

REVELATION - THE FINAL VICTORY

(Lesson 10)

Introduction: What's a fitting or appropriate ending to any good book or story?

- they lived happily ever after; that's the final message of Revelation as God blesses his believers for all eternity

- The Seventh Vision: The Church's Final Victory

1. The Thousand Years Reign (20:1-6)

- Who is the angel coming down out of heaven? (cf. 1:18) - *Christ; angel is messenger, Jesus himself says that he holds the key of death and Hades; Abyss is another name for hell*
- In what sense is the devil "chained"? (cf. Jude 6) - *not physical chain since Satan is a spirit, these chains hinder Satan's movements, hinders what he wants to do, Jude 6 – bound for judgment -like chaining of vicious animal, protection for those beyond its reach; devil wants to "deceive the nations ", send people to hell; chain symbolize the preaching of the gospel- preach to all nations*
- What will happen shortly before the end? - *either after the 1,000 year reign or as the reign "was being brought to an end", devil is released - widespread unbelief and apostasy, gospel obscured by false teaching, devil is free to deceive people and lead them to hell- cults, false prophets*
- What period of time does the thousand years represent? - *10 x 10 x 10 - number of completeness, complete period of time when gospel of Christ is preached, devil chained, and at the end gospel becomes distorted as false teachers and teaching multiply and nations are lead astray- whole N T. period*
- Who are the ones seated on the throne? - *departed souls of those beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus, believers whose souls are in heaven, didn't worship the beast, remained faithful to Christ*
- What is it that "came to life" (or "lived") "and reigned with Christ"? - *"they," the souls of those in heaven lived and reigned with Christ during the thousand years without interruption, (life with God is enjoyment of the blessings of God - physical life, spiritual life, eternal life) unbelievers did not live and reign with Christ, souls in suffering in hell (unbelievers will be raised only to Stiffer body and soul in hell)*
- What is the "first resurrection"? (cf. John 5:25-29; Ephesians 2:1,4-5; 5:14; Colossians 3:1) *living and reigning with Christ is the first resurrection, this is a spiritual resurrection to spiritual life, our conversion - dead hear his voice and live, raised with Christ, made alive with Christ*
- How are those who take part in the first resurrection blessed? - *holy, without sin through Jesus' blood; second death, eternal death in hell, cannot affect them; priests in service to Christ - offer prayers and praise; continue to reign with Christ*

2. The Defeat of Satan (20:7-10)

- What battle is being described in these verses? (cf. 16: 12-21; 19: 19-21) - *battle of Armageddon, the final judgment; Satan gathers his evil forces - beast & false prophet, large army*
- Who are Gog and Magog? - *used in Ezekiel as great enemies of God's people (Magog is land of Gog); perhaps symbolize spiritual and moral evil- they are destroyed*
- Who is delivered and who is destroyed in the battle? - *camp of God's people, city he loves are saved; fire consumed Satan's forces, then devil thrown in hell, lake of burning sulfur*
- What are the "books" that were opened first? - *Savior judging the world, created world destroyed, books of the records of the deeds of men, men's deeds are recorded and remembered before Christ; book of life has only names, not deeds, those elected in eternity and brought to faith*
- How can believers be judged according to what they have done? - *our deeds of faith, evidence of faith; those things we did out of love for Jesus, thank you for his grace - show faith, faith still saves*
- What is the lake of fire into which Hades or hell is thrown? - *place where soul & body spend eternity?*

3. The New Jerusalem (21:1-27)

The New Heavens and the New Earth

- What are the new heavens and the new earth? - term used by Isaiah and Peter, a term for heaven; Bible seems to indicate that old heaven and earth through destroyed by fire will be rebuilt, fashioned out of its remains as a new heavens and earth, the home of righteousness- 2 Peter 3:10; Romans 8:20-22
- What is the New Jerusalem? - Paul used this term (Gal. 4:25-26) as did the writer to the Hebrews (12:22) to refer to the Holy Christian Church, compared to Christ's bride
- What is different about the new heavens and the new earth? - God dwells and lives with his people (literally God tents with his people); believers will walk not by faith but by sight; we will be his people - we will really know what it's like to be God's children; all earthly sorrows, results of sin will vanish
- Why was John told to write these things down? - it was not for him alone but to share with others, this would be part of God's inspired, inerrant word - for comfort and encouragement and hope in Jesus
- What comfort is there for us knowing that God is the Alpha and Omega? - what God promises is as good as done; God is the eternal ruler who controls and governs all of history, the Creator; assures us that his enemies exist only for a time - Revelation reveals their judgment and our victory
- What is the purpose of the offer of the water of life to those who are thirsty? - this is the spiritual thirst for the waters of life, the waters of salvation; Jesus' conversation with the woman at Jacob's well (John 4: 14), this is God's promise to build his church through the preaching of the gospel offering salvation to spiritually thirsty souls; the gospel will continue to be efficacious despite Satan's work
- Who will not share in the glories of the New Jerusalem? - notice the place of the unbelieving and cowardly - Christians who renounce their faith under persecution, other vile sins including lying

The City and Its Inhabitants

- What was John carried away "in the Spirit" to see? - angels with seven last plagues mentioned in chapter 15, also carried the seven bowls - torture of false teaching; John sees the bride, wife of the Lamb, the Holy City, Jerusalem - the church of all believers
- How is the Holy City, Jerusalem, described by John? - has the glory of God - bright light which was God's presence in the Israelite's wanderings in the desert - God's presence; brilliance is " source of her light" which was like a precious jewel- the source of her light was the glory of God, God himself is there
- What is the symbolism behind the 12 gates and the 12 foundations? - high walls protect from the enemy - the security believers have; gates had names of 12 tribes meaning only Israelites could use them, no foreigners, no unbelievers allowed (arrangement is that of the Israelites camps in the desert), 12 angels at gates probably like Eden to keep unholy out of city; 12 apostles are foundation of church - not them but what they proclaimed- Word of God (Eph 2:20)
- What is the significance of the measurement of the city as a perfect cube? - similar to Holy of Holies which was 10x10x10; 12 is number of church, 10 is completeness - perfect church, finished; walls 144 cubits thick - perfect symmetry of our eternal dwelling
- How does John describe the beauty of the city? - gold and precious jewels - beauty beyond this world
- Why is there no temple in the city? - temple, church is where we worship God, enjoy our closest communication with him - receive his means of grace; no need in heaven for God himself is there
- What is unique about the lighting in the New Jerusalem? - no sun or moon, glory of the Lord will be a constant illumination, not come and gone like it was for shepherds or Israelites
- What comfort is given by the fact that the gates will never be shut? - complete safety and security; gates were closed at night for attacks at night; city is always lit, no fear of attack, no enemies
- Who will be found in the city? - nothing unclean or those who do what is abominable (idol worship) or tell lies, only those who are written in book of life (clean and not guilty of sin)

4. Paradise Restored (22:1-6)

- What are the characteristics of the river that flows in the New Jerusalem? - *like river in Garden of Eden, water gives life - salvation; here it flows from throne of God and the Lamb, clear as crystal- no impurities, perfect, pure salvation*
- It's difficult to translate and picture the scene in verse 2. Consider the following translation.
"Between the street of the city and the river, there was a tree of life visible from this side and from that; it produces twelve kinds of fruit, for each month its own fruit; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. "
 - *meaning is clear - in new paradise we have access to tree of life, source of salvation and abundant life with twelve kinds of fruit - no more death, healing – all former afflictions are gone, no disease or pain*
- What is life like in the New Jerusalem? - *no more curse for sin - complete blessing; serving God in joy and praise (worship); greatest joy is that they will see his face; his name will be on their foreheads - God's possession throughout eternity; God will be their source of light; they will reign with God forever*

- The Conclusion: Jesus is Coming (22:7-21)

- What does it mean to "keep the words of the prophecy of this book"? - *(in v.6 says that these words are trustworthy and true - divine inspiration of the Scriptures); means to accept the prophecies with a believing heart, they are blessed; believing God's word is a source of true happiness*
- What does John assure us as he concludes his book? - *John claims himself to be an eyewitnesses of these things, John is warned against angel worship, told to worship God, angel is a created being who serves God, John as an apostle is a brother to the prophets - perhaps a reference to the 24 elders (12 tribes and 12 apostles)*
- What was John to do with this book? - *not to seal up the prophecy but to publish it for all to read - the message of this book is not to be a secret, the time is near when Jesus returns - believe this prophecy; (v. 11 seems to speak to the judgment when men will not have a chance to repent - a warning to the sinner not to delay his repentance; they will not let God's will be done, so God will let their will be done; those who do believe, holy in Jesus blood will be holy in the New Jerusalem forever)*
- What final encouragements and warnings does Jesus give to close the book? - *Jesus is coming, he is the Sovereign Lord who is coming to judge; he is the eternal Lord and ruler of the universe; blessed are those whose sins are forgiven through faith in him they can go tree of life through the gates into the city; outside are the dogs, the unbelievers - damnation; Jesus sent his angel to show John these things; as God Jesus is David's Root - source of being, as Man Jesus is David's Offspring; bright Morning Star - Messianic title; the Spirit who created the church and the church, Christ's bride say Come, including all those who are thirsty and invited to the feast*
 - *Warning against adding or taking away from this prophecy, he will be deprived of the tree of life and living in the holy city, the New Jerusalem*
 - *May Jesus come soon to defeat those who attacked his church from within and without, may he come to usher in his kingdom of glory for the church triumphant at the wedding supper of the Lamb - this is all by grace!*

Conclusion: In what way has the study of Revelation benefited you the most?