

THE REVELATION

LESSON 30: ALL THINGS NEW (21-22:5)

Intro:

Of Mice and Men

BIG IDEA: God promises His people a new _____ of God and _____ of the curse.

John has just seen the wicked cast into the lake of fire with the Dragon. What is the fate of those whose name was in the Book of Life? John now sees their fate. He reveals them in a series of glimpses of increasing detail.

Most people take this as literal. There is symbolism involved, but this describes a future physical existence. A few, mostly full preterists, see it as completely symbolic of the current state of the church.

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. ⁴ He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

- John sees new, or _____, heaven and earth.
- There is _____ and _____ with the current created order.
- The first difference is that there is no _____ - from whence the Beast came.
- Jesus has eliminated _____ from this renewed creation.
- John sees the new _____ replacing the _____ Jerusalem.
- This is not bottom up (done by man), but top down. _____ accomplishes this.
- He likens her to a bride, beautifully _____ for her husband.
- The voice he hears is from the _____ - _____!
- The promises of the Old and New Covenant are fulfilled: we are His people and He is our God. "covenantal bond of intimacy"- **Derek Thomas**
- The promises of Isaiah 25:7-8 are also fulfilled. _____ is destroyed in the New Order. _____ is gone!
- Everything associated with the _____ has been removed by the blood of Christ!

THE REVELATION

Abrahamic (Gen. 17:7,8) => (re)New(ed) Covenant (Jer. 31:33; Ez. 36:28) => Fulfilled Covenant (Rev. 21)

“Both Peter and John speak of this new environment employing the Greek word *kainos* rather than *neos*, suggesting that the new universe stands in some measure of continuity with the present one.” **Derek Thomas**¹⁴¹

“All that was (and is!) destructive of the present existence is removed from the picture.” **Derek Thomas**¹⁴²

“Every stain of sin, every scar of wrong, every trace of death, has been removed.” **William Hendriksen**¹⁴³

⁵ And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” ⁶ And he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. ⁷ The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son. ⁸ But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.”

- God declares, just in case we missed the implication, that He makes all these things new.
- God confirms the promise with “trustworthy and true”. It will surely happen!
- God’s rule includes the restoration of _____. He speaks with the _____ past- Good as done.
- We see the same God at work here as at the beginning of Revelation: the _____ and the _____.
- Isaiah 55: God will _____ all our _____ and needs.
- He offers the promise to those who _____ thru the blood of the Lamb.
- There is the promise of judgment, again, for those who rebel against Him. Not all enter this blessedness!
- Why “cowards” and “liars”? Most likely the context of persecution. _____ Christians lied out of _____ of persecution.

“Everything is new, but the result is the redemption of the old, not its abolition.” **Vern Poythress**¹⁴⁴

¹⁴¹ Thomas, Derek. *How the Gospel Brings Us All the Way Home*. Lake Mary, Reformation Trust. 2011. Pp. 74.

¹⁴² Thomas, pp. 170.

¹⁴³ Hendriksen, pp. 198.

¹⁴⁴ Poythress, pp. 185.

THE REVELATION

⁹ Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, "Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb." ¹⁰ And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, ¹¹ having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. ¹² It had a great, high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed— ¹³ on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. ¹⁴ And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

¹⁵ And the one who spoke with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city and its gates and walls. ¹⁶ The city lies foursquare, its length the same as its width. And he measured the city with his rod, 12,000 stadia. Its length and width and height are equal. ¹⁷ He also measured its wall, 144 cubits by human measurement, which is also an angel's measurement. ¹⁸ The wall was built of jasper, while the city was pure gold, like clear glass. ¹⁹ The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with every kind of jewel. The first was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald, ²⁰ the fifth onyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, the twelfth amethyst. ²¹ And the twelve gates were twelve pearls, each of the gates made of a single pearl, and the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.

²² And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb.

²³ And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. ²⁴ By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, ²⁵ and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there.

²⁶ They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. ²⁷ But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

- The angel returns to show him the _____, just as he showed John the _____.
- This is a picture of the _____ - the Bride of the Lamb.
- Instead of the wilderness, John is taken to a high _____ (see Ezekiel 40).
- It is enormous: 1,400 miles long, wide and high. The walls are over 200 feet thick. The size points to the enormous _____ it holds.
- What does he mean that the Bride is the Holy City?
- It is _____ with the _____ of God.
- It is _____, with high walls, and there are 12 _____ guarded by 12 _____. They never close (Is. 60:11).
- The 12 gates have the names of the 12 _____ (Ezekiel 48:31-34), while the foundation stones the 12 _____. This symbolizes the unity of the _____ of God and the _____.

THE REVELATION

- The most of the 12 stones are identical to the 12 stones on the High Priest's _____ representing the nation of Israel.
- The glory of God is the source of _____ - there are no heavenly bodies providing light.
- There is no _____, no evil or wickedness, for the people to fear.
- The only one's who enter are those whose names are in the Book of Life.

What does it mean that the glories of the nations will be brought into the New Jerusalem?

“Jesus’ death has rendered a place for sacrifice obsolete.” **Derek Thomas**¹⁴⁵

“The beauty to come surpasses human understanding, but to convey just a little of this beauty, the holy city is described in terms of the rarest, most expensive, most splendid jewels.” **Doug Kelly**¹⁴⁶

“Surprisingly, the size of the city is apparently the approximate size of the then known Hellenistic world.” **Greg Beale**¹⁴⁷

What aspects mentioned here in Revelation 21, do you long for most?

What is the evangelistic use of this chapter? The doxological use?

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ²through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. ³No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. ⁴They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

- In the midst of the city he is shown the _____ of _____.
- Salvation flows from the _____ of God- He is _____. It is applied to us by the _____.
- It runs thru the _____ of the city.
- There is a _____ in the heart of the city, on either side of the river. (Genesis 2 => Ps. 46:4-5; Is. 35:6-9 & Ezekiel 47=> Revelation 22)

¹⁴⁵ Thomas, pp. 176.

¹⁴⁶ Kelly, pp. 412.

¹⁴⁷ Beale, pp. 1074.

THE REVELATION

- Access to the tree(s) of life has been _____ by the blood of the Lamb. No longer will angels block our path.
- The picture is of the _____ of salvation, and its _____ nature.
- We will worship God and the Lamb there! There will be no more _____ and hypocrites. (Ex. 19=> Is. 61:6=> Rev. 22)
- The promises to the churches in 2-3 have come true: His name is upon them.

“This reign is eternal and therefore cannot be equated with the reign in Rev. 20:4-6, which is limited to a “thousand years” and is followed by a final rebellion.” **Greg Beale**¹⁴⁸

“Citizenship in the new Jerusalem and free access to the tree that imparts eternal life are not wages earned through our self-improvement efforts.” **Dennis Johnson**¹⁴⁹

“Eternal life heals the scars of sin and misery.” **William Hendriksen**¹⁵⁰

“The saints will not only be free from the danger of separation from God but will also be secure from the entire range of sufferings threatening them in the old world.” **Greg Beale**¹⁵¹

Conclusion:

“This final vision of the book concerning these same five themes- new covenant, new temple, new Israel, new Jerusalem, and new creation- is also the climax and the expression of the main point of the Apocalypse thus far.” **Greg Beale**¹⁵²

¹⁴⁸ Beale, pp. 1117.

¹⁴⁹ Johnson, pp. 327.

¹⁵⁰ Hendriksen, pp. 206.

¹⁵¹ Beale, pp. 1115.

¹⁵² Beale, pp. 1119.