

Chapter summary – In this final chapter of the Holy Scriptures, John continues with his description of the holy city and then, as it were, ushers us on into the eternal ages to come. When he closes with a last postscript of invitation, warning, and prayer, the book of God is complete. This climactic revelation will terminate God's written Word to man. All we need to know will have been revealed and recorded, and now we must simply await the fulfillment.¹

§ § § § § § § § § § § § § § § § §

IV. the vision of the Final Days, (Chs. 6-22)

F. THE EVENTS FOLLOWING THE DESTRUCTION OF BABYLON - (19:1-22:5)

9. The new heaven and earth, (21:1-8) - "FINALLY! THE CURSE IS REMOVED FROM THE EARTH!"

4) Its tranquillity throughout, (22:1-5)

 **INTERPRETATION:**

The Waterworks of the City

¹ **And he showed me a pure** (undefiled), **river of water of life, clear as crystal** (sparkling in brilliance), **proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb**, (depicting the holiness and purity of God, His government and His City, [*as well as the gift of eternal life which is abundant, vibrant and free through the grace which flows from God's throne alone*]).

The Orchards in the City

² **In the middle of its** (golden), **street, and on either side** (or along both sides), **of the river, was the tree of life** (in abundance [*the tree being the emblem of immortality*]), **which bore twelve fruits** (i.e., twelve crops of fruit, not individual fruits), **each tree yielding its fruit every month**, (and no one will be barred from partaking of the fruit like after the fall, in the Garden of Eden). **The leaves of the tree were for the healing** (the physical enrichment), **of the nations.**²

 **COMMENTARY:**

¹ Morris, *The Revelation Record*, p. 463.

² There is a lot of discussion as to what this "healing" pertains to. Some say that it pertains to the healing of the consequences caused by sin and the misery of life in general caused by the curse upon the earth. The problem is that at this time, everyone has their resurrected body which is like Christ's. That would mean that it is perfect in every way. Another problem is that every tear, pain, injury, etc., has been wiped away and replaced with perfection. God also makes it very clear that no sin shall enter into His kingdom. We get our word "therapeutic" from this Greek word "healing." The word means to render some form of service, whether medical or otherwise. Thus in considering the meaning of the word, and the problems of needing any kind of healing in heaven, I take the view that the "healing" pertains to physical enrichment. The fruit of the tree of life compliments our immortality, and its leaves will promote our enjoyment of that life.

The Ambassadors of the City

³ **And there shall be no more** (consequences or evidences of the), **curse** (in God's kingdom, which sin produced at the fall of man [Gen. 3:14-19], and from which all of creation waited for the redemption from it [Rom. 8:18-23]—its over), **but** (what you will find in God's kingdom is that), **the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it** (and the consequences and evidences of Their rule will be experienced rather than the curses),³ **and His servants** (believers), **shall** (continue to), **serve Him**, (as His ambassadors and reign with Him [2 Tim. 2:12; Rev. 5:10; 20:4-6]).

F APPLICATION:

Do you see what God is trying to tell us here? Do you see what He wants us to understand?! God wants us to know that the trials and disappointments we experiences as a result of our deficient abilities, flawed relationships, negligible accomplishments, failing health, personal lifestyle, etc., will all be perfected one day and forever.

⁴ **They** (Christ's ambassadors), **shall** (continually), **see His face** (enjoy His company and bask in His glory), **and His name shall be on their foreheads** (openly identifying them as His very own).

⁵ **There** (again), **shall be no night there** (in God's kingdom): **They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light**, (by His Shekinah glory). **And they shall reign** (enjoy and exercise great influence in this position), **forever and ever**, (all eternity).

G. THE FINAL WORDS OF COUSEL - (22:6-21)

1. His counsel about prophecy, (22:6-11) - "*WHAT COUNSEL DO YOU GIVE WHEN THE WORLD IS ABOUT TO END?!*"

1) The dependability of prophecy, (22:6)

INTERPRETATION:

⁶ **Then** (after describing to me the Holy City), **he** (the angel), **said to me**, "**These words** (meaning contained in this entire book [*“which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this”* {Rev. 1:19}], **are faithful** (trustworthy), **and true** (genuine and therefore certain)." **And** (remember), **the Lord God** (cf. Rev. 1:1), **of the holy prophets sent His angel to show His servants** (believers), **the things which must shortly take place**, (be fulfilled).

³ It is significant also that the Lamb is pictured on the throne (mentioned also in v. 3). This makes it clear that 1 Corinthians 15:24, which states that Christ "hands over the kingdom to God the Father after He has destroyed all dominion, authority, and power," does not mean that Christ's reign on the throne will end but that it will change its character. Christ is King of kings and Lord of lords (cf. Rev. 17:14; 19:16) for all eternity. (Walvoord, and Zuck, *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, Logos Library System.)

2) The responsibility of prophecy, (22:7)

NOTES:

INTERPRETATION:

⁷ **“Behold** (Jesus calls everyone to attention now), **I am coming quickly** (imminently, without warning)! **Blessed** (happy), **is he who keeps** (believes, watches over, guards), **the words** (the content and integrity), **of the prophecy of this book.**”

3) The authority of prophecy, (22:8-11)

INTERPRETATION:

⁸ **Now I** (personally), **John** (the apostle of Jesus Christ), **saw and heard these things. And when I heard and saw** (everything), **I** (overwhelmed again), **fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who showed me these things.**

⁹ **Then he said to me, “See that you do not do that,** (“Don’t worship me”). **For I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book,** (angels and believers alike are all created to obediently serve the Almighty [Col. 1:13-17]). **Worship God,** (alone).”

¹⁰ **And he said to me, “Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book** (let it be read and studied), **for** (the reason being), **the time is at hand,** (it will take place soon).⁴

¹¹ (At the conclusion of the history of mankind), **“He who is unjust** (whose acts fall short of God’s standards), **let him be unjust still** (so shall he remain for all eternity); **he who is filthy** (whose soul is defiled by sin), **let him be filthy still** (so shall he remain for all eternity); **he who is righteous** (being clothed in the righteousness of Christ), **let him be righteous still** (so shall he remain for all eternity); **he who is holy** (whose soul is cleansed by saving faith in Jesus Christ), **let him be holy still,** (so shall he remain for all eternity).”

F APPLICATION:

God is telling everyone here that there are no second chances after a person dies. If you die without confessing and repenting of your sin, asking Christ (by faith), to apply the value of His death on the cross to your life to forgive and cleanse your soul of sin, you will spend eternity in hell. Death seals all of our eternal destinies. Today is the day of salvation! Call out to God now while there is yet time!!

Have you asked God to save you from your otherwise certain eternal destruction, (2 Thess. 1:7-9)? Believing that you are a sinner (Rom. 3:23), and that the penalty for being a sinner is death and separation from God, (Rom. 5:12; 6:23; Luke 16:19-31; John 3:36; Rev. 21:8). Believing that eternal life is given only to those who ask for it as a gift that cannot be earned, merited or deserved (Eph. 2:8-10). Believing that Jesus Christ, God the Son, came to this world willing to pay your personal penalty for sin; to suffer death, be buried and would rise

⁴ Daniel was told to seal up his prophecy after God gave it to him, (Dan. 12:9), but John was told to leave his open. The reason is obvious, the time is near.

again for you, in your stead (1 Pet. 2:24; 3:18; Isaiah 53:5; 2 Cor. 5:21; Gal. 3:13; 2 Cor. 5:21), and that Jesus ALONE can save you, (Acts 4:12; 1 John 5:12). Believing these facts in faith alone (Eph. 2:8), confessing that Jesus needed to, and did, die for you (John 3:14-18; Rom. 10:9, 10), and repenting for the former ways you were living that were contrary to God’s desire for you, (Luke 13:3; Rom. 6:4; 2 Cor. 5:14, 15; Heb. 10:25; 2 Tim. 2:15). Believing that after you ask Jesus to save you, you are genuinely saved, (John 1:12; 5:24; Rom. 5:1; 2 Cor. 5:17; 1 John 5:13).

2. His counsel about sanctity, (22:12-15)

INTERPRETATION:

Be Holy

- ¹² (Jesus speaking again says), “**And behold** (attention), **I am coming quickly** (imminently, without warning, there isn’t much time left!), **and My reward is with Me** (the reward that I will give to you at the Judgment Seat of Christ, that you will in turn lay at My feet), **to give to every one according to his work**, (what every believer did in faith for Christ [cf. 1 Cor. 3:8-15; 2 Cor. 5:10, 11]).
- ¹³ (Again Christ tells us), “**I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last**,” (i.e., the redeeming person behind the entire drama of human history from beginning to end).
- ¹⁴ **Blessed** (happy),⁵ **are those who do His commandments** (a better translation is, “*Blessed are those who wash their robes*”—meaning happy are those who are forgiven of their sins and washed clean through saving faith in Jesus Christ), **that they may have the right** (or have access), **to the tree of life, and** (thus), **may enter through the gates into the city**, (as one of God’s own children).
- ¹⁵ **But outside are dogs** (the morally impure, diseased, dirty and wild), **and sorcerers** (those who practice the magic arts; those dealing with the devil and demons), **and** (those who have chosen to be), **sexually immoral and murderers** (those who have gone the route of hatred, violence and vengeance), **and idolaters** (those who set their affections on what God created, rather than on Him, the Creator), **and whoever loves and practices a lie**, (those who avoid, ignore or deny the Word of God, that they may give themselves to their sinful desires—refusing to allow God’s light to separate them from the darkness they crave—choosing rather the lie [that brings death and destruction], over the truth, [that sets one free]).

⁵ The last of the seven beatitudes, 1:3; 14:13; 16:15; 19:9; 20:6; 22:7

 **INTERPRETATION:****Be Saved**

¹⁶ **“I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches,** (directly to the seven churches in Asia Minor, ultimately to the global universal church of Christ). **I am the Root** (the source of David’s life and his descendants, which testifies of Christ’s deity), **and the Offspring of David** (one of David’s descendants which testifies of Christ’s humanity and right to the Davidic throne—*thus the God-Man who first came to earth as a helpless babe, but later returned as the King of kings, and Lord of lords*), **the Bright and Morning Star,**” (the star that shines last in the morning twilight hour for its brightness, that announces to the world of the immanence of the dawn of a new and glorious day)⁶

¹⁷ **And the** (Holy), **Spirit** (to whom the care of the saints was committed to after Christ’s ascension), **and the bride** (present believers of Christ, recipients of the Holy Spirit’s care and longing to see the face of their Savior), **say, “Come!”** (Let the morning break now! Come to reclaim the earth, Lord Jesus!) **And let him who hears** (places saving faith in Christ in the process of time prior to His coming, join in and), **say, “Come!” And let him who thirsts** (who has not yet placed saving faith in Jesus Christ, say), **come,** (“come” here means to come and place saving faith in Jesus Christ before it is too late—He will quench your thirst). **Whoever desires,** (no exclusions—it doesn’t matter who you are or what you’ve done, God says), **let him take the water of life** (the soul saving gospel of Jesus Christ), **freely,** (gratuitously, without restriction).⁷

⁶ Although His royal throne and kingdom come through David and are connected with Israel on earth, we have a nearer and more blessed revelation: “I am the bright, the morning star.” Our Lord is coming, indeed, as the Sun of Righteousness to rise upon the darkness of this world and reign in the millennial kingdom. But it is yet “this darkness”; although “the night is far spent, and the day is at hand.” Yes, the day is not here—but lo, the harbinger [signal], of the day, the Morning Star! It shines in the night, but it prophesies the coming sunrise. “The assembly (*ecclesia—the Church*) sees Him in the now far spent night as the Morning Star, recognizes Him, while watching for Him, according to His own Word, in His bright heavenly character—a character which does not wake a sleeping world, but is the delight and joy of those to watch. When the sun arises, He will not be thus known: the earth will never so know Him, bright as the (coming) day may be” (*Darby*). Newell, *The Book of The Revelation*, p. 365

⁷ This gracious and wide invitation is cheering after the gloomy picture of the doomed and the damned. The warnings against the dragon and the two beasts with all their dreadful consequences are meant to deter men from falling victims to all the devil’s devices then and now. The door of mercy still stands wide open today, for the end has not yet come. The series of panoramas is over, with the consummation pictured as a reality. Now we drop back to the standpoint before we saw the visions through John’s eyes. In verse 17 we hear the voice of the Spirit of God inviting all who hear and see to heed and to come and drink of the water of life freely offered by the Lamb of God. (Robertson, *Word Pictures in the New Testament*, Logos Library System.)

4. His counsel about forgery, (22:18, 19)

NOTES:

INTERPRETATION:

Be Careful

¹⁸ **For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book** (being stated as a book of prophecy tells us that this is not a human work, but divine): **If anyone adds** (anything additional in the sense of additional or more complete divine inspiration), **to these things, God will add to him** (who does), **the plagues that are written in this book** (in the sense that you will suffer God's wrathful judgment for doing so—you will be viewed as the enemy of God as the beasts were, and treated as such [cf., Deut. 4:2; 12:32; Prov. 30:6; Jer 26:2]);

¹⁹ **and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy** (says that any part of this is not divinely inspired by God), **God shall take away his part from** (ever having his name written down in), **the Book of Life, from** (ever being able to enter into), **the holy city, and from** (ever enjoying), **the things** (the blessings), **which are written in this book.**⁸

5. His counsel about expectancy, (22:20)

INTERPRETATION:

Be Watchful

²⁰ **He who testifies** (bears witness), **to these things** (Jesus Christ [Rev. 1:1-2; 22:18]), **says, “Surely** (make no mistake about it), **I am coming quickly,**” (imminently, without warning, there isn't much time left! The dawn is about to break!). **Amen** (So be it Lord!). **Even so** (even though it will be a time of horrible judgment), **come** (and fulfill your prophecy), **Lord Jesus!** (take your rightful place as King!)

⁸ I believe that these things are taken away or removed, in the sense of being disqualified from any chance of ever gaining them. Usually one loses his every chance of ever getting his name written in the Lamb's book of life and entering into God's glorious kingdom to enjoy His blessings, only after death. At that time it is permanent for everyone. The only other time that Scripture mentions that a person can lose his chance of ever finding God's forgiveness for sin is in committing the unpardonable sin of lying against the Holy Spirit. (Mark 3:28, 29)

John Walvoord makes this comment on this passage, “To use these verses, however, as a proof that a child of God once saved and born into the family of God can lose his salvation is, of course, applying this passage out of context. This passage assumes that a child of God will not tamper with these scriptures. It is the contrast of unbelief with faith, the blinded, fallen intellect of man in contrast to the enlightened Spirit-taught believer. Although the true child of God may not comprehend the meaning of the entire book of Revelation, he will recognize in it a declaration of his hope and that which has been assured to him in grace by his salvation in Christ.” (Walvoord, *The Revelation of Jesus Christ*, p. 338)

 **INTERPRETATION:**

Be Blessed

²¹ **The grace** (unmerited favor and blessing), **of our Lord Jesus Christ be with** (sustain), **you all. Amen,** (so be it).

F APPLICATION:

As you know, the Old Testament ends with the word "curse," for it is the warning given an earth whose future hangs upon that of Israel—upon the conversion of the remnant and upon the receiving of the preaching of Elijah (evidently one of the two witnesses of Revelation 11), just before Christ should return. The law could make no absolute promise, and so God's Word by Malachi ends, "Lest I come and smite the earth with a curse."

But now Christ has come and put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. And, although the book of The Revelation has had to uncover the fearful rebellion of the earth, and the necessary and dire judgments of God; yet upon those who have believed, to His saints, the benediction of divine favor rests. Just as Christ lifted up His hands and blessed them over against Bethany, at His ascension, so all His saints are now—under His pierced, uplifted hands of blessing. Amen!⁹

Finally we can begin to comprehend in some small measure the Lord's "unspeakable gift" of eternal life (2 Corinthians 9:15) to sinners who had earned the wage of eternal death (Romans 6:23). Having heard and believed the "word of life" (Philippians 2:16), we have feasted on the "bread of life" (John 6:35) and drunk deeply of the "water of life" (Revelation 21:6), assured that our names are indelibly inscribed in the Lamb's "book of life" (Revelation 3:5). We no longer walk in darkness but have the "light of life" (John 8:12), knowing that soon we shall receive the "crown of life" (Revelation 2:10) and have access forever to the "tree of life" (Revelation 22:14).

No More Curse

The omniscient, omnipotent God had a great and holy, eternal, and unchangeable purpose for His creation, established in His heart before the world began. The temporary intrusion of sin and death can never thwart or deter that purpose. Finally, in the counsels of God, the time has come to renew and fulfill that purpose. The great curse has been removed from the creation, and the kingdom of God has come.¹⁰

⁹ Newell, *The Book of The Revelation*, p. 369

¹⁰ Morris, *The Revelation Record*, p. 463.

DOCTRINE OF ANGELS IN DANIEL

NOTES:

1. Angels exist; they are real.
2. Angels communicate information and give knowledge, but they never communicate the gospel (8:19; 10:14). Angels are messengers (10:11).
3. There are good and bad angels (10:20); some are elect and some are evil.
4. Angelic warfare occurs in the invisible world (10:20).
5. Angels have names: Michael (10:13, 20) and Gabriel (8:16; 9:21).
6. Angels influence and supervise world empires (10:13, 20); angels have
7. charge of specific governments. Michael is Israel's defender and preserver (12:1).
8. Encounters with angels leave men weak (10:16-17).
9. Angels appear inhuman form (8:15; 10:18).
10. Angels strengthen human beings (10:19).
11. Angels have different ranks and powers (10:13, 21).
12. Angels give comfort to human beings (10:12, 19).
13. God sends angels in response to man's prayers (10:1~2).
14. Angels watch; they are watchers and supervisors (4:13 17, 23).
15. Angels are holy (4:13).
16. Angels issue commands (4:14); they execute God's will.
17. Angels are numerous—ten thousand times ten thousand (7:10).
18. Angels are ministers of God (7:10).
18. Angels fly; they are swift (9:21).

--John L. Benson