who is willing can come have the water of life freely” (also Rev. 21:6). During Jesus’ ministry on earth, He had told people that He could give them the living water (John 4:10,11; 7:38).
- Our **memory verse** in Rev. 22:14 “Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.” *Hold up the memory verse card and work with the class on this verse.*
- John said in this city there would be “no more curse” (Rev. 22:3). When the Bible began man and woman walked and talked with God in the beautiful Garden of Eden. But when they sinned God pronounced things that would curse their lives. There would be pain. Life would be hard and filled with thorns. They would lose their right to eat from the Tree of Life and would die. But God is promising that in His heavenly city, He will end the curse. We can be in God’s heavenly paradise and once again eat from the Tree of Life. We will never again feel the pain or hardships of life, we will never again die.
- Notice the chart below:



Jesus Says That This Promise is Real

- Two times Jesus told John, “Write, for these words are true and can be trusted.” Rev. 21:5; 22:6. Our heavenly city is not a “make believe” place. It is a real place that God is preparing for all those who faithfully follow the Lord Jesus.
- This reminds us of what Jesus once said to the apostles: “In My Father's house are many mansions; **if it were not so, I would have told you.** I go to prepare a place for you.” (John 14:2)
- Jesus and the Holy Spirit and the Bride of Jesus all say, “Come!” Come to this city. Everyone can go there if they will follow Jesus.

A Final Warning

- We are warned at the end of Revelation (which is also the end of the Bible) that we should not add to or take away from what God has said in this book. That principle has been true throughout the Bible:
 - "You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you." (Deut. 4:2: 12:32).
 - "Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him. Do not add to His words, Lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar." (Prov. 30:5,6)
 - "But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed." (Gal. 1:8)

A Last Thought

- **Teachers, if at all possible, please take time to say this to your class.**
- We have come to the end of our study of the New Testament. The story of Jesus' life, death and resurrection makes us thankful for all He did. The truth that He ascended to God and is now reigning in Heaven makes us want to worship and follow our King. The history of how the Lord began His church, His kingdom and how it grew is amazing, because it is not just something in a book, it is something that we can be part of.
- But a Christian is not just interested in what happened in the past stories of the Bible. God's people are also interested in what lies ahead for us. Our story isn't finished yet. Revelation has told us about this wonderful future we can have with God and the Lamb, Jesus Christ. Christians are looking forward to the day when Jesus will, as He promised, come back to take us to His heavenly kingdom. Christians try to be ready for that day, and say like John did, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus!" And until that day comes, "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen."

Bible Quiz: Please review the Quiz questions with your class and help them to be able to answer them properly.

Simplified Explanation of the Text

The Heavenly City

21:1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away and there was no more sea.

2 And I, John, saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven. And she looked like a bride who had been prepared and dressed beautifully for her husband.

3-4 Then I heard a loud voice calling from heaven, "Look! God's heavenly tabernacle is among people. He will dwell with them, and they will be His people. God Himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God will wipe away all the tears from their eyes, and there will be no more death, no more sorrow, no more crying, and no more pain. All those earlier things they had gone through will go away."

5 And the One sitting on the throne said, "Look! I am making everything new." Then He said, "Write, for these words are true and can be trusted."

Heaven is For Those Who Win the Victory

6 Then He told me, "It has been accomplished!" "I am the Alpha and the Omega" He said, "the beginning and the end. I will gladly give the thirsty a drink from the fountain of living water without any cost."

7 "Those who win the victory will inherit everything. I will be his God and he will be my son."

8 "But those who have been timid and afraid in their testimony of Jesus will inherit nothing. The "portion" they will receive will be the Lake that burns with fire and brimstone. They will be cast in that Lake along with the unbelievers, and those who did things that disgusted God, murderers, sexually immoral people, those who worshipped idols, and all liars. That will be the second death.

A Description of the New Jerusalem

9 Then one of the 7 angels who had the 7 bowls of wrath filled with the last 7 plagues came to me and said, "Come here and I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife."

10-11 So he took me in spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great City coming down out of heaven from God, the New Jerusalem. Having the glory of God in her, she sparkled like a precious gemstone, like a gem of crystal clear jasper.

12 The City had a wall around it that was very large and very high. There were 12 different gates leading into it, and 12 angels at those gates. Each gate had one of the names of the 12 tribes of the children of Israel.

13 There were 3 gates on each side – north, south, east, and west.

14 The wall of the City had 12 foundations, and in them were the names of the 12 apostles of the Lamb.

15 The angel that was talking with me had golden rod to measure the City, its gates and its walls.

16 The city is laid out in a square with its length and width being the same. When the angel used the reed to measure the City, it was 1500 miles long, 1500 miles wide, and 1500 miles high. All its measurements were equal.

17 Then he measured the wall of the City. It was 216 feet in human measurements, as measured by the angel.

18 And the wall was built out of jasper. The city itself was built out of pure gold, like clear glass.

19-20 The foundations of the wall had been decorated with all kinds of beautiful gemstones. The first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald, the fifth sardonyx, the sixth sardius, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, the twelfth amethyst.

21 The 12 gates were 12 pearls, each gate was of one pearl. The street of the city was of pure gold like transparent glass.

22 I saw no temple in the City because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its Temple.

23 The City didn't need the sun or the moon to give it light because the glory of God lit it up and the Lamb was its lamp.

24 And all the people that were saved will walk in their light and kings of the earth will bring their glory and honor into it.

25 There will be no need to every shut the gates every day because there will be no nighttime there.

26 The glory and honor of the nations shall be brought into it.

27 But nothing can ever come into the City that could pollute it. No one who does things that God detests can come in. No one who lies can come in. Only those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life can come in.

22:1 Then the angel showed me a pure river of living water shining like crystal that came from the throne of God and the Lamb.

2 The river flowed down the middle of the street. And on each side of the river was the Tree of Life which bears its fruit 12 times a year, once a month. Its leaves are to heal the nations.

3 And there will be no more curse. But the throne of God and the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him.

4 And they will see His face and His name will be in their foreheads.

5 There will be no night there. They won't need a candle or even the light of the sun for the Lord God will shine on them. And they shall reign forever and ever.

The Things Written in Revelation Would Soon Start

6 And he said to me, "These words are true and you can believe them. The Lord, the God whose spirit was in the prophets has sent His angel to show His bond-servants things that must soon start happening."

7 "Watch, I am coming quickly. Blessed are those who keep the words this book of prophecy has spoken."

8 Now I, John, saw and heard these things. When I had heard and seen them all I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who had shown me these things.

9 But the angel said to me, "Worship God! Do you not see that I am just a servant along with you and your brethren the prophets and all those who keep the words of this book?"

10 And he said to me, "Do not seal up the words of this book because the time is near."

11-12 "Unrighteous people will continue to be unrighteous, filthy people will continue to be filthy, righteous people will continue to be righteous, and holy people will continue to be holy, and I will be coming quickly and My reward with Me to give to each person according to the work they will have done."

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

All Who Do What God Commands Can Come to His City

14 Those who do what God commands are blessed because they will have the right to the Tree of Life and to enter the gates into the city.

15 But outside the city are the dogs, and those who practice magic and sexually immoral people and murderers and idol worshippers and everyone who loves to make up lies.

16 "I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things in the churches. I am both the root and the offspring of David. I am the bright and morning star."

17 And the Spirit and the Bride say, "Come!" And let all those who have heard also say, "Come!" And if you are thirsty, come. Anyone who is willing can come have the water of life freely.

A Warning

18-19 Now let me declare this to anyone who hears the words of this book of prophecy: “If anyone adds to these things, God will add to them the plagues that are written in this book. And if anyone takes away from the words of this book of prophecy, God shall take away their part out of the Book of Life and out of the Holy City and out of all the things that are written in this book.

20 He that has testified about these things says, “It is certain that I will come quickly.” Yes, please do come, Lord Jesus.

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