



A Glimpse of Tomorrow

April 26, 2003 – Bible Lesson 11 in Bible Studies for Adults, “He Who Overcomes”, A study of Revelation; Church of God (Seventh Day)
Revelation 21:1-22:6 – Scripture from New American Standard Bible (NASB) unless otherwise noted.

1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea.

- This earth will not last forever as we know it, but we are promised this new heaven and new earth.

2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband.

- Wherever God reigns, there is peace, security, and love.

3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them,

- It will be a wonderful place with God Himself among us.

4 and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away."

- heaven will be a perfect world, all good and no evil.

5 And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." And He said, "Write, for these words are faithful and true."

- we can never doubt the words of God, they are always true and unchangeable.

6 Then He said to me, "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost.

- there is no material cost to be with God, He was here in the beginning and He will be here at the end. Only believe, repent and be forgiven for your sins and then keep the commandments of God and we will have the water of life and will never thirst again.

7 "He who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son.

- Do not turn back, stay faithful to the commandments of God. Firm to the end.

8 "But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

- this will be a permanent separation from God, and will be burned up with fire.

9 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and spoke with me, saying, "Come here, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb."

- the New Jerusalem – John is having a first hand look at this new city.

~The New Jerusalem

10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,

- we will not be disappointed with our new home. This is promised place He has prepared for us.

11 having the glory of God. Her brilliance was like a very costly stone, as a stone of crystal-clear jasper.

- John is putting the glory of God in human terms so we may be better able to understand and vision what heaven may be like. I think it may be even greater than John describes.

12 It had a great and high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels; and names were written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel.

- the twelve tribes may be the O. T. faithfuls.

13 There were three gates on the east and three gates on the north and three gates on the south and three gates on the west.

- the number three (3) stands for what is solid, real, substantial.

14 And the wall of the city had twelve foundation stones, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

- twelve apostles are our examples, God's faithful in the New Testament.

15 The one who spoke with me had a gold measuring rod to measure the city, and its gates and its wall.

- These measurements illustrate that this new home will be perfect for us.

16 The city is laid out as a square, and its length is as great as the width; and he measured the city with the rod, fifteen hundred miles; its length and width and height are equal.

- Laid out in a square as the inner sanctuary in the Most Holy Place of the O. T. (20 cubit square.)

17 And he measured its wall, seventy-two yards, according to human measurements, which are also angelic measurements.

- a feeling of security for us, but our real security will be God.

18 The material of the wall was jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass.

- It will last forever and more beautiful than we can humanity imagine.

19 The foundation stones of the city wall were adorned with every kind of precious stone. The first foundation stone was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, chalcedony; the fourth, emerald;

- The best of everything.

20 the fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, topaz; the tenth, chrysoprase; the eleventh, jacinth; the twelfth, amethyst.

- heaven may even be better than this, John was putting it in earthy terms so we could understand.

21 *And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; each one of the gates was a single pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.*

- John continues to describe this wonderful city.

22 *I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.*

- there will be no need for a temple since God the Almighty and the Lamb will be there. Their presence will be everywhere in the new city.

23 *And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb.*

- there may be the sun and moon, but it will not be needed.

24 *The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it.*

- Somewhat of a mystery who these nations and kings are, any ideas?

25 *In the daytime (for there will be no night there) its gates will never be closed;*

- no night, just praising God always. The gates are always open and we can leave, but we will not want to leave. Perfect environment and world. Darkness symbolizes evil in the Bible.

26 *and they will bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it;*

- as we verse 24, not sure of who these nations are.

27 *and nothing unclean, and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.*

- Only if your name is written in the Lamb's book of life will you enter into the new city.

22:1 *Then he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb,*

- the water flowing from the throne of God is crystal clear, clearer than any water you have ever seen.

2 *in the middle of its street. On either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.*

- tree of life was also mentioned in Genesis, here it is in the new city. There is no mention here of not eating the fruit as it was in Genesis two.

3 *There will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His bond-servants will serve Him;*

- God has removed the curse and all the consequences of it. Satan will not be around. There cannot be any evil in the presence of God.

4 *they will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads.*

- Finally at last, we will be able to "look upon His face" and on our forehead will be His name.

5 *And there will no longer be any night; and they will not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God will illumine them; and they will reign forever and ever.*

- forever and ever will be for eternally, life here on earth will be oh so short, a small price to pay for this eternal life.

6 *And he said to me, "These words are faithful and true"; and the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, sent His angel to show to His bond-servants the things which must soon take place.*

- there will be no more lying or deceiving, only words from God that are faithful and true.

This is the promise that God has given us if your name is written in the Lamb's book of life.

Lesson



1. What does John see in glimpse of the future? Revelation 21:1,2,9-27; 22:1-6. List the specifics.

Answer -a new heaven and a new earth; verse 1

-the holy city, New Jerusalem, verse 2

-One of seven last angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues showed him the bride of the lamb. Verse 9

-The seven is number of completeness, perfection.

-Showed him the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. V. 10

-Having the glory of God, Her brilliance like a very costly stone, as a stone of crystal-clear jasper. Verse 11

-Had a great high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels; names written on the twelve gates were the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel. Verse 12

-there were three gates each on the east, north, south and west. Verse 13

-the wall of the city had twelve foundation stones, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. Verse 14

- The number twelve is ???????

- A gold measuring rod to measure the city, its gates and its walls. Verse 15

-the city was laid out in a square, length, width and height was equal, fifteen hundred miles. Verse 16

- Its walls were seventy-two yards. (216 feet) Verse 17

- material of the wall was jasper; the city was of pure gold, like clear glass. Verse 18

- foundation stones of the city wall were adorned with every kind of precious stone.

The first foundation stone was Jasper

variety of quartz that may be red, yellow, or brown.

The second foundation stone was sapphire

is usually blue but may be any color except red.

The third foundation stone was chalcedony

A translucent to transparent milky or grayish quartz with distinctive microscopic crystals arranged in slender fibers in parallel bands.

The fourth foundation stone was emerald

A brilliant green to grass-green transparent

The fifth foundation stone was sardonyx (sar-don-its)

with alternating brown and white bands of sard and other minerals.

The sixth foundation stone was sardius (sar-d-us)

clear or translucent, deep orange-red to brownish-red

The seventh foundation stone was chrysolite (chris-o-light)

its color olive

The eighth foundation stone was beryl (barrel)

A transparent to translucent glassy mineral, transparent varieties in white, green, blue, yellow, or pink

The ninth foundation stone was topaz

A colorless, blue, yellow, brown, or pink

The tenth foundation stone was chrysoptase (chris-a-prase)

An apple-green color

The eleventh foundation stone was Jacinth

orange-red and red-brown

The twelfth foundation stone was amethyst

Color. A moderate purple to grayish reddish purple.

—————→
Verses 19 and 20



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- The twelve gates were twelve pearls; each gate a single pearl. The street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass. Verse 21
- Its temple was the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple v.22
- The glory of the Lord has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamp, no need for the sun or moon to shine on it. Verse 23
- The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. Verse 24
- There will not be night, its gates will never be closed. Verse 25
- They will bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it. Verse 26
- Nothing unclean will come into it, and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it, only if your name is written in Lamb's book of life. Verse 27
- A river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb. Verse 1
- On either side of the river was the tree of Life, bearing twelve kinds of fruit, yielding it fruit every month (12) the leaves of the tree was for healing the nations. Verse 2
- No longer any curse, the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, His bond-servants will serve Him. Verse 3
- They will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads. Verse 4
- No longer any need for light, they will reign forever and ever. Verse 5 (Note in verse 21:23 it also talked about no night)
- These words are faithful and true, sent His angel to show to His bond-servants the things which must soon take place. Verse 6

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○ Note the number of times twelve is used in these verses!

- twelve gates (Verse 21:12)
- twelve angels (Verse 21:12)
- twelve tribes (Verse 21:12)
- twelve foundation stones (Verse 21:14)
- twelve names of the twelve apostles (Verse 21:14)
- twelve gates were twelve pearls (verse 21:21)
- twelve kinds of fruit, fruits every month –twelve (Verse 22:2)

- twelve thousand furlongs the length, width and height of the city, which would equal 1,500 miles; a furlong is 1/8 mile (Verse 21:16)

The Number twelve (12) is the number of manifest sovereignty as it will be exercised in the world to come. Manifest -To show or demonstrate plainly; reveal:

Sovereignty - Royal rank, authority, or power.

He will reveal his plan very simply, and show His authority and power.

The number twelve (12) is also the number of God's people.

2 – How will the new world differ from the old? 21:3,4; 22-25. What is God's ultimate goal? Verse 5

Answer – 2a – God Himself will be among them. Verse 3

- God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things (old) have passed away. Verse 4
- no temple, God and the Lamb were the temple. Verse 22
- no need of sun or moon, illumined by the glory of God and the lamp would be the Lamb. Verse 23
- nations will walk by its light, and kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. Verse 24
- there will be no night, its gates will never close. Verse 25

2b – Will make all things new. No more sinful things as we have here on earth. Verse 5

3 – What are the similarities and differences between the eternal kingdom and the original Garden of Eden? Revelation 22:1-5; Genesis 2:8-14

Answer 3 – no sea in Rev. verse 1, and in Genesis was four rivers; Pishon, Gihon, Tigris and Euphrates. Verses Gen. 2: 11, 13,14.

- The tree of life was on each side of the river in Revelation and it's leaves were for the healing of the nations and bearing twelve kinds of fruit and bearing each month; and in Genesis the tree of life was in the garden, this was the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, but you were not to eat of it.
- He placed man in the garden before sin in Genesis and in Revelation He placed man/woman in the throne of God after opening of the books or the judgment.
- Both are perfect worlds with God, one before the fall and one after the fall.

4 – Who are named on the list of those not allowed to enter the kingdom? Revelation 21:8. What is their fate? How does an individual qualify for the kingdom? Verse 27

Answer 4a – cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, immoral persons, sorcerers, idolaters and all liars.

4b – the second death, they will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone.

4c – your name will need to be written in the Lamb's book of life, we must not be unclean or practice abomination and lying.

5 – Whose names are written on the foundations of the New Jerusalem? Verse 9-14.

How does this compare to Paul's description of the spiritual church in Ephesians 2:19-22?

Answer 5a – the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

5b – we are being built together into the dwelling of God in the spirit, in which we are building on the foundation of the apostles with Christ Jesus as the corner stone.

Responding:

1. How would you respond to the Lord if His personal presence were with us today? In what ways would our attitudes, values, behavior, and priorities be different?
 - **My Answer** - Hopefully we would love, honor and respect Him as well as thank Him for dying for our sins. – If we knew Him and knew what the whole story was, we would value and do what He says, our attitudes would be glorying Him and our priorities would be Him and none other, including all the worldly things we do today.
2. The eternal kingdom promises the ultimate deliverance for humanity. Do these promises influence people to accept Christ? Why did you respond to the gospel message?
 - **My Answer** - I think it only affects a small number of people, a lot of people cannot see and visualize what is in the future. I think the main reason may be it's the right thing to do and they have a convicted spirit. – I responded because someone asked me and I felt it was the right way to do if I wanted eternal life.
3. What promises are given to those who overcome? Revelation 21:7. How does Christ's victory influence your view of life today?
 - **My Answer** – will receive the water of life and we will be in the family of God forever if we overcome. – As the only hope in this world.
4. Who has significant recognition in the New Jerusalem? What does this tell us about our role in building God's kingdom during this age?
 - **My Answer** - the twelve apostles, we can look at their life and the way they lived, they can set an example for us.

Application: How do you feel about living forever? In what ways are you looking forward to the new kingdom? Discuss in class.

- **My Answer** - No more pain, dying, will live forever just praising Jesus, thanking God that He sent His Son to die for me.



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