

**"The Eternal State"**

**Revelation 21:1-22:5**

**Part 3**

**Introduction:** In our Revelation study several weeks ago, we stepped into Revelation 21 and we started to look at the Eternal State. This is the final dwelling place of all those who have been forgiven of their sins. This is where we, who know Jesus, shall dwell for all eternity. Let me give you an overview of God's timeline to help you to understand how this is all going to unfold.

**1. The Church Age**

We live in what is known as the Church Age today.

**2. The Rapture**

This Age will come to an end with an event known as the Rapture. This will be when Jesus comes back in the clouds to gather all who have accepted Him as their Savior.

**1 Thessalonians 4:16-17**

*<sup>16</sup> 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:*

*<sup>17</sup> 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.*

**3. The 7 Years of Tribulation**

This is what we studied in Revelation 6-18. This will be the worse judgment ever to fall upon the earth.

**Matthew 24:21**

*<sup>21</sup> For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.*

**4. The Return of Jesus Christ to the Earth**

This we studied in Revelation 19

**5. The Millennial Kingdom of Jesus Christ**

This we looked at in Revelation 20.

## 6. The Great White Throne Judgment

This we studied in Revelation 20 and this is where all the unsaved will be judged and sentenced to the Lake of Fire where they will be tormented for all eternity.

## 7. The Eternal State

This is what we are looking at in Revelation 21.

### I. The New Creation

Notice Revelation 21:1

2 Peter 3:7, 10-11

<sup>7</sup> 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.

<sup>10</sup> 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.

### II. The New Jerusalem

Notice Revelation 21:2

As great as the new creation will be there is now something else which steals away the focus of John. It is the New Jerusalem. This is the dwelling place of all the saints. This is what Jesus promised and this is what Abraham looked for.

John 14:1-3

*Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.*

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

### III. The Presence of God

Notice Revelation 21:3

### IV. The Conditions

Notice Revelation 21:4-5

Today in our study we are now coming to the next point.

## V. The Inhabitants

Now, John is going to use two ways to describe the inhabitants of the eternal state and I believe these two ways are very closely connected as we shall see.

### Notice Revelation 21:6

#### a. Those who thirst

There is a promise given here by Jesus Christ and that is they who are thirsty and come to Him will drink of the fountain of the water of life freely. **Everyone who is born into this world is spiritually thirsty.** But it is only those who come to Jesus Christ who will have their eternal home in heaven. Let me show you a picture from the Old Testament that gives to us a wonderful picture. I will take you back to the days of David and King Saul. Saul hated David and Saul had a son named Jonathan and he and David were very close.

#### 1 Samuel 18:3

<sup>3</sup> *Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul.*

Jonathan knew that one day David would be king and so he later made David promise that when he became king David would not harm Jonathan's family.

#### 1 Samuel 20:14-16

<sup>14</sup> *And thou shalt not only while yet I live shew me the kindness of the LORD, that I die not:*

<sup>15</sup> **But also thou shalt not cut off thy kindness from my house for ever: no, not when the LORD hath cut off the enemies of David every one from the face of the earth.**

<sup>16</sup> *So Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying, Let the LORD even require it at the hand of David's enemies.*

Let me give you the picture within this. Two thousand years ago God the Father and His Son Jesus Christ made a New Covenant and ratified it with the blood of Jesus Christ. One of the promises made in that Covenant was that all who are born again into the family of God would see no spiritual harm.

#### John 6:37

<sup>37</sup> *All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me **I will in no wise cast out.***

Just as all of Jonathan's family would be safe so too we are safe and protected by Jesus Christ. Now the story goes on.

**2 Samuel 9:1-3**

*And David said, Is there yet any that is left of the house of Saul, that I may shew him kindness for Jonathan's sake?*

<sup>2</sup> *And there was of the house of Saul a servant whose name was Ziba. And when they had called him unto David, the king said unto him, Art thou Ziba? And he said, Thy servant is he.*

<sup>3</sup> *And the king said, Is there not yet any of the house of Saul, that I may shew the kindness of God unto him? And Ziba said unto the king, Jonathan hath yet a son, which is lame on his feet.*

Let me show you the details of what happened to Jonathan's son.

**2 Samuel 4:4**

<sup>4</sup> *And Jonathan, Saul's son, had a son that was lame of his feet. He was five years old when the tidings came of Saul and Jonathan out of Jezreel, and his nurse took him up, and fled: and it came to pass, as she made haste to flee, that he fell, and became lame. And his name was Mephibosheth.*

The nurse dropped him, and, in the fall, he must have broken one or both legs and so he was crippled the rest of his life.

This is a picture of what happened to you and me. In the Garden of Eden Adam ate the forbidden fruit and now everyone of us are born sinners. So, we can say that we too were crippled in the fall. When Adam fell we all fell for we were all in the loins of Adam.

**Romans 5:12, 19a**

<sup>12</sup> *Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:*

<sup>19</sup> *For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners,*

Now let us get back to Mephibosheth.

**2 Samuel 9:4**

<sup>4</sup> *And the king said unto him, Where is he? And Ziba said unto the king, Behold, he is in the house of Machir, the son of Ammiel, in Lodebar.*

Mephibosheth lived in a place called Lodebar which means DRY and BARREN. He represents all of us for he was crippled in the fall and he lived in a dry and barren land. That is a perfect description of our world. This world claims to have much to offer but there is nothing in this world that can quench our spiritual thirst. Only when we come to Jesus is our thirst satisfied.

Remember the conversation which Jesus had with the woman at the well in John 4?

**John 4:10-14**

<sup>10</sup> *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.*

<sup>11</sup> *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?*

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

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

<sup>14</sup> **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.**

Let me get back to Mephibosheth one more time.

**2 Samuel 9:5-7**

<sup>5</sup> *Then king David sent, and fetched him out of the house of Machir, the son of Ammiel, from Lodebar.*

<sup>6</sup> *Now when Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, was come unto David, he fell on his face, and did reverence. And David said, Mephibosheth. And he answered, Behold thy servant!*

<sup>7</sup> *And David said unto him, Fear not: for I will surely shew thee kindness for Jonathan thy father's sake, and will restore thee all the land of Saul thy father; and **thou shalt eat bread at my table continually.***

Mephibosheth became royalty and was able to eat continually at the king's table. This is exactly what happens to us when we come to Jesus Christ. We become royalty and we will forever eat at the king's table in heaven.

Now let me get you back to the thirst. As I said every person born into this world is spiritually thirsty and it is only the spiritual water that Jesus offers that will satisfy the thirst. Notice the offer in Isaiah 55.

**Isaiah 55:1**

*Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.*

The spiritual water that Jesus offers is free.

**Notice Revelation 21:6 again.**

It is those who come to Jesus Christ for salvation who will inhabit heaven.

**Psalms 42:1-2a**

*As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God.*

<sup>2</sup> *My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God:*

This brings us to the next title given to the inhabitants.

**b. The Overcomers**

**Notice Revelation 21:7**

We have looked at who the overcomers are before.

**1 John 5:4-5**

<sup>4</sup> *For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.*

<sup>5</sup> *Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?*

Why does the Bible refer to those who are saved as "overcomers"? As I said we are all born with a thirst. Satan uses the world to deceive people into thinking that what the world has to offer will satisfy the thirst. The lure of the world is very strong. When the Bible refers to the world it is referring to the world's systems and philosophies. So, the sinner must make a decision in life. Will they choose Jesus Christ, or will they choose the world? The person who chooses Jesus Christ is the one who overcomes the world.

Let me show you another point.

**c. Those who will not be in heaven.**

**Notice Revelation 21:8**

1. **Fearful** - These are those who may profess to be Christians but are not. This characteristic speaks of the fear they live in. They will not stand for the Truth because they fear what the consequences may be.

**Matthew 13:20-21**

*<sup>20</sup> But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it;*

*<sup>21</sup> Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.*

These people want to call themselves Christians but have no endurance. When the heat gets turned up they are quick to retreat.

2. **Unbelieving** - This refers to the fact that they have no saving faith. They are faithless. They have no faith in God, they have no faith in God's Word. These are the people who reject the Bible.
3. **Abominable** - Their practices are detestable.
4. **Murderers** - This is not just those who commit the act but those who are controlled by anger.

**Matthew 5:21-22**

*<sup>21</sup> Ye have heard that it was said of them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment:*

*<sup>22</sup> But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment:*

5. **Whoremongers** - Sexually immoral.
6. **Sorcerers** - The Greek word here is the word which we get "pharmacy" from. This then refers to people who are caught up in drug use.
7. **Idolaters** - This refers to those who worship idols which is a major part of our society today.
8. **ALL Liars** -

**Conclusion:**

Which group do you fit into? Have you come to Jesus Christ for LIVING WATER?