

REVELATION 4:1-11

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INTRODUCTION:

In **Chapters 1-3**, the Lord's personal message to the individual churches is now over. He has told them who He is, pointed out their failures, warned, and counseled them to correct their failures. He has also given them the great promises of heaven if they will only overcome. Now it is time for the churches to see the future events that are coming upon the earth. It is time for the churches to know that Jesus Christ is coming back to earth. He is going to end the world and establish the kingdom of God forever and ever in a new heaven and earth. **Chapter 4** begins a new vision—Vision Two. In this vision two great things are seen:

1. The throne of God is seen.
2. God Himself is seen holding a book which contains the destiny of the world in the end times.

However, the book is sealed, and no one is found worthy to open and reveal the contents of the book. Only one is worthy to open the book—That Person is the Lamb of God; the Lamb slain before the foundation of the earth, Jesus Christ Himself.

4:1 After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter. After this: The phrase indicates a change in succession of events. Christ Himself has changed His position: in Chapters 1-3 He is seen among the candlesticks on earth. The Bible is filled with symbols. *Candlestick is the symbol or lampstand or light-bearers*: Christ and the church. Now He is seen in heaven. Chapter 4 is a transitional verse from *"things which are"* to *"the things which will take place after this."* We now move to the category of future things; after church issues, now future issues. There will be 7 lamps of fire burning which are the 7 Spirits of God (4:5b) introduced—a series of three sevens: 7 seals (5:1), 7 trumpets (8:6) and 7 last plagues or bowls (15:1). Now, let's look at five quick things that happened to John.

1. He saw a door opened in heaven.
2. He heard a commanding voice, the very same voice he had heard in the first vision (1:10).
3. He was called to come up here into heaven.
4. He was immediately in the spirit.
5. He saw the most astounding sight imaginable.

There are three doors mentioned in the book of Revelation.

- 1) The open door: *"I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name" Rev.3:8).*
- 2) The door of the human heart: *"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me" Rev.3:20).*

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3) The door of revelation: *"I looked, and behold, a door was opened in heaven"* (Rev.4:1).

4:1b ...a door was opened in heaven: Upon seeing a door standing open in heaven and hearing a trumpet-like voice promising to show him of things which must take place, John seems to be transported to the throne room of God. This is through his vision. John not only sees and looks into heaven, but he is commanded to come up hither, so that he may see and understand the things that are to transpire on earth in future events. God works them out. They are of His divine Will. Remember this is the vision given to John. John is being shown things to come.

The voice like a trumpet is a clarion call to each one of us for us to come closer to the things of God. We all should hear His sound; His call! When there is an open door in our lives, the effect of the "open door" is for evangelism and missions; the door which God opens to the churches for bearing witness to the glorious gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It is an opportunity to carry the gospel to our neighbors, communities, cities, states, countries, and the world—the uttermost part of the earth. Also seeing a door in heaven is symbolic to access to heavenly places (Jh.1:51).

4:2 And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.

And immediately I was in the spirit: He does not affirm that he was caught up into heaven, but he was at once absorbed in the contemplation of the visions before him. John is having a deep, intense spiritual experience with God, but his body remained in Patmos; he was in an ecstatic state with his mind and spirit. They appeared as real to him as if he saw them, and they were in fact a real symbolical representation of things occurring in heaven. Now John sees the most astounding sight imaginable: God and the throne of God. This was one event that would be very hard to describe, emotionally, physically, or otherwise—God's throne and even God Himself! Yet, as it continues, he describes what he sees and hears with vivid and colorful imagery.

4:3 And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald. John's description of what he sees through the open door in heaven shows how awesome the presence of God is:

1) ¹To John's startled eyes is a throne in heaven with the presence of the One sitting upon it. The primary impression received by John is that of color, and he describes the presence of the One on the throne as *"like a jasper and a sardine stone."* The sight of a rainbow around the throne like an emerald further enriches the color scheme. The precious stones mentioned also seem to have meaning. The jasper stone is described in chapter 21 as a precious stone which is clear like crystal, which would seem to indicate that it may be what we would today call a diamond. The sardine stone, or the sardius, is a familiar stone like a beautifully red ruby in color.

According to the Old Testament these stones had a relationship to the tribes of Israel. Each tribe of Israel had a representative stone, and the high priest had stones representing each of the twelve tribes of Israel on his breast when he functioned in his priestly office before the altar. This symbolized the fact that he as the high priest was representing all twelve tribes before the throne of God.

*Jasper and a sardine stone are also symbolic of glory and brightness of God.
The rainbow was symbolic of the covenant of God with earth.
Emerald is symbolic of the glories of God and His saints.*

4:4 And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold.

¹ <http://bible.org/seriespage/4-church-heaven>
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2) John's attention is now directed to twenty-four thrones upon which the twenty-four elders are seated. There is considerable discussion concerning their identity. The fact that they are a representative group, however, seems to be clear from the parallel of the Old Testament where the priesthood was represented by twenty-four orders of priests. There were actually thousands of priests in Israel's day of ascendancy under David and Solomon, but they all could not minister at the same time. Accordingly, they were divided into twenty-four orders, each of which was represented by a priest. When these priests met together, even though there were only twenty-four, they represented the whole priesthood and at the same time the whole of the nation of Israel. In a similar way the twenty-four elders mentioned in the book of Revelation may be regarded as a representative body.

²Another option to look at, is that of it being symbolic to the number twelve, which is used to represent organized religion. God has made two covenants with man--the Law of Moses and the law of Christ. The Law of Moses was represented by the twelve tribes of Israel and the law of Christ is represented by the twelve apostles. If we take "12" the number of organized religion and double it for the two covenants, the result is "24." These twenty-four elders represent the lawgivers of the Old Testament and New Testament.

Twelve is symbolic of Divine government;

Twenty-four is symbolic of priesthood courses and order.

The elders are described as being clothed in white raiment indicating purity or cleanliness, and having on their heads crowns of gold, indicating that the elders had been rewarded for victory accomplished.

The Crowns of gold are symbolic of royalty, reigning on the throne; having authority.

4:5 And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices:

3) There's God's voice which is so commanding that it sounds like a combination of many voices and there's **lightnings and thundering**. This shows us just how majestic and awesome the voice of God is, not compared to the show on TV-The Voice. This voice brings along with it lightnings and thundering; the great pronouncements of God; His "*Will*" sounds from the throne with the speed of lighting with awesome thunder. *And His Will is done!* The events of history take place as He has ordered. This is reminiscent of God's fearful presence at Mount Sinai (Exodus 19:16-19 and 20:18-19).

Lightnings, voices, thunders are symbolic to judgment of God in earth.

4:5b ...and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of

God. ³John's attention is also directed to seven lamps of fire which are seen burning before the throne. These are identified as the seven Spirits of God mentioned earlier in 1:4 and 3:1. These are best understood as a representation of the Holy Spirit in a sevenfold way rather than seven individual spirits which would require that they be understood as seven angels. There is but One Holy Spirit. Ordinarily the Holy Spirit is not humanly visible unless embodied in some way. When the Holy Spirit descended on Christ on the occasion of His baptism, the people saw a dove descending. If it had not been for the dove, they could not have seen the Holy Spirit. In a similar way on the Day of Pentecost, the coming of the Spirit would not have been visible if it had not been for the "*cloven tongues like as of fire*" (Acts 2:3). The seven lamps of fire therefore are the means by which John is informed of the presence of the Holy Spirit. The number seven is characteristic of the perfection of the Spirit. In the heavenly scene it may be concluded on the basis of both chapters 4 and 5 that all three Persons of the Trinity are in evidence, each in His particular form of revelation.

² <http://www.scripturessay.com/article.php?cat=books&id=677&pagenumber=8>

³ <http://bible.org/seriespage/4-church-heaven>

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4:6 And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal:— There is a sea of glass stretching out before the throne. “**Like crystal**” is probably the key here. Pure crystal is completely transparent and colorless. Throughout Revelation the “**sea**” is used to represent masses of people (Rev.8:8). This must be describing a mass of people without flaws standing before the throne of God. The sea of glass symbolizes at least three things.

1. *The glassy sea* shows us the value and preciousness of God’s presence. Pure glass that was as clear as crystal was considered to be as valuable and precious as gold (Job 28:17).
2. *The glassy sea* shows us how clearly God is able to see everything that is out before His throne. It stands for omniscience and penetrating vision into all things. Nothing is hid from Him who is upon the throne of heaven.
3. *The glassy sea* shows us the spectacular purity of God, as clear and pure as perfect glass and crystal. It shows us how far away God is from the impurities of a contaminated world.

The sea of glass in heaven looked like a crystal pavement that served as the floor of God’s throne stretched out like a great glistening sea which symbolizes the tranquility of God’s presence.

4:6b ...and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind:— The picture painted in the midst, around and about the throne are four beasts. It may be understood these creatures to be cherubim; the spectacular angelic beings who surround the throne of God.

- They are positioned: They are the closest beings to God. They are the angelic beings who are posted in the middle of each side of the throne. They are the guardians of God’s throne and of His holy presence.
- Eyes are everywhere: These living creatures have eyes all over their bodies. God unceasingly exercises His omnipresence and sovereignty over Creation. They are seen all over the throne and can see everything around the throne, having greater insight and perception than any man.

All are under God’s infinite wisdom.

Four is the number for universal.

Four living beasts are symbolic to four standards of Israel.

Full of eyes is symbolic to sight, perfection of insight.

4:7 And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle. Who are these living beings who are privileged to be in God’s presence day and night, and to declare His majestic holiness? These being who never have to leave God’s presence, not even for a moment undoubtedly are beings who were created for this very purpose. They seem to be similar to the same beings as the cherubim seen in Ezekiel’s vision (Eze.1:5) and the seraphim seen in Isaiah’s vision (Is.6:1-3). They share features of the seraphim and cherubim, and yet even their similarities are not consistent. Many commentators offer a variety of explanations. Many things on earth are given to us as “*shadows*” or “*copies*” of greater heavenly realities. Some things He just do not reveal right away. But, they are certainly amazing and very powerful.

Note: John chooses certain animals on earth to describe certain characteristics that he notices. These 4 creatures represent the four fold division of animal life mentioned in Genesis 9.

- One being (*wild animal like*) was like a lion: symbolizes king of beasts; royalty; power; majesty; supremacy.
- One being (*domestic animal like*) was like a calf (ox): symbolizes king of domestics; sacrifice; endurance; strength.
- One being (*human like*) had the face of a man: symbolizes creation; intelligence.
- One being (*bird like*) was like a flying eagle: symbolizes king of birds; heavenliness; swiftness; speed in execution of judgment.

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The emphasis is upon the nature of these living creatures may simply represent aspects of God's attributes.

- They are always found near the throne of God (Rev. 4:6; 5:6; 14:3).
- They have six wings and are full of eyes (Rev.4:6, 8).
- Their function has to do with the holiness and wrath of God (Rev.6:1, 7; 15:7).
- They declare the holiness of God day and night (Rev.4:8).

4:8 And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within:—

The four beasts are only compared to the seraphim, in having six wings. Describing them...

- with two of which they cover their faces because they dared not gaze directly at God's glory which would be too powerful to behold;
- and with the two to cover their feet, acknowledging their lowliness even though engaged in divine service to God;
- and with two they flew in serving the One on the throne.

The Seraphim's position is flying above God's throne calling them "*burning ones; fiery one*" or *nobles* in Isaiah 6:2; unlike the Cherubim who are beside and around it. The eyes of the **four beasts** were round the outside of each wing, and up the inside of each, when half expanded, and of the part of body in that inward recess. These creatures swiftly have constant observance and knowledge of the affairs of the earth on behalf of God, plus their spiritual perception of God's governmental purposes and acts. They stand for all that God is.

4:8b ...and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come. So, the **four beasts'** primary duty is to constantly glorify and praise God with the eternal song "*Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.*" John's vision shows us that all of nature owes its worship to God, both animal and man. They seem to be in motion, moving through every place. Their wings would emphasize their quickness and availability in service to the One sitting on the throne. We can also say that this is very much like Ezekiel's description (Ezk.10:5) of the cherubs moving around the throne of God. John's object is to show that the six wings in each did not interfere with that which he had before declared, namely, that they were "*full of eyes before and behind.*" Their praise and worship never ends. Untiring and without interruption, they worship, ascribing the Triune God. Worship is going on! This is true worship. Remember, there is no night in heaven. The word "*holy*" is used three times here. The triple "*Holy, Holy, Holy*" also speaks of the "*Trinity.*"

Worship is to be a complete investment of our entire self. Worship is seeing God in His holiness, acknowledging that He is so far and above us; the One who created us, that it would be a sin not to fall prostrate in reverence. The cherubim act as guardian spirits. The four beasts declare "*holy, holy, holy; that the Lord God is Almighty, the One who has His hands on everything; which was and is and is to come.*" This last part is also from Revelation 1:8, and refers to God's eternal Being. It translates the thought behind the meaning of the name "*Yahweh.*" There is a steady flow of praise and worship, nothing broken and no pauses. Can you imagine? What an indictment against man! How little we praise and worship God—I mean, truly praise and worship Him.

4:9 And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever,— Here, we are once more pointing to the worshipful activity of these four awesome and holy living beings; symbols of power and holiness. All through Revelation God's eternity is expressed (also in 10:6; 15:7). And as they *give glory and honor and thanks unto God*, that triggers another group to <http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>

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express the same glory, honor, and thanks. All of a sudden the quartet began and then it sets in motion the accompanying worshipers.

4:10 The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying,— It's repetitive.

The four beasts *gty* Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come: glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever: **Then:** The four and twenty elders **fall** down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and **cast** their crowns before the throne.

Can you see it happening over and over in heaven? This is the vision John saw of the future. He was seeing what will happen before it has happened; he's seeing what hasn't happened but it will! How amazing is this? I'm just so excited about it as I read it; as God is opening up my eyes to it! These twenty-four elders begin to worship God as well. So the motion of this begins to build around the throne. In their worship:

- 1) The twenty elders show subjection and subservience. They fall down before the throne of God. They yield all they are and have to Him. What a lesson to us: How we must learn how great God is—that He dwells in such glory and majesty, dominion, and power. We owe Him our lives and our all.
- 2) The twenty elders worship God as the Eternal God. He alone is our hope, for living forever. If we fail to worship Him in spirit and in truth, then we shall miss eternal splendor of life with Him.

These twenty-four elders must represent the spiritual laws: the Old and the New. They do a most amazing thing. ⁴These elders worship God just as the four living creatures do in verse 8. This shows that these two laws came directly from God. The Law of Moses was given directly to the twelve tribes of Israel, but the law of Christ was given to all mankind through the twelve apostles. When Christ came, He fulfilled the Old Law and established the New. The law which Christ gave is the method whereby mankind can be spiritually acceptable to God. I've also talked about them in 4:4.

At the end of verse 10, they cast their crowns before the throne. These "crowns" (*stephanous*) indicate achievement and victory (Rev 2:10; 3:11) or rewards. *Casting their crowns at His feet symbolizes the willing subjection of their power to His superior authority.* ⁵They have received whatever is involved in *the crown of life, the incorruptible crown, the crown of rejoicing, the glory crown, the victory crown, the runner's crown.* Instantaneously, however, when the worship crescendo begins, and as it becomes time to unfold judgment, lost in love and wonder, lost in praise they divest themselves of all honor and cast it all at the feet of their King. It's a voluntary surrender. Indeed the desire to present one's life work of faithful service as a gift to the Savior is a very unselfish and God-honoring motive.

4:11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created. The elders' song is similar to that of the four living beasts, but it focuses more on the wonders of God's creation, as the evidence of His glory and power. In their worship:

- 3) The twenty –four elders show the supreme worthiness of the Lord. They cast their crowns before the Lord to show that He alone is worthy and they are acknowledging the truth forever and ever.
- 4) The twenty –four elders vocally declare His worthiness and they praise Him as the Lord God of the universe and of Creation.

God deserves our praise. He carries the highest degree of merit or worth. No one can compare to Him. He meets

⁴ <http://www.scripturessay.com/article.php?cat=books&id=677&pagenumber=8>

⁵ <http://www.gty.org/Resources/Sermons/66-19>

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all our expectations. Therefore, the elders ascribe three affirmations to God: glory, honour and power, as do the four beasts: glory, honour, and thanks. They agree on two things—glory and honour. "*Glory*" is the manifestation of His essence and actions. "*Honor*" is reverence for what we see in God. "*Power*" is God's ability to execute His plans. The elders are really saying, *God You created all things; by His will they exist; and it is for His good pleasure!* (NKJV).

SUMMARY:

John on the isle of Patmos is given these visions or revelations into a glimpse of glory in heaven, where future things to come unfolds before His very eyes. The most spectacular vision is seeing the throne of God and seeing the One who sits on the throne. This is John's second vision. ⁶Upon seeing a door standing open in heaven and hearing a trumpet-like voice promising to show him of things which must take place, John is immediately in the Spirit looking into the throne room of God (**4:1-2**).

John sees someone seated on a throne. John's description of what he sees through the open door in heaven shows how awesome the presence of God is. He has the appearance of precious stones like jasper and sardine stone with an emerald rainbow above the throne. John sees many creatures surrounding the throne: twenty four elders sitting clothed in white raiment having crowns of gold on their heads. And out of the throne came thunder and lightning and voices. John could see seven lamps of fire burning before the throne which are the seven Spirits of God. A sea of glass like crystal is in the midst of the throne, and around the throne were four beasts full of eyes in the front and back. The first beast was like a lion, the second beast was like a calf, the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle. They all had six wings and each was full of eyes around and within (**4:3-8b**).

The four beasts declare "*holy, holy, holy*; that the Lord *God is Almighty*, the One who has His hand on everything; *which was and is and is to come*" without rest. As the four living creatures praise Him who sits on the throne, the twenty-four elders join in by falling down, casting their crowns before the throne, and praising God as the Eternal Creator. They show the supreme worthiness of the Lord. He is the one who created all things by declaring "*Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created*" (**4:8b-11**).

APPLICATION:

God wants us to be passionate about the praise you give to Him just as those in heaven. Start on earth to be ready for heaven. "*Your Will be done on earth as it is in heaven*" teaches that it will come to pass, so get ready.

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⁶ http://executableoutlines.com/rev/rev_04.htm
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>

REVELATION 5:1-14

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INTRODUCTION:

"**Revelation**" means an unveiling of things previously concealed, therefore, this book is revealing previously concealed information. The purpose is to reveal the full identity of Christ. John the author is on the isle of Patmos, and writes what is revealed to him of what is going on in heaven—things that are happening and things that will happen later. He is caught up into heaven where he sees a vision of God Almighty on the throne where He gives a scroll with seven seals to the Worthy Lamb.

5:1 And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals. John continues his description of his heavenly vision. *"Him that sat on the throne is the Father."* The Father's position is Administrator. The term *"God's right hand"* refers to authority and power.

1. The book He's holding is in His right hand.
 - It has never been opened.
 - It is kept with utmost secrecy; not known by man until God Himself is ready to reveal all.
 - What He wills for those who have rejected and cursed Him.
 - What He wills for those who have accepted and worshipped Him.
2. The book He's holding is known as a scroll, with writing on the inside (within) and on the back (outside).
3. The book He's holding is sealed with seven seals. It's large, not just one seal could hold it, but sealed with seven seals. These seals each represent a particular judgment...the judgments that begins in chapter 6.

In John's day, books were written on scrolls, long and rolled up having the last sheet exposed. After rolling the scroll, it is sealed with clay or a wax seal. Some scrolls may have more than one seal, like the seven seals which had to be broken in order to unroll the parchment. Each seal opens a section of the scroll. *When the first seal was opened a certain portion of the book was exposed to view, and so with each one following. When the seventh seal was broken then the entire book would have been unrolled.*

5:2 And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, **Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?** A mighty angel begins to shout with a loud voice, asking who is able to break the seals and open the scroll. There is a search for one who is worthy to open the book. Although the one proclaiming was a strong angel, he was neither worthy to open the book nor break the seals. It is saying, who is the rightful heir; who has the title to break the seals; who can take the title-deed and claim the property or the world?

5:3 And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon. The search fails. There just was no angel, no created being, no human being, no creature, no spirit being, and no man perfect to open the scroll any place; no man was worthy to approach God and execute His Will throughout the universe—no man in heaven—none in earth—none under the earth.

5:4 And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon. John breaks down and cries. Why?

- At this point, John saw the greatness of God, the supreme majesty and glory of God, and none

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could touch His book, and he cried.

- At this point John would not be able to see the future because no one was found worthy; no man was able to approach God and open the book. This is history written before it happens and he would not be able to see it, and he cried.

5:5 **And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.** All of a sudden one of the 24 elders, who were representatives of the church, steps forth and tells John to stop weeping, for he proclaims that there is One found to open the book, and to oversee the climactic events of the end time. He is known as...

1. **The Lion of the tribe of Judah.** This is the title of the Messiah. The symbol of the lion shows that He is the strongest and most powerful member of the tribe of Israel, which is Judah. The tribe of Judah was the tribe of David from which the kingly line proceeded.
2. **The Root of David.** The Messiah was to be of the household of David, of the root and seed of Jesse, of his family tree, of his blood, of his stem—the prophesied Son of David—the Messiah. **Rev.22:16** testifies of this.
3. **The One who has prevailed.** What has He prevailed over?
 - He has conquered sin. • He has conquered death. • He has conquered this evil world.
 - He has conquered Satan and all other evil forces • He has conquered all rule and authority and power. • He has conquered Hell.

Therefore, the person who opens this book must be the person who went to Calvary's cross, died, was buried, but got up. By dying on the cross He purchased the entire world to be His own. It was His when He created it and it is His for He purchased it back with His blood from the enemy, Satan, when man had forfeited it. Jesus Christ is the only One who can grasp exactly what the Book is saying, and carry out and execute the events. The only One Person who is able to do this is no mere man but, He is the Son of God Himself, the Lord Jesus Christ!

5:6 **And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.** This is a supreme moment for John as he beholds the Lamb of God standing in heaven in the midst of the throne, and in the midst of the elders. He was expecting to see a kingly lion but he sees a slain lamb! The Lamb is now become the focus of John's vision. At this time He was not like a lion (symbolizing His authority and power) but like a lamb (symbolizing His humble submission). He is a lion to conquer Satan, a lamb to satisfy the justice of God, but they are One! He sees...

- The "**four beasts**" or "**living creatures**" probably not real animals, but Beings guarding and leading others in worship and proclaiming God's holiness. These four Beings are (**Rev.4:7**) **like a lion**—majesty and power), **like an ox**—endurance), **like a man**—intelligence), and **like a flying eagle**—swiftness).
- The "**elders.**" The 24 elders in the mist would fall down before the throne.
- The "**slain Lamb**" having seven horns and seven eyes. "**Slain**" means **His crucified body**. He was not dead for He was standing and alive in the midst of the throne, with those surrounding the throne. He had gone through the suffering, pain, agony, and humiliation for us. He was the Perfect sacrifice for our sins. This is the reason Jesus Christ stands in the center stage of heaven. He stands as One who has loved and given Himself for us. He stands as the slain Lamb of God who has taken away the sins of the world (**Jh.1:29**).
 - The "**seven horns**" **symbolize strength and power**. He is Omnipotent, all powerful! "**Seven**" means perfection; completeness. "*All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth*" **MATT.28:18**. He is

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the Lord's servant, the Messiah who was led to the slaughter bearing the iniquity of others.

- The **"seven eyes" speak of complete wisdom, perfect knowledge.** The Lamb is all-knowing — Omniscient! *"For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show himself strong in behalf of them whose heart is perfect towards him"* **2 Chron.16:9.** They represent the *"seven Spirits of God"* sent forth in all the earth.

Seven horns and seven eyes means He has completed His task which means He has complete power and wisdom which causes us to have complete victory!

Rev.4:5 says *"...and there are seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God."*

⁷These are best understood as a representation of the Holy Spirit in a sevenfold way rather than seven individual spirits. There is but One Holy Spirit. The seven lamps of fire therefore are the means by which John is informed of the presence of the Holy Spirit. In the heavenly scene it may be concluded on the basis of both chapters 4 and 5 that all three Persons of the Trinity are in evidence, each in His particular form of revelation.

5:7 **And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne.** The Son always acknowledged the Father and the Father always acknowledged the Son. In **Ps.110:1**, it says *"The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool."* So therefore, Jesus acknowledges God in **Rev.1:1** *"The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto Him..."* God and Jesus Christ are One. The two aspects are: God is sitting on the throne and the Lamb is seen standing in this chapter. Jesus comes and takes the scroll out of the hand of the Father. His work of redemption is done. He receives all authority. This is how John sees it. He will now execute judgment on the world. He has the authority to do so.

- He has Authority over the end of the world.
- And He is ready to carry out and execute the events.

5:8 **And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.** As soon as Jesus took the book, He assumed authority, and all of heaven and earth breaks loose in song of praise and adoration: men (**5:8**), angels (**5:11**), and of every creature (**5:13**) praise and adore Him! There were five waves of praise and worship going on, that is, when one finishes, the other begins. My God!

- I. The **first wave began** with **the four beasts and four and twenty elders.** They **fell down** before the Lamb **praising Him having musical instruments of harps and golden vials full of odours, which were filled with the prayers of saints** which ascended upwards with a sweet smell.

"For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee will bow to me, and every tongue confess to God"
Rom.14:11.

5:9 **And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;—** At this point,

- II. The **second wave** came forth from **the four beasts and four and twenty elders singing a new song.** A new turn of events had occurred! In this new song they are now **singing of the worthiness of Jesus—** which is a reason why the Lamb could only take the scroll.

1. **He is the One that was slain for man.**—⁸He died and He overcame death. Now, He's alive and

⁷ <http://bible.org/seriespage/4-church-heaven>

⁸ <http://www.easyenglish.info/bible-commentary/revelation-lbw.htm>

<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>

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He will always live.

2. **He is the One that has redeemed us to God by His blood.** We came out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation. ²When Christ died, He took away the sins of the people. By His death, He purchased His people back for God. That's why the song says that:

"You are worthy to take the book; You are worthy to open the seals, for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation."

No one else could have done it— His blood went beyond any barrier! There is no prejudice or discrimination with Christ; no favorites and no partiality. They come from all the countries of the world. No one is beyond His reach.

5:10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth. The song continues:

"You have made kings and priests of God who shall reign on earth." No one else could do this. He is the One who ²made God's people a kingdom and priests to reign on earth, serving Him.

5:11 And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands;—

There were many angels around the throne, along with the beasts and elders. Their number is astounding. We can't even imagine the innumerable number of angels 10,000 X 10,000=100million & thousands of thousands. Angels are spiritual beings: They bring messages (**Lk.1:26**); protect God's people (**DAN.6:22**); offer encouragement (**GEN.16:7**); give guidance (**EXO.14:19**); bring punishment (**2SAM.24:16**); patrol the earth (**EZ.1:9-14**); and fight the forces of evil (**2KGS.6:16-18, REV.20:1**). The angels here are the good angels, a number too large to count.

5:12 Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. After the 4 beasts and 24 elders fell down (**5:8**), broke out with musical instruments (**5:8**), and sung a new song (**5:9-10**),

III. The **third wave** came forth from **the angels** (**5:11-12**) with a loud voice of praise and worship. They were all on one accord saying

"Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing." We see seven points of praise and worship to their song unto the Lamb.

1. **power**— They praise Him for His power. He is Omnipotent; able to open God's book and carry out and execute God's Will.
2. **riches**— They praise Him for His riches. He possesses the wealth to meet any need throughout the universe; any need that we or any other creature may need.
3. **wisdom**— They praise Him for His wisdom. He is Omniscient, seeing all and knowing all. He knows all about God and heaven, and all about us and our world with all its temptations and trials.
4. **strength**— They praise Him for His strength. He has infinite strength. All He has to do is speak the Word and His will is done.
5. **honour**— They praise Him for His honor. He is the Son of God possessing the very nature of God!
6. **glory**— They praise Him for His glory. He is the Supreme Glory. His glory shines brighter than the sun to give light in the spiritual world or dimension. In Him is no flaw or defect whatsoever.
7. **blessing**— They praise Him for His blessings. All blessings have come from Him. He deserves all the blessings that heaven and earth can give, for He has blessed all.

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5:13 And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, **Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.**

IV. The **fourth wave** came from **every creature** in heaven, on the earth, under the earth, and in the sea saying,

"Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power to Him (the Lamb) who sits upon the throne to the Lamb for ever and ever."

Never has there been a chorus of worship as will be seen in the glorious Day of Redemption, when all creation shall praise Him, for He is worthy to step forward and take the Book of destiny, and He is worthy to rule and reign over all history, both now and in the last days throughout all of eternity, world without end.

5:14 And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.

V. The **fifth wave** concludes with a single word: **Amen** from the **four beasts**. And with full circle, the **four and twenty elders** all begin again as they fall down and worship the One that lives forever and ever as done in the first wave.

Now, I believe this praise is a continuous wave going on now in heaven. They all occur in parts or segments and we will be able to see all of this with our eyes, and will participate, in the end! Hallelujah!

SUMMARY:

John looked and saw in the mist of the throne a Lamb standing before the four beasts and the twenty-four Elders. The Lamb had been slain; the wounds that once had caused His death. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which represent the sevenfold Spirits of God, sent out into every part of the world. The Lamb who was worthy stepped forward and took the scroll from the right hand of the One sitting upon the throne. And as He took the scroll, the four beasts and twenty-four Elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp and golden vials filled with incense representing the prayers of God's people (**5:6-8**).

They were singing to Him a new song with these words: *"You are worthy to take the scroll and break its seals and open it; for you were slain, and your blood has bought people from every nation as gifts for God. And you have gathered them into a kingdom and made them priests of our God; they shall reign upon the earth"* (**5:9-10**).

Then in John's vision, he heard the singing of millions of angels surrounding the throne, and the Living Beings and the Elders: with loud voices they sang *"The Lamb is worthy, the Lamb who was slain. He is worthy to receive the power, and the riches, and the wisdom, and the strength, and the honor, and the glory, and the blessing."* And he heard everyone in heaven and earth, and from the dead beneath the earth and in the sea, exclaiming, *"The blessing and the honor and the glory and the power belong to the one sitting on the throne, and to the Lamb forever and ever."* Then, while the four beasts say **"Amen"**, the four and twenty elders begin again to fall down and worship the One that lives forever and ever. There is a continuous wave of praise and worship going on now in heaven (**5:11-14**).

APPLICATION:

[TOP](#)

The only One who is the way, the truth, and the life, is the One who has the victory. We can celebrate Him at all times!
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>

SYNOPSIS:

At the end of **Chapter 6**, "*For the great day of his wrath is come:*" the question is asked, "**Who is able to stand?**" **Chapter 7** then answers the question in some detail; showing not simply who can stand, but how. Jesus Christ is holding the great book of God in His hands, the Book of Destiny, the book that tells what is to happen at the end of the world. The book is so important and so secretive that God has it bound with seven seals until it is time for it to be opened. Remember: the events have not yet happened upon earth. They are things that are to happen in the end time. But God has given us a glimpse into the things. Why? - To warn us to turn to His Son. Christ alone can save us from the judgment to come. Chapter 6 shows where Jesus Christ has just broken open six of the seals. When He broke them open, the four horsemen of the Apocalypse were seen storming across the face of the earth with their terror and devastation. We have seen how the four horsemen represent the wars and killing, famine and pestilence, hunger and starvation, death and hell that the antichrist will unleash upon the earth. We have seen how evil will mass together every force of demonic power it can in order to make a final assault upon the earth. And we have seen that the destructive catastrophic devastation of evil unleashed upon the earth. But to our horror, this is not all. God's great book declares this is just the beginning of sorrows and woes. But this terrible devastation, as horrible as it is, is nothing compared to what is yet to come. When all the judgments have fallen, the earth and the world shall be utterly destroyed. How it is to happen will be seen when the seventh seal is broken open. When the seventh seal is broken, the seven seal judgments are over; the period of history that will be know as the beginning of sorrows and woes will be finished. Both the great tribulation itself will be launched by the seventh seal.

- The great tribulation that will witness the shattering blast of seven trumpets of judgment.
- The great tribulation that will witness the wrath of seven bowls of judgment poured out upon the earth.

Now back to that question: "Will anyone be saved through such terrible days?" "*Can anyone survive such terrible happenings?*" As scripture itself has just asked: "*The great day of God's wrath is come...who shall be able to stand?*" Yes! There is to be a remnant of Israel saved—144,000 Jews shall be saved.

Comparison Between to the Two Groups Described in Revelation 7

- The winds of judgment are in the hands of God and His angels, not in the hands of evil (**7:1-2**). The four angels are standing on four corners of the earth, "holding back" the four winds. Another angel arrives on the scene carrying the seal of the living God.
- God will give the most wonderful command: to delay the judgments until God's people can be sealed (**7:2-3**). This shows that this angel comes with the power and authority of God Almighty. His job is to "seal" the bond-servants of God. They are called "bond servants" or "servants" (KJV) because throughout the Tribulation they will be serving the Lord as the great evangelists. The seal is stated to be on their foreheads and will probably include special impartation of the Holy Spirit for their specific service for God. God will not destroy this world, or let it be destroyed, until every soul who is searching for Him comes to obedience, or until all the "bond-servants of God" are sealed.

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- God will give the wonderful counsel to seal 144,000 Jews from all the tribes of Israel (**7:4-8**). This means they are the first converts after the Tribulation begins. It was their personal redemption. These became the servants of God and God's people. The sealing guaranteed their physical and spiritual protection. It may also point to their protection from the apostasy and deceptions of the beast. We must remind ourselves that Revelation uses numbers in a figurative way to symbolically describe something without consideration of the numerical value. In verses 5 through 8 there is a listing of the 12 tribes of Israel, and twelve thousand are sealed from each tribe. The first thing we notice about this list is that it is not the literal 12 tribes of Israel we have recorded in our Old Testaments. The tribe of Joseph is mentioned. There was no tribe of Joseph. The tribes of Dan and Ephraim are omitted and Levi is added. If these are to be understood as the literal tribes of Israel that we must conclude that no one is saved from the tribes of Dan and Ephraim and those in the tribes of Joseph and Manasses would be included twice.

7:9 **After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude which no man could number:—** After the above vision concerning verses 1-8: the sealing and salvation of the 144,000 Jews, John looked and saw another awesome sight—an innumerable multitude. The great multitude is innumerable, whereas the witnesses from Israel were exactly numbered. ⁹Here is a second group who will survive the time of God's wrath. They have successfully applied the teaching of Jesus: "*Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell*" (*Matt.10:28*). This multitude pertains to martyrs who gave their lives for the Lord Jesus Christ in the Great Tribulation. This innumerable company of believers indicates an innumerable company of people who come to faith in Christ during the time of the end.

7:9b **...of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb,—** Evidently, by this time, the gospel message has indeed been preached "*in all the world, as a witness to all nations*" so that shortly "*the end will come.*" If the scene shown John includes future saints which have yet to die in the judgments or persecution about to come, then they will have heard the preaching of the divinely commissioned angel "*having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people*" *Rev.14:6*. The emphasis is on "all" meaning not excluding any nation, kindred/tribe, people, tongue; both of OT and NT indicate that multitudes of non-Jews will join with the believing Jewish remnant in seeking the Lamb. This will be an innumerable number beyond human computation.

7:9c **...clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands:—** Like the martyrs of the fifth seal (*Rev.6:9-11*), they will be **clothed in white** which **is a symbol of purity and holiness**. This means they have been made pure and free from all the blemishes of sin and from all the corruption of the world—all by the righteousness of Jesus Christ; they have been perfected and stand before God perfected. The use of **palm branches** according to ancient traditions **symbolized festive celebration, joy, and worship** as well as **deliverance, victory, and triumph**. Here, with palm branches in their hands, they are the redeemed before God, celebrating their triumph over the terrible Tribulation and the sin, evil, death, and corruption of the world; they are filled with joy to be the blood bought multitude in the presence of the Lamb.

7:10 **And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb:—** They have much to be joyful about! These, praise Jesus the Lamb intensely as the people

⁹ http://www.spiritandtruth.org/teaching/Book_of_Revelation/commentary/htm/030709.htm#3.7.9
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>

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praised the Jesus the King at His first appearance into Jerusalem—"Salvation belongs to the Son of David!" They praise God...

- because God has saved and delivered them through the great trials upon earth.
- because God has given them the power to believe and to endure to the end.
- because God has accepted them.
- because God has completed their salvation; perfected them forever and ever with His glory.

To much is given, will cry the loudest! "Cry out" is the Greek word *krazw*, meaning "to cry aloud," but here it is a cry of joy and loud jubilation over their salvation—"Salvation To Our God!" They shout and praise God and Christ as One! This should be the constant praise offered by God's people today. But some people don't think it takes all of that. But do you see the magnitude up in heaven before the throne of God. There is no saying 'I'm tired'; 'I don't feel like it'; 'I praise Him my way!' No! No! No! Can you imagine a great multitude standing before the throne of God, clothed in white robes, holding palm branches, and shouting praises for their salvation in honor and adoration unto God? We always sing that song "I want to be in that number!" Well this is the number to be in and you see what it will take to be in that number! Stay with me, it's getting better!

7:11 And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God:— this is a picture of wave after wave of different beings standing in circles before the throne of God.

- The outer circle are the angels. Note, they surround or encircle the throne.
- Next come the twenty four elders.
- Then there are the four living creatures who stand at the four corners of the throne.
- Finally, there is the number of multitude of believers who stand face to face with the throne of God and the Lamb.

The numberless multitude has just sung their praises to God for His great salvation. When they do, the rest of the heavenly beings fall down before the throne on their faces and worship God. ¹⁰Angels are always seen in attendance to God, obeying His will, or in the worship of God's Person and work as in creation (Job 38:1-7), or as in man's salvation (Luke 2:13-14). More particularly, the angels rejoice over the salvation of sinners (Luke 15:8-10).

7:12 Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.

1. They praise God for His **blessing**. Every good and perfect gift comes from God. These heavenly beings acknowledge this fact and bless God's name for it.
2. They praise God for His **glory**. God is glorious. It is the light of His glory that will provide the light of heaven. God is to be praised for the perfection of His glory as well as for His own glory.
3. They praise God for His **wisdom**. God is the Supreme and Majestic Intelligence of the universe. He is Omniscient, possessing all intelligence and perfect intelligence. It is God who planned creation and all the worlds and creatures of all dimensions whoever they are. It is God who planned Salvation and redemption through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. It is God who has the knowledge to work all things out for good. He is to be praised for His wisdom.
4. They offer **thanksgiving** to God. They thank Him for creation, life, salvation, redemption, and for everything else. Again, they know that every good and perfect gift came from God.
5. They praise God for His **honour**. God is the Supreme and Majestic Being of the universe. There is

¹⁰ <http://bible.org/seriespage/redeemed-tribulation-rev-71-17>

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none like Him. In addition, God is faithful and true. He never fails to keep His Word and promises nor to do what is best. He is the perfection of honor and truth and trustworthiness. Therefore, God's honor is praised.

6. They praise God for His **power**. God is the Supreme and Majestic Force of the universe. He is the Force that created the universe and that sustains and holds it together and that is moving it toward its destined end. In addition, God is the Supreme Force that works out the salvation and redemption of man and works out all things for good to those who love Him. He is the Supreme Power who oversees our lives from evil, death, and corruption. Therefore, God is praised for His power.
7. They praise God for His **might** and strength. God is strong. He never tires or becomes weary. There is no weakness in Him whatsoever. God is so strong that He is always able to help any of His creatures at anytime; anyone can approach God anytime for strength and receive His help. God never fails; He possesses perfect strength and shall possess it forever and ever. Therefore, God's strength is praised.

This blessing is a sevenfold blessing indicating completeness: "*blessing, glory, wisdom, thanksgiving, honor, power, might.*" And there is an "Amen" to begin and an "Amen" to end it. As these other created beings hear the worship the great multitude brings to God, they see more clearly the power and wisdom and majesty of God. They can worship God all the more by seeing the salvation He brought to the great multitude.

7:13 And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?— The words, "*and one of the elders answered,*" indicates that John had been puzzled over the identity of this group, and God, who knows our thoughts, answers John's question. The answer comes first through a question followed by more particulars about the multitude. The numberless multitude has not yet been identified. Now they are as the elder asks the question of John. John is so stunned and amazed by the sight and praise of the heavenly scene, he probably wanted to know the answer and it was important that John knew the identity of this great multitude.

7:14 And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me:— John does not know but the elder does. He was only arousing John out of his stunned state of mind. (I've already given the answer in verse 9, but here's a short version in case you missed it).

7:14b These are they which came out of great tribulation:— "*The Great Tribulation*" is yet in the future. It points to a definite prophetic period, and not simply to tribulation in general in which all saints shared. "*The Great Tribulation*" cannot be the general troubles that affect God's people no matter the age. This would point to and mean that the antichrist has killed them. He has launched an all out attack against Christ, attempting to wipe the believer from off the face of the earth. And that means the antichrist wants the believer to deny Christ or else be put to death. All those who are true believers will refuse the antichrist and acknowledge Jesus Christ because they love the Lord with all their heart and they have the glorious hope of living with Christ forever and ever, worshipping and serving Him in perfection throughout all of eternity.

7:14c ...and have washed their robes:— These saints were not believers from the church age. You've got to remember they came out of the "*Great Tribulation*" period. These are the martyrs killed in the last three and one half years of the Tribulation. We all die and end up in the grave. How then did these martyrs—the believers of the numberless multitude get white robes? What happens is this: when we believe in Jesus Christ, God takes our faith and counts it as the sacrifice of Christ. This means that we are free from sin. We stand sinless before God, acceptable to Him—all because Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, removed our sins

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from us. We are cleansed from sin by the sacrifice of Christ. We are made perfectly righteous by the sacrifice of Christ. Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God who has taken away our sin and clothed us in the white robes of righteousness before God. What a paradox: white robes made white by blood.

7:14d ...and made them white in the blood of the Lamb:— When Jesus, the Lamb shed His blood, it made it possible that the person would have no spot of sin, evil, or corruption in him. They would be clean and pure from all defilement and sin and imperfection. White stands for purity and perfection. We often sing the hymn: What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus. It is truly the blood of Jesus, and nothing else. I'm so glad He went to the cross for us. Therefore, that's how the church should be—"*that He might present to Himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish*" Eph.5:27—be washed in His blood by trusting what He has done on the cross to cover all our sin.

¹¹This symbolism is parallel to the likeness of Moses delivering the children of Israel from physical bondage. As Moses, who is the likeness of Christ delivered physical Israel from bondage in Egypt, Christ delivers mankind from the spiritual bondage of sin. Moses led his people across the Red Sea, and Christ leads mankind out of the bondage of sin through the red sea of His blood.

7:15 Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple:— Where are these redeemed standing? Now observe closely: they are in heaven, not on earth, before the throne. There is still a function for the numberless multitude. They serve God continually, day and night. Because of the blood of Christ we have access to the throne of God. Under the old Law, the people of Israel did not have this privilege, it was necessary for them to go through the High Priest to have access to God. Since these verses are often applied to heaven it is difficult to get people to understand that we are dealing with figurative language which applies in a symbolic way to God's relationship to His people today. These things will certainly be true of Heaven, our eternal home, but they have application in a spiritual way today in the church.

7:15b ...and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. "*Dwell*" means "*to literally live or camp in a tent.*" Used by John of Jesus' incarnation: "*the Word became flesh and dwelt among us*" Jh.1:14. We will have the living presence of God with us forever. The presence of God will actually be manifested to the believer unceasingly. The multitude's enduring faith in the midst of the Great Tribulation provides a great testimony to the power of God and results in His dwelling among them. God spreads his tent over these martyrs to protect them with His presence. God's presence protects these saints perpetually. They no longer need to fear any trouble. They realize the ultimate goal of the eternal state: "*And I John saw the Holy City, New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great Voice out of Heaven saying, Behold, the Tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be with them, and be their God*" Rev.21:2-3. God will be dwelling, living, moving, and having His being in the believer in an unbroken communion and fellowship.

7:16 They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more:— They will have all their physical needs met. "*Hunger and thirst*" stand for all the physical necessities of life that they lacked when upon earth. Many will suffer terribly.

- They will be placed in extermination camps by the antichrist and his government.

¹¹ <http://www.scripturessay.com/article.php?cat=books&id=677&pagenumber=12>
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>

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- They will be starved to death. Some will be forced to flee their homes and belongings (Mk.13:15-16).
- They will starve to death while trying to scratch food out of the forests.
 - ¹²The people in white robes were martyrs who suffered hunger, thirst and exposure. In the Tribulation, believers will go without food because of a mark offered them by world religion. If they have this mark, they can buy food. Many will starve to death because they do not accept the mark.

Such scenes as above are often seen on television. But in heaven, the believer will have all their needs met. Christians need not hunger or thirst physically nor spiritually because Christ is our source. We can be filled; have refuge and protection from the storm. Faithfulness is the key and knowing who we belong to. John was "*in the Spirit on the Lord's Day*." He had not wavered but increased spiritually having the appearance of the Lord Jesus Christ before him in a vision. After such a vision, you can't help but know where to look in times of trouble and you'll begin to worship as in the heavenly scene.

7:16b ...neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat:— They will be protected. This is the symbol of the sun and heat. This is a perfect environment!

7:17 For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes:— Not only did the Lamb save them but He as the Shepherd will feed, lead, and God wipes away tears. All things causing sorrow will be forever gone.

SUMMARY:

¹³The second vision reveals a large innumerable multitude of all nations standing before the throne and the Lamb. Clothed with white robes and palm branches in their hands, they cry out "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" They are joined in their praise by angels, the elders, and four living creatures. John is then told by one of the elders that those arrayed in white robes have come out of the great tribulation, with their robes are washed and made white in the blood of the Lamb. Before the throne of God, they serve Him day and night in His temple. Future blessings are then described: God will dwell among them; they shall be free from hunger, thirst, and the heat of the sun. The Lamb will shepherd them and lead them to fountains of living waters, and God will wipe all tears from their eyes. You've got to remember there is a victory coming and is already come! (**7:9-17**).

APPLICATION:

The emphasis is on the One sitting on the Throne. Praise and Worship unto Him will always lead you through that time of trouble. This battle you win, when you "*don't deny Christ!*"

[TOP](#)

¹² <http://versebyversecommentary.com/1998/12/14/revelation-713-17/>

¹³ http://executableoutlines.com/rev/rev_07.htm

<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>

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REVELATION 21:1-27

[NEXT](#) 22:1-21

INTRODUCTION:

In this Book of Prophecy, God reveals many things to John but the focus of its revelation is Jesus Christ as the conclusion, completion and consummation of the whole Bible. We find that in the very first chapter of Revelation John is the writer who was exiled to the Isle of Patmos by the Roman Emperor Domitian because Emperor Domitian demanded that all Romans publicly call him "Lord" and declare him divine. The punishment for refusing to do so is banishment, torture, or death

Chapter 20 ¹⁴closes with a description of the final judgment with John seeing Him who sat on the "Great White Throne" (the Lord Jesus Christ) judging all the dead; the dead, small and great, standing before God, while Books are opened, including the "Book of Life." All the dead were being judged, each according to the deeds they had done. None escapes the judgment, for the sea, the earth, and Hades gave up their dead who were in it. And Death and Hades were thrown into the "Lake of Fire", described as the "second death." Anyone not found written in the "Book of Life" were cast into the "Lake of Fire" (20:11-15).

21:1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea:— This passage is connected with the end of chapter 20 by the word "then", (from the AMP) indicating a continuation of the chronological progression of events in John's vision— what he saw. At this point, John is speaking of what he sees; events that will follow the Millennium and reach into eternity. A new heaven replaced the old heaven. A new earth replaced the old earth. The old heaven and earth will not exist because they are passed away, including the sea. ¹⁵"New" (*kainos*) pertains "to having been in existence for only a short time – new, recent (*Louw-Nida, § 67.115*)." This is a clear reference to the final destruction of the present earth.

¹⁶The Bible really uses heaven in three distinct ways. The **first heaven** could easily be rendered *firmament* and corresponds to what we would describe as the atmosphere. Thus we get the *fowls of heaven* [Gen.7:23] and the *eagles of heaven* [Lam.4:19].

The **second heaven** we would term *space*. Thus we read of the sun, moon and *host of heaven* [Deut.17:3] and even *the stars falling from heaven* [Matt.24:29].

The **third heaven**, and scripture even refers to it as *the third heaven* [2Corth.12:2], is the place where God dwells. The third heaven is sometimes referred to as *the heaven of heavens* and Deut.10:14 show that heaven and the heaven of heavens are distinct places as both are mentioned. Of these three, most Christians place their hope in the third heaven and would view this as their final resting place. However, the Bible makes it absolutely clear that the heavens as we currently

¹⁴ http://executableoutlines.com/rev/rev_20.htm

¹⁵ http://www.revelationcommentary.org/21_chapter.html

¹⁶ <http://www.dabhand.org/Essays/NT518B%20C20%20Heaven.htm>

<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>

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know them are going to pass away. It would appear to suggest that everything is to pass away, including the sea. That seems to be a very strange thing to say if the third heaven were staying fixed. However, during this transition phase God effectively renders Himself homeless.

¹⁷Adapted from Wiersbe, 2:621.

Genesis	Revelation
Heavens and earth created (1:1)	New heavens and earth (21:1)
Sun created (1:16)	No need of the sun (21:23)
The night established (1:5)	No night there (21:25; 22:5)
The seas created (1:10)	No more seas (21:1)
The curse announced (3:14-17)	No more curse (22:3)

The reason God will destroy the present heaven and earth is that He originally made them as the habitat for humanity. However, sin so thoroughly corrupted not only the human race but the race's environment that He will destroy it and create a new heaven and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. This is the final stage in His plan to deliver humanity into the blessing He originally intended people to enjoy.

21:2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband:— John did not only see a new heaven and a new earth, but he saw a city, a "holy city" coming down from heaven. This was the New Jerusalem or more accurately, God moves home. God presents a new city in this new earth. **The point is:** to show that God has prepared His own capital city to sit upon the earth. It is said to be prepared as a bride (beautifully) adorned for her husband. In the bride-husband scenario, the church is the bride, and Christ is the husband (vv. 9-10; cf. 3:12). Obviously some symbolism is present in the descriptions of the New Jerusalem. Though it is an actual literal city, its glory will far surpass the language that John uses to portray it. John's language is an attempt to describe what is in one sense indescribable. This points both to the beauty of the city and to our longing desire to have God's presence right here on earth with us. Remember, Jesus Christ told His disciples that He was going away to prepare a place for them. It is a possibility that He was referring to His preparing the New Jerusalem (Jh.14:2-3).

21:3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God:— At times we hear God's voice speak to us by His Spirit, but when John describes it as "*a great voice out of heaven*", it probably was not like we've ever heard it. His voice came from His Throne. He wants us to take a more profound look with wonder and importance of His tabernacle. The word translated "*tabernacle*" means place of abode. God's place of abode is His house; the place where He lives is going to be with men. In fact God Himself will live, take up abode, and dwell with men, instead of us going up to meet Him, He comes down to be with us. This is what eternity will be like, and His purpose for dwelling there is to have eternal communion with His people. Four things are said that would be beneficial, for He seems to repeat Himself just for us to get it.

1. The tabernacle of God— the very presence and glory of God will be with men.
2. God will dwell with them.
3. They shall be His people.
4. God Himself shall be with them and be their God.

¹⁷ <http://net.bible.org/#!/bible/Revelation+21>
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>

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21:4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away:—¹⁸No more tears, death, mourning, crying or pain. And the reason is simply that the “*old order of things has passed away*” with the old heaven and earth. We take a look at Genesis to Revelation.

Genesis	Revelation
Death enters history (3:19)	No more death (21:4)
Man driven from the tree (3:24)	Man restored to paradise (22:14)
Sorrow and pain begin (3:17)	No more mourning, crying or pain (21:4)

This is a final reversal of the curse (Gen.3), because there will be no sin and no death. There can now be a new order of things, which leads to life in an ever more abundant way. Note, the removal of tears will take place after the judgments, including the Judgment Seat of Christ when some Christians will suffer the loss of reward (1 Cor. 3:15; cf. 1 John 2:28). The “*first*” things are the former things—the things associated with the Old Creation. Getting sin out of the way allows God to be seen for who He really is, and it allows His people to become who He created them to be. There can now be true fellowship with the God of love and truth.

21:5 And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful:— God speaks directly from His throne. I think this is God Almighty as in Revelation 5:7 “*And He came and took the Book out the Right Hand of Him who sat upon the Throne.*” Jesus came and took the book out of the Right Hand of God Almighty, who was upon the Throne. Whenever the Son is spoken of, He is the One who sits upon the right hand of the throne. God declares He makes all things new. This means that the body of man will be perfected and so will the environment and earth. Life will be totally different from what it is now. All the sufferings and evil of life and all the bad and negative experiences of life will be gone. The one who sits on the throne has all authority and has given Divine Proclamation. ¹⁹John was instructed to write what is said, and what is seen, although that is what he had been doing all along. Perhaps he was so stunned by the last statement that he stopped writing, but more likely this was said to emphasize the importance of what is to come. God gives assurance of this when He tells John to write these words down, because they are true and faithful. God has given a double declaration. He declared that His words are true and faithful. By “*true*” He means true as opposed to false. He is not lying. He is God! By “*faithful*” He means that He will do exactly what He says. We all can count on it! We can go back into thousands of years and read what was written down for our benefit, and find out what He said happened.

21:6a And he said unto me, It is done:—²⁰On the cross, Jesus said “*It is finished,*” (Jh.19:30) to signify that His work of redemption was complete. God’s eternal purpose is finished. And the job of renewal is complete. Both tasks: redemption and renewal bring Creation back to the state and order of righteousness and holiness it was originally intended to be. The point is this: It was finished on the cross and God has allowed John to see the new heaven and new earth coming down from heaven. Therefore, it’s already done. The clock is set and the event fixed. The minutes of time are ticking away, and the hour will come when the set time arrives. To us, all these things are still in the future. John saw these things as they will be after the 1000 years reign of

¹⁸ <http://bereanbiblestudygroup.com/2011/01/rev-211-14-%E2%80%93everything-is-new/>

¹⁹ <http://bereanbiblestudygroup.com/2011/01/rev-211-14-%E2%80%93everything-is-new/>

²⁰ <http://bereanbiblestudygroup.com/2011/01/rev-211-14-%E2%80%93everything-is-new/>
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Jesus. He saw beyond the "*Great White Throne*" where God will be the judge of all people. The future will tell it all because God says it's done; it's settled!

21:6b ...I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end:— God's sovereignty assures it. How? Just as He did in Revelation 1:8 God declares, "*I am Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End.*" "*Alpha*" is the first letter of the Greek alphabet and means the *beginning*, and "*Omega*" is the last letter and means the end. All things have their beginning in Him and He is the end of all things. God is before all things and will outlast all things. He is the consummation, goal, the end, and objective of all things. All things find their meaning and being in Him. And He spans all things, beginning and end. Therefore, He can do as He will. God is in the past, the present and the future. He sees the future as if it were the past.

21:6c ...I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely:— Note, God Himself is still speaking. Remember, Adam and Eve were prohibited from taking of the tree of life, but here, all are invited to drink of the water of life freely through the redemption of Christ. Christ thirsted on Calvary when dying for us, but, no one will thirst in eternity. His promise of abundant satisfaction for the thirsty is symbolic, symbolizing His ability to meet the deepest needs of His people. Remember the woman at the well? This is an invitation to those who "*thirst of the fountain of the water of life.*" Therefore, those who thirst, salvation is freely given. This means...

- They will know the life that God wants man to live;
- They will know the life that God gives;
- They will know the fullness of life that is in God Himself;
- They will know the hope of life that God has planned for man;
- They will know the perfection of life that God longs for man to live;
- They will know God as you fellowship, commune, and share with God;
- They will know salvation, forgiveness, and the cleansing of God;
- They will know the hope, assurance, and security of God;
- They will live for God, obey, and follow God.

It's a beautiful gospel invitation (cf. 3:20; 22:17). This water is a gift of God. Nobody can earn or buy it; it's free.

21:7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son:— An overcomer is one who remain faithful and loyal to Christ. It means the person, who remains pure and follows the Lord Jesus Christ; who conquers all the temptations and trials of life. Two great promises are made to the overcomer:

1. An overcomer will inherit all things, all that the new heaven and new earth offer. "*Inheriting*" emphasizes the privilege of obtaining something because of the work of another in contrast to one's own work (Constable).
2. An overcomer will be a son because God will be the eternal Father. All the rights and privileges of sonship come with this promise. The Father-son relationship He describes is, like the husband-bride relationship used earlier, and is one among the most intimate relationships humans understand.

²¹It might be instructive to recall what Jesus said about these overcomers in Chapter 2-3:

- **Rev 2:7 – Ephesus (lost 1st love):** "*To him who overcomes, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.*"
- **Rev 2:11 – Smyrna (martyred):** "*He who overcomes will not be hurt at all by the second death.*"
- **Rev 2:17 – Pergamum (syncretism, false prophets):** "*To him who overcomes, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give him a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to him who receives it.*"

²¹ <http://bereanbiblestudygroup.com/2011/01/revelation-219-to-2221%e2%80%93living-with-god/>
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- **Rev 2:25 – Thyatira (syncretism, idolatry):** *“To him who overcomes and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations— ‘He will rule them with an iron scepter; he will dash them to pieces like pottery’ — just as I have received authority from my Father. I will also give him the morning star.”*
- **Rev 3:5 – Sardis (spiritually dead):** *“He who overcomes will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out his name from the book of life, but will acknowledge his name before my Father and his angels.”*
- **Rev 3:12 – Philadelphia (faithful, hold on):** *“Him who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will he leave it. I will write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on him my new name.”* (Note: The overcomers are the church.)
- **Rev 3:21 – Laodicea (neither hot nor cold):** *“To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne.”*

21:8a But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars...—What a tragic list: These are not thirsty for the fountain of the water of life.

the fearful or cowardly—

- these are those who do not confess Christ because they fear what others might say;
- those who are afraid to give up the world and deny self;
- those who fear taking a stand for Christ;
- those who fear to fellowship or become identified with Christian people.

the unbelieving—

- those who do not believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, the Savior of the world;
- those who reject Jesus Christ and His death upon the cross for their sins;
- those who profess Christ, but live hypocritical lives; who show by their sinful behavior that they do not really believe Him.

the abominable or polluted—

- those who are worldly and who live worldly lives;
- those who reach out to touch and taste the impurities and lusts of the world;
- those who are stained and contaminated and polluted with worldliness;
- those who refuse to separate from the pleasures and possessions of this world and refuse to turn to God.

the murderers—

- those who kill and take away the lives of others.

the whoremongers or immoral—

- those who are sexually impure;
- those who commit fornication or have sex before marriage;
- those who commit adultery and homosexuality and all other sexual acts that God forbids;
- those who look and lust, read and lust, think and lust.

the sorcerers—

- those who engage in astrology, witchcraft, devil worship, spiritism, séances, palm reading, fortune telling, and all other forms of false beliefs that claim to reveal and control one's fate, life, and destiny.

the idolaters—

- those who worship idols made with one's hands or just conceived in one's mind;
- those who have an image of what God is like and worship and follow that image instead of

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following the God revealed by the Scriptures;

- those who put the things of this earth before God;
- those who give their primary attention and devotion to someone or something other than God.

the liars—

- those who tell falsehoods and do not tell the truth;
- those who deceive and mislead others;
- those who are gossipers and talebearers and who pass rumors along.

Any person who does not repent and turn away from these things—any person who does not turn to God for forgiveness of these things—any person who does not forsake these things—that person will not enter into the new heaven and new earth. He will not be a citizen of the new heaven and new earth. Where does he go? Scripture is clear.

21:8b (They) **...shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.**

The "*Lake of Fire*" is the final destination of the wicked. It is different from the bottomless pit referred to in 9:1. The Evil Creature and the False Prophet are thrown into the Lake of Fire. Then their leader, Satan himself is cast there (20:10). Finally Death and Hell are also cast there (20:4). Afterward, everyone whose name is not written in the Book of Life will be sent to the same fate (20:15).

The "*Second Death*" is spiritual death, meaning eternal torment. It's a permanent separation from God.

This is very much in contrast to the overcomers. Notice that both the unbelievers and the lake of fire still exist after the creation of the new heaven and new earth (Rev. 22:15). Though unbelievers will exist in eternity, they will have no part in the new creation. Therefore the separation between these two places is absolute and eternal.

21:9 **And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife.**

This is the last vision God gives John, and it is the most glorious of visions. One of the Seven Angels who had carried the bowls or vials filled with the seven final disasters spoke to John, saying, "*Come here, I'll show you the Bride, the Lamb's Wife.*" It is gracious of God to allow one of the angels who are commissioned to pour out the most horrendous plagues earth has ever known the privilege of inviting John to a special view of the bride, the Lamb's wife. Rev. 21:2 says "*And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.*" Therefore the "*holy city, New Jerusalem*" must be the Bride, the Lamb's Wife (the believers whom Christ died for). And Christ is surely the Bridegroom for the New Jerusalem!

21:10 **And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,—**

The angel took John away in the Spirit to an enormous, high mountain and showed him the great city, Holy Jerusalem descending out of Heaven from God, having the bright glory of God. John had a majestic vantage point in the spirit on a great and high mountain, seeing all of her beauty and glory.

21:11 **Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal;—**

The glory of God Himself shines all throughout the city having a sparkling sheen where there is no need for the sun nor any other heavenly body to give the city light. Her light was like a costly stone. It even shined like the green of Jasper, but it is as clear as crystal. The glory of God glitters off the city as though the buildings were crystal clear.

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21:12 And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel:— The city had a great majestic high wall which indicates that all will be secure within the city. And it will be separate in holiness from all that is unlike it. Twelve gates where an Angel will stand at each gate, and on the gates there will be inscribed the names of the Twelve Tribes of the sons of Israel. Three things are said...

1. The gates have the names of the twelve tribes of Israel upon them. Joseph, Benjamin Dan. Reuben, Judah Levi. Simeon, Issachar, Zebulun, Gad, Asher, and Naphtali. They symbolize that the only way to come to God is **through the Messiah of the twelve tribes of the Jews**—the Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, the entrance into the Heavenly Jerusalem is only through the Messiah of the Jewish nation. No person can enter the heavenly city unless he comes through the gates of salvation provided by God.
2. The gates are guarded by twelve angels. This symbolizes that the entrance to the city is protected. No person is allowed to enter the city unless they come through the salvation that God gave through Israel; through His own Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

21:13 On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates.

3. In each direction—east, north, south, and west there are three gates totaling twelve gates altogether (Ez.48:30-35). This symbolizes that everyone on earth is invited to enter the city. The only requirement is that they come through the Messiah, the Savior of the world, the Lord Jesus Christ.

21:14 And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. The wall was set on twelve foundations, and the names of the Twelve Apostles of the Lamb – Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot, and Matthias will be remembered throughout eternity as they are inscribed on the foundations. These are the original twelve minus Judas Iscariot.

21:15-21 The Angel speaking to John had a gold measuring stick to measure the City, its gates, and its walls. The City was laid out in a perfect square. He measured the City with the measuring stick: twelve thousand stadia (*an instrument for measuring distances or heights by means of angles*). Its length, width, and height are all equal. Using the standard measure, the Angel measured the thickness of its wall: 144 cubits. The wall was jasper, the color of Glory, and the City was pure gold, translucent as glass. The foundations of the City walls were garnished with every precious gem/stone imaginable. The first foundation 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 chrysoprasus, the eleventh jacinth, the twelfth amethyst. The twelve gates were twelve pearls, each and every gate was of one single pearl, and the street of the city was pure gold as translucent glass.

21:22 And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. There would be no such Temple as was in the Old Testament times; a physical structure where the priests would come once a year. There would be no need for such a Temple, and it would not serve as the same purpose, because the Lord God Almighty—and the Lamb are the Temple. His presence will be everywhere for every believer to worship and communicate with.

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21:23 And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. The City doesn't need sun or moon for light, for God's Glory is its light and the Lamb its lamp!

21:24 And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it. The nations that are saved will walk in the light of God's glory, and the kings of the earth will bring into it their glory and honor of praise. Whatever picture we surmise, it will give tribute to God and Christ for giving so great a salvation.

21:25 And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there. The city's gates will never be shut. The day will always continue because there won't be any night. And it looks like there is no need for sleep or rest, for we will have perfect bodies with perfect strength. And the Holy Spirit will fill us to the fullest, giving us a perfect knowledge and consciousness of God's presence.

21:26 And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it. They'll bring the glory and honor of the nations into the City.

21:27 And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Nothing dirty or defiled will get into the City, and no one who defiles or deceives. Only those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life will get in.

SUMMARY:

²²John first sees all things made new. There is a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth are no more (cf. 20:11); but also no more sea -- no more separation of land and water. Can you imagine? The earth as we know it will not be the same and will not last forever. The vision continues and John sees the holy city, New Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God. A loud voice from heaven declares that God will dwell with His people and be their God. The new Jerusalem is where God dwells among His people instead of our going up to meet Him, He comes down to be with us, just as God became man in Jesus Christ and lived among us (Jh.1:14). Wherever God reigns, there is peace, security, and love. He wipes away tears forever! No more of what we had to go through on earth; no struggles or pain; no more death. We will totally see this newness He has in store throughout all eternity for the former things are passed away (**21:1-4**).

²² http://executableoutlines.com/rev/rev_21.htm
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>

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God, who sat on the throne make all things new and told John to write these things down for they are true and faithful. He is the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, and will comfort His people by removing all that caused pain, and provide the fountain of the water of life freely to them that thirsts. Just as God finished the work of Creation (Gen.2:1-3); Jesus finished the work of Redemption (Jh.19:30); so the Trinity will finish the entire plan of salvation by inviting the redeemed into a New Creation. While those who overcome inherit all things and enjoy the blessings of being God's children, the wicked and unfaithful have their part in the lake of fire and brimstone (cf. 19:20; 20:10, 14-15) which is defined as the second death (21:8). Those who can endure the testing of evil and remain faithful are those whom God will reward **(21:5-8)**.

Of the Seven Angels who had carried the bowls filled with the seven final disasters spoke to John, saying, "*Come here. I'll show you the Bride, the Lamb's Wife.*" He took John away in the Spirit to an enormous, high mountain and showed him the Holy Jerusalem descending out of Heaven from God, having the bright glory of God **(21:9-11)**.

The city had a great majestic high wall with twelve gates. At each gate stood an Angel, and on the gates were inscribed the names of the Twelve Tribes of the sons of Israel: three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west. The wall was set on twelve foundations, the names of the Twelve Apostles of the Lamb inscribed on them **(21:12-14)**.

The Angel speaking with John had a gold measuring stick to measure the City, its gates, and its wall. The City was laid out in a perfect square. He measured the City with the measuring stick: twelve thousand stadia (*an instrument for measuring distances or heights by means of angles*), its length, width, and height all equal. Using the standard measure, the Angel measured the thickness of its wall: 144 cubits. The wall was jasper, the color of Glory, and the City was pure gold, translucent as glass. The foundations of the City walls were garnished with every precious gem imaginable: the first foundation jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald, the fifth onyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, the twelfth amethyst. The twelve gates were twelve pearls, each gate a single pearl, and the street of the city was pure gold as translucent glass **(21:15-21)**.

But there was no sign of a Temple, for the Lord God Almighty. Because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the city's Temple.. The City doesn't need sun or moon for light, for the glory of God and the Lamb illuminate the city. Its gates are never shut, there is no night there, and the nations of the saved along with the kings of the earth bring their honor and glory into it. Nothing dirty or defiled will get into the City, and no one who defiles or deceives. Only those written in the Lamb's Book will enter this glorious city. **(21:22-27)**.

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REVELATION 22:1-21

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22:1 And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb:— The vision progresses. There are seven provisions of the heavenly Jerusalem.

1. There is a pure river in the city, a river that has the very water of life clear as crystal.

Is there a real river in the heavenly Jerusalem? Certainly, the New Jerusalem being 1500 miles cubic will have the beauty and refreshment of a running river and of many other bodies of water. Well, there were four rivers in the Garden of Eden: Pishon, Gihon, the Tigris, and the Euphrates. We must always remember the teaching of Scripture: God is going to recreate this earth and the heavens of this universe. This is what He explicitly teaches in the Scripture (cp. 2Pt.3:10-12; Rev.21:1; etc.).

A recreated world would certainly have the same features that this world has with one exception: it will be perfected! The heavenly Jerusalem is said to have a pure river flowing through it—the river has the water of life in it. What does this mean? The verse tells us where the source of the river is: It comes from "*the throne of God and of the Lamb.*" The water of life flows from God and Christ. They are the source of all life that lives in the city. Only those who have drunk of the life that God and Christ give will be there. Therefore, the river symbolizes the life that flows out from God and Christ. It will be a constant reminder to us that Jesus Christ is the living water who gives us life...

- who quenches our thirst for life
- who satisfies our thirst for life
- who fulfills our thirst for life
- who completes our thirst for life.

22:2 In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. The river flows down the middle of the street of the city where the Tree of Life grew on each side of the river bearing its fruit and leaves. Ezekiel 47:12 adds that there are many other trees on this side and that side of the river bank that shall bring forth fruit for meat, and its leaves for medicine.

2. There is a tree of life in the city.

Remember "*the tree of life*" was planted in the Garden of Eden (Gen.2:9). It apparently represented the availability of eternal life for Adam and Eve in the garden. As long as they obeyed God, it symbolized the perfect and life-giving environment God had given them. But as soon as they ate of the wrong tree—the tree of good and evil, sin manifested, and there were consequences. John only names and sees the tree of life is in the heavenly Jerusalem. Note two things said about the tree:

1. **The Tree of Life bears twelve crops of fruit**— The fruit was the nourishment of life. One crop each month. The tree bears fruit year round symbolizing continuous fruit or continuous life. As far as eating, in the Old Testament, angels ate when Abraham entertained them. Jesus ate after He rose from the dead. We will eat at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. So, I know the fruit will be eaten. Therefore, the person who eats of the tree of life is nourished by its fruit eternally and he lives forever. And the person who eats of the tree of life will bear the fruit of the Spirit eternally.
2. **The leaves of the Tree of Life are for the healing of the nations.** That is, they provide a

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perfect life. Ezekiel 47:12 says the leaves are for medicine. Nothing was said about the leaves in Genesis on the Tree of Life, but here in Revelation, they are for the healing of the nations. **What** does that mean? **How** would the leaves heal the nations and **Why** would the nations need healing? My conclusion is when Israel became divided? The northern 10 families called themselves Israel. The southern families called themselves Judah. And so Israel and Judah came about, and there were other nations that came against them. I don't know if the leaves will be eaten for the healing for the nations or just the presence of the leaves on the tree symbolizes something. Well, I would assume that the leaves would provide that healing that caused that division and will bring a perfect life for all nations including the Gentile nation. There cannot be any divisions. There can only be one whole nation under God symbolizing oneness!

22:3a And there shall be no more curse:—

3. There is no more curse in the city.

²³After Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden, God placed a curse on them and on the earth (Genesis 3:14, 17; Galatians 3:10, 13). The word "curse" here is an intensive word. It denotes an accursed thing. God placed a curse on the serpent (Gen. 3:14). And the earth bears the curse (Gen. 3:17). It's cursed to aging, corruption, deterioration, decay, death, suffering, evil, disturbance, division, disasters, and so on. It's cursed because man has chosen to make his own life in this world and to reject God's life. God's life is eternal. Therefore, when man chose to make his own life, he chose to die. Consequently, man brought death and all its evil into the world. But, the heavenly Jerusalem will have no curse. This means that it is free of evil and death. There can be no curse where the throne of God and the Lamb exist. It is perfect and will last eternally.

22:3b ...but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it:—

4. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city.

That is, the heavenly Jerusalem will be the capital city of the universe, the headquarters of the Lord's government and rule and reign. The throne is now the center of God's presence, replacing the temple. Wonderful impacts will happen in the city.

22:3c ...and his servants shall serve him:—

5. The Lord's servants will serve God and Christ, in the city.

The word "serve" is for priestly service. We will have access to the very throne of heaven itself. Our service will never diminish or decline. While service here as we know it, is imperfect; our service there will be pure. We mar our service here with the flesh, with false motives and with pride. We often use service to get ahead or be famous. But our service there will be without fault. This service inspires us to worship God.

22:4a And they shall see his face:—

6. The Lord's servants will see His face.

We will be able to see His face. "*Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God*" Matt.5:8. This will be wonderful. As we serve God face to face there will be an intimate relationship throughout all of eternity.

22:4b ...and his name shall be in their foreheads.—

7. The Lord's servants will have the name of God written in their foreheads.

Presently Christians are sealed by the Holy Spirit (Eph.4:30). And His seal will be in us until the day we go to

²³ <http://versebyversecommentary.com/1999/02/14/revelation-223-2/>
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be with Him. The seal today is invisible, but the seal in that day will be apparent for all to see because God's name will be upon our foreheads. Of course we were bought with a price and that price was the blood of the Lamb. We shall be wholly His possession and held securely by God throughout eternity.

22:5a And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light:—

8. The Lord's servants will have the Lord God as their light.

He will be their eternal light in the city. John again repeats that there will be no night in the New Jerusalem. There will be no need for lamps or man-made light, neither the light of the sun. The light of God's presence is all that will be needed (Revelation 21:23, 25).

22:5b ...and they shall reign for ever and ever:—

9. The Lord's servants shall reign for ever and ever.

There will be an eternal rule coming from the throne of God and the Lamb being in it. The Millennial reign and eternal reign are united. The first part of 2 Timothy 2:12 in the KJV says "*If we suffer*"; other versions says "*If we endure, we shall also reign with him.*" And Revelation 2:26 says "*And he that overcometh and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations.*" Our work and service mean something, and God keeps His Word! We shall reign with God and Christ. None of us can comprehend how wonderful that will be. It will transcend all of our expectations. It will be worth it all when we see Jesus.

There is a better world coming, the most glorious of worlds, a perfect heaven and earth: a world in which there will be no sorrow or tears, suffering or death; a world of righteousness and joy. God wants man to know the message of Revelation. Therefore, as the Lord closes this great book, everything He says has to do with the overall message of Him revealing His Word. The message of Revelation is so important that the Lord takes the time and space to reveal this message of Revelation to John.

22:6a And he said unto me, These sayings are faithful and true:— All that John had seen was genuine. He had heard the Words of God.

- The message is "*faithful*": it can be trusted, and reliable.
- The message is "*true*": it is not a lie, not false, not a message created by the imagination of men.

²⁴The prophecy began with a glorious worship service in heaven (Rev 4:1; 2-11) as the Lamb prepared to take possession of His inheritance. But at that time, the earth was still filled with evil, and the Lamb faced an intense battle to defeat that evil. Now, 1007 years later, the prophecy draws to a close with the vision of another worship service honoring the Lamb. This time the worship is not just in heaven, but in a new heaven and earth combined. The Lamb's inheritance has been transformed into the paradise He always intended it to be, and with Him in that paradise are His People.

How do we know that the message of Revelation is trustworthy and true? Well, from what the verse continues to say:—

22:6b ...and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew unto his servants the things which must shortly be done:— The message of Revelation is from the same Lord God who inspired the prophets of old. The holy prophets add support to the claims that Scripture can be trusted. God sent His

²⁴ <http://bereanbiblestudygroup.com/2011/01/revelation-219-to-2221%e2%80%93living-with-god/>
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angel to show to His bond-servants that, what is written was sent directly from Him. The purpose of this verse is to stress the authenticity of this revelation and to encourage anticipation of its fulfillment. God's promises always depend upon His character. He does not give us a specific time as to when these things will happen, only that they "*must shortly be done.*" He keeps His Word!

22:7a Behold, I come quickly:— ²⁵John's vision concludes with verse 6 and then Jesus resumes speaking directly to John, just as He did at first. This verse is best described as a continuation of John's meeting with Jesus that John initially described in Chapter 1:8. This meeting was interrupted with the visions John reported in Chapters 4—22:6. And now Jesus returns John's focus to his place there on the island of Patmos (1:9). ²⁶"Behold" is a term intended to grab our attention. "*Give this your undivided attention!*" When Jesus comes, it will be quick (1:7; 22:12, 20). The Greek word "*quickly*" means soon. Jesus will give no warning when He comes. He will come suddenly. It will be unexpected. That is why we need to be alert to His coming. The phrase "*I am coming quickly*" occurs three times in the conclusion to Revelation. Therefore, we must be prepared, and we must quickly witness to a world lost in crime, drugs, suffering, and death. We must study and re-study Revelation. We must prepare ourselves and do what we can to prepare others for the Lord and the final days of human history. And there are imminent signs of His coming!

22:7b ...blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book:— The Lord's blessings are endless to the person who truly studies His Word. The word "*keeps*" means to guard; protect. It will save your very life. So, pay attention and give heed. We are to guard God's Word by applying it to our lives. ²⁷Revelation isn't just a book about things to come; it's a book that encourages us to let our knowledge of the future affect the way we live. Therefore we are blessed by it!

22:8 And I John saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which shewed me these things:— In other words, John is trying to testify that he had actually witnessed the things he wrote down. The message of Revelation stirs worship. When John heard the prophecies of the Revelation and seen with his own eyes, he was so astounded that he was gripped with a spirit of fear and worship. He actually fell down at the feet of the angel who was delivering the message for the Lord. God alone is worthy of our worship and adoration. He is above all creation, even the angels.

22:9 Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God:—John's reaction to worship the angel was prevented. This is not a new problem with John. He's forgotten that he's already done this to the angel back in Chapter 19:10, and was quickly rebuked by the angel. The angel instructs John that he is a fellow servant as his brethren the prophets are, and as well as those that heed the truth stated in the Book. God's first commandment teaches him that he is not to worship any other god. Worship God alone!

22:10 And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand. The angel tells John what to do after the vision is over. Instead of sealing up what he has written as Daniel was commanded to do (Dan.12:4), the scroll is left open to let others see it so that all can read and

²⁵ <http://bereanbiblestudygroup.com/2011/01/revelation-219-to-2221%e2%80%93living-with-god/>

²⁶ <http://versebyversecommentary.com/1999/02/16/revelation-226-7/>

²⁷ <http://www.family-times.net/commentary/revelation-221/>

<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>

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understand. Daniel's message was sealed because it was not a message for Daniel's time. But the book of Revelation was a message for John's time, and it is equally relevant today. As Christ's return gets closer there is a greater polarization (separation) between God's followers and Satan's followers. We must read the book of Revelation, hear its message and be prepared for Christ's imminent return.

22:11 He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. God sees our hearts. The person who does wrong things will continue to do wrong things. The evil person will still be evil. The person who does the right things should continue to do the right things. And the holy person should remain holy. So, now is the time to get it right!

22:12 And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. The message of Revelation focuses upon the Lord's return and judgment to come. As in verse 7, He says, *"And, behold, I come quickly."* His return is speedily coming, and it is imminent. The thrust is for us to prepare. Why? - Because it means judgment. His reward or recompense is with Him, repaying everyone for what they have done—positive or negative. The judgment will be based on:

- The works of man—what they have done.
 - a. Good (those having humility) receiving a reward for being faithful servants.
 - b. Bad (those being prideful) receiving punishment for being an evil doer.

For the saints, the rewards will come at the *"Judgment Seat of Christ."* For the wicked, they will come at the *"Great White Throne Judgment."*

22:13 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. Jesus Christ is Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end of all things, the first and the last, both Creator and Finisher of the universe. There is nothing that came before Him and nothing comes after Him. He spans all of time, and all of the universe. He began all things, and He finishes all things. Therefore, He will finish earth and the heavens above, and judge them all!

22:14 Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. ²⁸God will bless those who obey Him. They are like people who wash their clothes clean. So, the 'clean clothes' really means that we need to live holy lives. But we cannot make ourselves holy by our own efforts. Only Jesus' death makes us holy. It is as if the blood of Jesus has washed our clothes clean. But only those who have accepted Jesus into their lives will receive the benefits in this Book. The point is:

- We are blessed doing His Commandments, therefore, having the right to eat fruit from the tree that gives life.
- We are blessed doing His Commandments, therefore, having the right to enter the gates into the city to live eternally.

22:15 For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie. There are some people who will not be allowed to enter the heavenly city of God.

- The dogs of society. The wild dog was a symbol of roaming about; of being mean and savage dirty

²⁸ <http://www.easyenglish.info/bible-commentary/revelation-lbw.htm>
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>

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and immoral, and therefore will never be allowed to enter God's heavenly city.

- The sorcerers, whoremongers (immoral), murderers, idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie as listed in Revelation 21:8a.

All of these will be outside of the city gates in eternal torment because they did not accept Jesus Christ.

22:16 **I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.** Jesus Christ Himself personally sends His angel to testify unto John these things in the churches. The very angel speaking to John comes from Jesus' presence—the One who gives life to man—the offspring of David—the Bright and Morning Star. He comes to deliver the message for the churches. There is no greater honor for this angel.

- Jesus, the Promised Messiah came from the seed and line of David. He is both David's Root and his Descendant! Jesus is the Promised Savior and King who came to save man and rule over the world.
- Jesus, the Bright and Morning Star means that He was the first star to arise and the first star is the brightest star—the very Son of God Himself. Jesus Christ is the Promised Messiah, the Star among all the stars of man.

22:17 **And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.** The "bride" is the "church", that is, a host of true believers scattered all over the earth. The invitation is from both the Spirit and the Bride of God crying out "*Come.*" Three invitations go out:

1. Those that hear are invited to "*Come.*"
2. Those that thirst are to "*Come.*"
3. And whosoever will "*Come*" take the water of life freely.

The Spirit and the Bride say Come. Once we hear the invitation and come, we must begin to cry out for others to come. The one who listens and hears this cry will become thirsty; you will desire the gospel, for you want to be changed and filled. Then all you have to do is "*Come!*" Then the thirsty need to Come—those parched, scorched, empty, craving, burning, laboring, and sweating. If you're thirsty, leave what's not working behind, and take of the water of life freely. It's a free gift. All those who need this refreshment, satisfaction, and renewal of the water of life, "*Come.*"

22:18 **For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:**— There is a warning here, and the warning is solemn (grave) and definite. A person must not add to the Words of this Book. If he adds to the Words in this Book, God will add the plagues written in this Book to him.

22:19 **And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.** A person must not take away from the Words of this Book. If he takes away from the Words in this Book of prophecy, God will take away his part out of the Book of Life; his part out of the Holy City, and from the things written in this Book for him.

22:20 **He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.** The conclusion is that Jesus Christ is the One who reveals and testifies to the things written in

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Revelation. These are not the words of men, but are the Words of the Living Lord, the Son of God Himself. He says again *"He will come quickly"* concluding with a final benediction *"Amen"*, meaning *"So Be It"*, signature with *"Even so, come, Lord Jesus."*

22:21 **The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.** John uses the very words of Paul in his closing benediction and Amen; again closing the Book of Revelation.

SUMMARY:

²⁹The angel of the Lord shows John the river of the water of life which was clear as crystal as it flows from the throne of God. The water flows as a stream down the middle of the street, which apparently refers to the main thoroughfare in the New Jerusalem. While this probably is a literal river it symbolizes the *"water of life."* John also saw the *"Tree of Life!"* bearing 12 crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. This constant yielding of fruit indicates the continuous blessing that it will bring forth. While the verse does not state that the fruit can be eaten, this is presumably the implication. The trees' leaves are for the healing of the nations. There shall be no more curses, and God and the Lamb are in the new city (**22:1-3a**).

The highest joy and privilege of the saints will be to serve their blessed Lord even though it also means reigning with Him forever. The God who has lived in unapproachable light became approachable in the person of Jesus (John 1:14). The God who is transcendent became immanent. People could look at Jesus and see God. But Revelation 22:4 appears to speak of actually seeing the face of God the Father, and His name will be on the believer's foreheads. This will truly be a privileged place just being with Him throughout eternity. There will be no night in the New Jerusalem. There will be no need for lamps or man-made light, and neither the light of the sun. The light of God's presence is all that will be needed. Our reign with God and Christ will be for ever and ever (**22:3b-5**).

God's message to John was faithful and true. God sent His angel to show His bond-servants that, what is written was sent directly from Him. These things spoken were to shortly happen. That's why He says *"Behold"*, *He will come quickly* without us knowing the time or the day. But, blessed is the one that keep and hold on to the sayings of the prophecy of this Book. John confessed that when he had heard and seen these things, he reacted by worshipping the angel who revealed them to him. And by the integrity of that angel who had been the apostle's interpreter. The angel refused to accept religious worship from John, and reproved him for offering it. People should worship God and not His servants (**22:6-9**).

Can you see the abundance that God has in store for those that will be with Him?

The angel tells John what to do after the vision is over. Instead of sealing up what he has written as Daniel was commanded to do (Dan. 12:4), he was told to "Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book, which means the scroll is left open to let others see it so that all can read and understand. The person who does wrong things will continue to do wrong things. The evil person will still be evil. The person who does the right things should continue to do the right things. And the holy person should remain holy. So, now is the time

²⁹ <http://versebyversecommentary.com/1999/02/14/revelation-223-2/>
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to get it right! (**22:10-11**).

The message of Revelation focuses upon the Lord's return and judgment to come. As in verse 7, He says, "*And, behold, I come quickly.*" His return is speedily coming, and it is imminent. Man's works shall be judged; the good and the bad. Jesus is Alpha and Omega. He created all things and He will finish all things. Blessed are they that do His commandments, for they will have the right to the tree of life, and will enter in through the gates into the city. They have obeyed the invitation to accept Christ as Lord and Savior. However, all of those who did not accept Christ will be outside of the city gates in eternal torment. Jesus Christ personally sends His angel to testify unto John these things in the churches. Jesus is the root and the offspring of David, and the Bright and Morning Star (**22:12-16**).

The last invitation to Christ in this Book goes out, and they are to take of the water of life freely. The gospel of Christ is a free gift. Just Come! We must receive the prophecy of this Book as it is written. If you hear the Words of the prophecy of the Book, **don't add to it**, or God shall **add unto** that person the plagues that are written in this book. And if any man shall **take away** from the Words of the book of this prophecy, God shall **take away** his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book (**22:17-19**).

The conclusion is that Jesus Christ is the One who reveals and testifies to the things written in Revelation and closes with a final benediction (**22:20-21**).

APPLICATION:

Don't let your knowledge of future events just be another one of those trivial treasures that you can wow your friends with. It ought to change the way you live. Does your knowledge of future events affect your life and you loved ones?

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