

"The Eternal State"

Revelation 21:1-22:5

Part 4

Introduction: Last week in our study of Revelation we looked at the inhabitants of the new heaven and the new earth. They are those who turn to Jesus Christ to satisfy their thirst and in so doing have overcome the world. Every person is born spiritually thirsty and there are only two choices offered to them.

1. Jesus Christ

John 4:10-14

¹⁰ *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.*

2. The world.

The world offers only water from cesspools. It is bitter poison water and it will never satisfy your thirst.

Exodus 15:22-25

²² *So Moses brought Israel from the Red sea, and they went out into the wilderness of Shur; and they went three days in the wilderness, and found no water.*

²³ *And when they came to Marah, they could not drink of the waters of Marah, for they were bitter: therefore the name of it was called Marah.*

²⁴ *And the people murmured against Moses, saying, What shall we drink?*

²⁵ And he cried unto the LORD; and the LORD shewed him a tree, which when he had cast into the waters, the waters were made sweet: there he made for them a statute and an ordinance, and there he proved them,

As we continue our study deeper into the chapter we are now going to get a detailed description of the Capital of the new heaven and the new earth.

"The New Jerusalem"

Notice Revelation 21:9

Now when we read this verse you would think we are going to get a description of the Bride of Jesus Christ which is the Church by we are actually going to get a description of the place where the Bride will occupy for all eternity. Why does the angel refer to the city as the Bride?

1. The city is beautifully adorned, just as the Church will be.
2. The city will be spotless and pure just as the Church will be when we receive our glorified bodies.

Now before we move on let me also remind you that it will not only be the Church which occupies this city, but it will be all saints. I say this because there are those who teach that we who make up the Church will live in this city and all the other believers will live on the earth and we will have no contact with the Old Testament Saints or the Tribulation Saints. They teach the Church will live on a higher level (in this city suspended over the earth) than all the other saints. But that is not in agreement with the Bible.

Hebrews 11:8-10, 16

⁸ By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.

⁹ By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise:

¹⁰ For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

¹⁶ But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.

God's Word tells us that God has prepared a city for Abraham and Sarah.

Jesus has told us He is preparing a place for us also.

John 14:1-3

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

² 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.

³ 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.

So, the Saints of all ages will occupy this Holy City of Jerusalem in the Eternal State. Let me show you what the writer of Hebrews says concerning the inhabitants of this city.

Hebrews 12:22-23

²² But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,

²³ To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,

Here we see the inhabitants:

1. The Living God. - God the Father.
2. Angels
3. The Church
4. Jesus Christ - He is the Judge of all.
5. Spirits of just men made perfect - This is all saints who are not of the church.

Notice Revelation 21:9 again.

I want to point out something here about the angel and then we shall move on. John has seen many angels as he was given the Revelation of Jesus Christ/the book of Revelation. Here he identifies this angel as one of those who had one of the vials of the 7 last plagues.

Just some food for thought here. Angels are different one from the other. If they all looked the same John would have not known this was one of the angels who had one of the vials. So, angels are distinct one from the other just as people.

Notice Revelation 21:10-11

Verse 11 is full of information that will give to us a better picture of the New Jerusalem.

1. The City is full of the Glory of God.

This city will be far brighter than anything which we can imagine. Let me show you an experience which Moses had.

Exodus 33:18-23

¹⁸ 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 clift 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.

The GLORY of God would be the most brilliant light which we could ever imagine. Moses could not look upon the GLORY of God and live. No man has ever seen the full unveiled GLORY of God.

Isaiah was permitted to experience God's glory and in that GLORY, Isaiah was dreadfully reminded of his sinfulness.

Isaiah 6:1-5

In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the LORD sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple.

² Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly.

³ And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.

⁴ And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke.

⁵ Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.

John was also exposed to the GLORY of Jesus Christ in chapter 1 of Revelation and he fell down as a dead man.

Revelation 1:17

17 And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last:

Paul also was exposed to the GLORY of Jesus Christ on the Damascus Road. But in all of these experiences NO ONE saw the FULL unveiled GLORY of God for they would have died immediately.

Notice Revelation 21:11 again.

It will be the FULL GLORY of God that will light this Heavenly City. In that day we will be perfectly holy, and we will then be able to look upon the FULL GLORY of God. John also tells us here that the city is like a JASPER Stone. The closest stone we would know as a Jasper would be a diamond. This city is a brilliant diamond which John sees.

Let me see if I can help you to picture what John is seeing here. This city is 1500 miles cubed.

Miami to Maine, then west to Minneapolis then south to Huston then back to Miami. That is the first floor. Picture a diamond cube this large with something brighter than the sun in the middle of it.

How bright is the GLORY of God?

Notice Revelation 21:23

There is no need of the sun or the moon for it is lighted with the GLORY of God. Does this mean there will be no sun or moon? The Bible is not clear either way on this. But there is a verse that comes to mind here.

Psalm 19:1

The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.

Today the heavens declare the GLORY of God but in the Eternal State the GLORY of God will be present so there will be no need of the sun and the moon to declare His GLORY so there may not be a sun or a moon. Let me show you what Isaiah wrote.

Isaiah 60:19-20

19 The sun shall be no more thy light by day; neither for brightness shall the moon give light unto thee: but the LORD shall be unto thee an everlasting light, and thy God thy glory.

20 Thy sun shall no more go down; neither shall thy moon withdraw itself: for the LORD shall be thine everlasting light, and the days of thy mourning shall be ended.

The light of God's GLORY shining through the crystal-clear city will cast a myriad of colors throughout the Eternal State. This will be a beauty beyond anything we have ever seen. This will be the GLORY of GOD radiating all over the New Earth in a rainbow of colors.

I want to stop here in our text for today and I want to introduce a connective thought. In the Old Testament Israel had cities of refuge.

Numbers 35:9-13

⁹ And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

¹⁰ Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye be come over Jordan into the land of Canaan;

¹¹ Then ye shall appoint you cities to be cities of refuge for you; that the slayer may flee thither, which killeth any person at unawares.

¹² And they shall be unto you cities for refuge from the avenger; that the manslayer die not, until he stand before the congregation in judgment.

¹³ And of these cities which ye shall give six cities shall ye have for refuge.

These cities were all built on hills and they were always lighted, so everyone could see them. If you killed someone accidentally then someone from their family became the AVENGER OF BLOOD. He had the right to hunt you down and to kill you. But God appointed these cities of refuge where you could go and be safe. But it was required that you never leave the city. These cities were for anyone who needed them.

Numbers 35:15

¹⁵ These six cities shall be a refuge, both for the children of Israel, and for the stranger, and for the sojourner among them: that every one that killeth any person unawares may flee thither.

The people of the city would try the one who was fleeing to see if he was innocent or guilty. If he was innocent, then he could remain in the city until the high priest died.

Numbers 35:24-28

²⁴ Then the congregation shall judge between the slayer and the revenger of blood according to these judgments:

²⁵ And the congregation shall deliver the slayer out of the hand of the revenger of blood, and the congregation shall restore him to the city of his refuge, whither he was fled: and he shall abide in it unto the death of the high priest, which was anointed with the holy oil.

²⁶ But if the slayer shall at any time come without the border of the city of his refuge, whither he was fled;

²⁷ And the revenger of blood find him without the borders of the city of his refuge, and the revenger of blood kill the slayer; he shall not be guilty of blood:

²⁸ Because he should have remained in the city of his refuge until the death of the high priest: but after the death of the high priest the slayer shall return into the land of his possession.

Once the high priest died the person was free to go and could not be touched by the avenger of blood ever again.

Application:

God is the avenger of blood. Our sins killed His Son on the cross of Calvary. But He has made a place of refuge for you and I and that place is in Jesus Christ. He is our city of refuge. He as our High Priest died and so now we can never be held accountable for our sin ever. If someone rejects Jesus Christ and dies in their they will face the Avenger of Blood and be judged for all their sin.

The city here in Revelation 21 is the ultimate city of refuge. When a sinner turns to Jesus Christ then they are guaranteed a home in this city of refuge.

Conclusion:

Where are your reservations? Do you have a reservation to stay in this city for all eternity?