

THE REVELATION

Face to Face with Jesus

Revelation 22

We arrive at the final chapter of the Revelation and catch a glimpse of our eternal home; that place Jesus has gone to prepare for us. It is an amazing and wonderful place with joys and delights unimaginable. We will dwell with God for all eternity in a perfect world and with all the redeemed of the Lord, our brothers and sisters.

I. The New Heavens & the New Earth (this section from Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, pp.1158-1162)

- A. We will live eternally with God in a NEW heavens and a NEW earth
- B. Heaven is a PLACE, not just a state of mind or purely non-material being
- C. The physical creation will be renewed and we will continue to exist and act in it
- D. Our resurrection bodies will be part of the renewed creation
- E. The new creation will not be "Timeless" but will include an unending succession of moments

II. The Revelation to John and the Vision of the New Heaven and New Earth is:

- A. Designed to give us hope and confidence in an amazing future with God
- B. Intended to fortify us in the trials of life, knowing that one day all will be perfect
- C. Encouraging us to be holy as God's love and plans for us overwhelm our less noble tendencies

III. We Will See GOD

- A. *The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. They will see his face. Rev. 22:3-4*
- B. The Bible states that which is incomprehensible: we will see the face of God. The unity of the Trinity places God (the Father and the emanating Spirit) and the Lamb upon a single throne and says simply but profoundly: "[we] will see His face!"

IV. The Conclusion and Epilogue (Rev. 22:6-21)

- A. *Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this scroll, because the time is near. (v. 10)*
- B. Jesus, the God-Man: fully divine and full human without any loss to His Deity or Humanity
 1. *I am coming soon! My reward is with me . . . (v. 12)*
 2. *I AM the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. (v. 13)*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is heaven like?
2. What will you be like in heaven?
3. To what are you most looking forward?
4. What does it mean to "see the face of God"?
5. What will the new earth be like?
6. How do we know that our eternity is unending but NOT timeless?
7. What is the significance of the River of Life and the fruit bearing tree whose leaves are healing for the nations?

NOTES

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever. The angel said to me, "These words are trustworthy and true. The Lord, the God who inspires the prophets, sent his angel to show his servants the things that must soon take place." "Look, I am coming soon! Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy written in this scroll." I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I had heard and seen them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who had been showing them to me. But he said to me, "Don't do that! I am a fellow servant with you and with your fellow prophets and with all who keep the words of this scroll. Worship God!" Then he told me, "Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this scroll, because the time is near. Let the one who does wrong continue to do wrong; let the vile person continue to be vile; let the one who does right continue to do right; and let the holy person continue to be holy." "Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. "Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city. Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood." "I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star." The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let the one who hears say, "Come!" Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life. I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this scroll: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to that person the plagues described in this scroll. And if anyone takes words away from this scroll of prophecy, God will take away from that person any share in the tree of life and in the Holy City, which are described in this scroll. He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen.

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