

# The Revelation

## Lesson 20

### The Story of the Revelation

*The Continuation – Part 5*

Once upon a time and long, long ago ...

John heard the voice from the throne calling all servants of God, great and small, to give praise to Him. The *great multitude* in heaven rang out saying, “Hallelujah! The LORD our God, the Almighty, reigns!” Why? Because the marriage of the Lamb to His Bride was complete. She was beautiful, dressed in bright clean linen made from the righteous acts of the saints through all the ages.

It was then that John heard about the *marriage supper of the Lamb*. He told John that all the invited guests would be blessed.

It was then that John turned and fell at the feet of the angel who had been helping him through the entire vision. The angel quickly rejected John’s worship and he told him that he was just a servant of God like John.

Then, John looked back toward heaven and saw a white horse coming toward him. The One riding had a name. It was “Faithful and True! It was time for this rider to leave heaven to judge and make war on all evil. His eyes were a flame of fire, His head held a multitude of crowns. He had a name written on Him that no one could know, and His robe was dipped in blood. John heard that the LORD’s name was called “the Word of God” and the army with Him was dressed in clean white linen all mounted on white horses. He was headed out of heaven to rule over evil with a rod of iron. Together, with His army, they would tread on evil like grapes in a wine press with the fierce wrath of God. On the robe that covered His thigh, John could read the words, “King of kings and LORD of lords.”

It was time to invite the guests to the great *marriage supper of the Lamb*. An angel cried out and invited all the birds to come and eat the supper of God and dine on the flesh of the kings, commanders, mighty men, horses, and slaves.

It was then that John turned his attention to earth and saw the *beast and the kings of earth* assembled in the valley to fight the LORD and His army when they arrived at the valley of Megiddo! But all of a sudden, the *beast and the false preacher*, and everyone bearing 666 was snatched up and thrown alive in the *lake of fire and brimstone*. All the other soldiers were killed by the words that came out of the mouth of the LORD. John then said, “and all the birds were filled with their flesh.”

Next, Satan was snatched, bound in chains and thrown into the abyss and locked under its door for 1,000 years. After that, he would be let loose to deceive the world again, but only for a short time.

John then saw all the thrones of the world filled with new leaders ready to judge. He saw all the souls who had been under the altar, those who had been killed for their belief in the LORD come to life in their new resurrected bodies to reign with the LORD for the 1,000 years.

But John also noticed that all the evil people of all the ages who had died were not present. They had not had their resurrection yet. That resurrection will be called the *second*

*death*. But all those who had been resurrected were priests of God and Christ for the 1,000-year reign.

The vision then took John to the end of the 1,000-year reign of Christ on earth and he saw Satan released from the abyss as promised. He roamed throughout the earth and deceived many people, as many as the sands on the seashore. Satan led them to the great plain north of the city of Jerusalem and, from there, he sent them out to surround the city where the LORD sat on His *Great White Throne* in the Temple.

Satan's attempt was short-lived. When they were all gathered in their places ready to attack the LORD, He sent fire from heaven and consumed them all! Their leader, Satan, was seized and cast into the *lake of fire and brimstone*.

Immediately, John saw the power of the *Great White Throne* and the LORD Who sat on it. All John could see were the throne and the LORD; heaven and earth were overshadowed by the LORD's brilliance.

As John looked at the throne, he saw the resurrection of all the dead evil people of all the ages. The books which record every deed the evil people did during their lives were opened and they were judged by those deeds. The *book of life* was also inspected to see if their names were written there, but none at this judgment had their names written in the *book of life*.

At that point, the body of every person who had ever lived and died on earth had been resurrected. The portal of death was no longer needed and so it was thrown into the *lake of fire*. Hades, the place where the souls of evil people were being held in constant torment was no longer needed and it was thrown into the *lake of fire*. Anyone whose name was not written in the *book of life* was thrown into the *lake of fire*.

Then, before sin could raise its ugly head in the world again, John saw heaven and earth changed into sinless places. He looked up and saw the holy city in heaven coming down to earth. He called it the New Jerusalem. A loud voice said to him that the home of God was now on earth with mankind.

John heard a promise. He heard that God will wipe every tear away and no one will ever die again. No one will ever mourn or cry or experience pain again. The old ways of this world will be gone because the LORD had made all things new. He was the first when He created the world and now, at this point in the story, He is the last, changing the world into a sinless place. No one in His new world will ever thirst again because He will give him or her the *water of life* without charge. Everyone in this world will be with God in a wonderful relationship. But all those who have lived their lives as detestable and ungodly people, murders, sorcerers, worshipers of other gods and liars will be in the *lake of fire* experiencing the *second death*, doomed never to experience the blessing of the LORD's new heaven and earth.

Then one of the angels who poured one of the seven bowls of the wrath of God asked John if he would like to see where the bride of the Lamb was now. The angel took John to a high mountain where he could get a good look at the New Jerusalem.

John tells us the Holy City of Jerusalem was brilliant and made of transparent crystal jasper. He saw it with twelve gates and each gate had an angel guard. Each gate was named after one of the twelve tribes of Israel. Each side of the city had three gates.

John could see that the foundation of this city had twelve layers, each made out of a different costly stone and each named after one of the twelve Apostles.

The angel had a measuring rod to measure the city. It was 1500 miles long, deep and tall. The walls around the city were 216 feet high and were made out of jasper but the interior of the city was made out of pure clear gold.

John noticed that the city did not have a temple. It was because the LORD will be the temple in this city. The LORD will shine brighter than the sun and the moon and His light will shine on all of the world.

The gates of the city will never be closed, and all the families of the world will come to the city to give glory and honor to the LORD. But the gates of the city will never close because no evil person will live on this new sinless earth. Only those whose names were written in the *book of life* will be there.

John was shown the *river of life* coming from the LORD's throne and it ran through the middle of the street. On each side of the river he saw the *tree of life* which produced fruit every month and all the families could eat them and the leaves. When that comes into being, no one will ever be cursed again. God will be there. The LORD will be there. The LORD's faithful servants will be there. They will all be together, and each servant will have the LORD's name on his or her forehead.

Then the Lord told John that all that he had seen in this vision is faithful and true and will occur suddenly at the right time. He warned that everyone should pay attention to this story because it will take place one day.

John then gave his own testimony and swore that this was the vision he saw. He then reminded us that he once fell at the feet of the angel to worship him and that was wrong. He reminded us that the angel rejected him and told him to worship God only. John then reminded us that he was to write these words and not keep them just for himself because the season was at hand for this prophecy to be revealed to all the Church. John was told that not everyone would accept the words of this vision, specifically those who do wrong and live a filthy life. But, on the other hand, the righteous people who keep themselves holy will accept the words of this book. The LORD will soon come to judge the two groups. The LORD is the all-in-all and will bless all who wash their earthly robes in the shed blood of Jesus and overcome to eat from the *tree of life* and drink from the *river of life* and be granted entrance into the city of God one day.

Then the LORD reminds John that until this vision takes place and is complete, humans will still have to continue to live in this world surrounded by all sorts of evil people.

The LORD Jesus then testified to John and told him to send the written record of this vision to the Churches. He then stated that He was the basis from which David received his position as King of Israel but the LORD came to this earth to live as a descendant of King David. As the bright morning star, the LORD Jesus is the power in heaven. Both the Holy Spirit and the Bride invites everyone who hears this message to come to the LORD and accept the *water of life* that He offers.

The LORD then warns everyone who hears this vision to be careful not to dismiss it as nonsense. He warns them not to rearrange it, leave parts out, or add information to it. To do so means that you do not believe its words and the blessings in this book will not be yours. To that, the LORD says, "Yes, I am coming quickly." To that John says, "Truth! Come LORD Jesus!"

Finally, John offers this prayer. "The grace of the LORD Jesus be with all. Amen."

*And that is the end of the story found in the Revelation!*

## A General Outline of the REVELATION

Topic	Revelation Ref.	Description of Major Action
<b>Introduction</b>		
John and Jesus	1:1-20	The purpose of the book along with the call of John and the description of Jesus
<b>Seven Churches</b>		
Ephesus	2:1-7	Church doors closed in 263 AD
Smyrna	2:8-11	Church doors closed on September 9, 1922 AD
Pergamum	2:12-17	Church doors closed in 1336 AD
Thyatira	2:18-	Church doors closed before September of 1922 AD
Sardis	3:1-6	Church doors closed in 1402 AD
Philadelphia	3:7-13	Church doors closed in 1390 AD
Laodicea	3:14-	Church doors closed in 1450 AD
<b>Seven Seals</b>		
Seal One	6:1-2	White Horse Rider – bow, no arrow
Seal Two	6:3-4	Red Horse Rider – great sword
Seal Three	6:5-6	Black Horse Rider – scales, economic famine
Seal Four	6:7-8	Green Horse Rider – Death and Hades
Seal Five	6:9-11	Souls Under the Altar
Seal Six	6:12-7:17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Darkness over earth</li> <li>• Stars fall to earth (angels)</li> <li>• Winds kept from blowing</li> <li>• Sealing of 144,000 Jews</li> <li>• Great multitude in Heaven with palm branches to worship the Lamb</li> </ul>
Seal Seven	8:1	Silence
<b>Seven Trumpets</b>		
Trumpet One	8:6-7	Hail, fire and blood spilt on earth
Trumpet Two	8:8-9	Mountain thrown into the sea – 1/3 sea creatures die – 1/3 ships destroyed
Trumpet Three	8:10-11	Star Fell to earth to poison water
Trumpet Four	8:12-13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Darkening of sun, moon and stars</li> <li>• Eagle in Atmosphere</li> </ul>
Trumpet Five	9:1-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Star with key to bottomless pit</li> <li>• Locusts released</li> </ul>
Trumpet Six	9:13-11:14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Release of four evil angels</li> <li>• Army with four evil angels – 200 million</li> <li>• Beginning of ministry of two witnesses ministry for 1260 days – killed by the beast in trumpet seven</li> </ul>
Trumpet Seven	11:15-15:4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intro and history of the Ark of the Covenant</li> <li>• Intro and history of the woman, Israel and Jesus</li> <li>• Intro and history of the great red dragon</li> <li>• Intro and history of the beast from the sea</li> <li>• Intro and history of the beast from the earth</li> <li>• Salvation of the 144,000 and all of Israel</li> <li>• Angel's proclamation of Gospel to all the world</li> <li>• Angel's warning not take the 666 mark of the beast</li> </ul>
<b>Seven Bowls</b>		
Bowl One	16:2	Cancer sores on everyone with the 666 mark of the beast
Bowl Two	16:3	Great Sea turning to blood
Bowl Three	16:4-7	Fresh water turning to blood
Bowl Four	16:8-9	Sun burning everyone with 666 mark of the beast

Bowl Five	16:10-11	Darkness covering beast's kingdom and all in pain but continuing blasphemy because of their deeds
Bowl Six	16:12-16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drying of Euphrates River</li> <li>• Three frogs calling everyone to the valley of Megiddo to fight the LORD</li> </ul>
Bowl Seven	16:17-19:4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greatest earthquake ever</li> <li>• Intro, history and destruction of the Great Harlot</li> <li>• Intro, history and destruction of the city of the Great Harlot (Babylon)</li> <li>• Joy in heaven over the destruction of the Great Harlot and her city</li> </ul>
<b>Second Coming</b>	19:5-18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Description of the LORD on His horse</li> <li>• Intro and description of the Bride after the marriage ready to join Her Groom in Battle</li> <li>• Invitation to the guests to the marriage supper</li> </ul>
<b>Armageddon</b>	19:19-20:3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beast, false prophet and anyone with 666 cast into lake off fire</li> <li>• Others in Megiddo killed with the Word from the LORD's mouth</li> <li>• The LORD and His army's trampling bodies in the valley causing the blood to rise as high as the bridles of the horses</li> <li>• Satan bound for 1,000 years in the abyss</li> </ul>
<b>1,000-year Kingdom</b>	20:4-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jesus' reign over the whole world from His Great White Throne in the Temple in Jerusalem</li> <li>• Reign of all the resurrected saints with the LORD all around the world</li> <li>• All Jews still in human bodies in the Promised Land to live in peace on their own tribal allotments and as the premier nation of the world</li> <li>• Entrance of everyone not at the battle of Megiddo into the 1,000-year kingdom of the LORD – lost or saved</li> </ul>
<b>Release of Satan</b>	20:7-9a	Release of Satan, end of 1,000-year kingdom, allowing deception of population for a short time
<b>Final Battle</b>	20:9b-10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Satan's gathering of all deceived on the great plain outside Jerusalem</li> <li>• LORD's sending fire consumes Satan's Army</li> <li>• Satan to lake of fire</li> </ul>
<b>Great White Throne Judgment</b>	20:11-15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Second resurrection of all the evil people of all the ages</li> <li>• Bodies from the earth</li> <li>• Souls from torment in Hades</li> <li>• Judged by deeds in books</li> <li>• Names not in book of life cast into lake of fire – second death</li> </ul>
<b>New Heaven and Earth, New Jerusalem</b>	21:1-22:5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heaven and earth purified with fire</li> <li>• No remaining sin</li> <li>• Arrival of New Jerusalem</li> <li>• Description of New Jerusalem</li> </ul>
<b>Testimonies and Warnings</b>	22:6-21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Testimony of truthfulness of the timing of the record in the vision</li> <li>• Living in the world until the Second Coming</li> <li>• Testimony of John</li> <li>• Testimony of Jesus</li> </ul>

# Class Questions from the Revelation Study!

## THE UNIVERSE

1. Where does the universe come into play when the heavens and earth are destroyed?

We do not know the answer to this question. It is not addressed in this form and context anywhere in the Scripture. However, what we can discern from our study of the REVELATION is that there will come a time in the future when certain things are no longer needed. For instance, the time will come when the LORD will no longer need the temple in heaven because He will be leaving that location to sit on a new throne in the temple on earth during His 1,000-year reign. He will never return to heaven. When the New Jerusalem leaves heaven and comes to earth, no temple will be seen. Other examples found in the commentary of the REVELATION include the end of the need for the grave, the portal of death, the place called Hades and the verses that indicate that there will be no need for the light of the sun, the moon and the stars. Therefore, we can discern from these examples, that when the New Jerusalem arrives on earth, the rest of the universe will not be needed.

## THE NEW JERUSALEM

2. If the sun and moon are melted away, the sun being 93,000,000 miles away, will the New Jerusalem be in a 1,500-mile square or could that number be larger in size?

The Scripture tells us that the New Jerusalem will be 1500 miles square. The LORD also testifies in the REVELATION that this measurement as well as all the other statements in this vision are *true and faithful*. With that, we must take the LORD at His word.

3. Do we know the order of the names of the gates of the new heaven? Is so, what is the order?

In the book of Exodus, the LORD gave specific instructions for the layout of the camp of the *Nation of Israel*. In that layout, three tribes were posted on each side of the tabernacle.

When the camp moved, each tribe remained in its proper place and order as it traveled. The chart is from my second lesson in the book of Numbers concerning the arrangement of the camp. Judah is located on the east in the middle with Dan in the middle to the north, Rueben in the middle to the south and Ephraim in the middle to the west.

**THE LORD'S ORDER OF THE CAMP**  
603,550 Total Men Twenty Years Old and Older

157,600 Men Twenty Years Old and Older				
BENJAMIN <sup>?</sup> 35,400	ASHUR <sup>?</sup> 41,500	DAN (North) 62,700	NAPHTALI <sup>?</sup> 53,400	ISSACHAR <sup>?</sup> 54,400
Levites				
EPHRAIM (West) 40,500	Levites	TABERNACLE Complex	Levites	JUDAH (East) 74,600
Levites				
MANASSEH <sup>?</sup> 32,200	GAD <sup>?</sup> 45,650	REUBEN (South) 46,500	SIMEON <sup>?</sup> 59,300	ZEBULUN <sup>?</sup> 57,400
151,450 Men Twenty Years Old and Older				

<sup>?</sup>Note: Three tribes were positioned on each side of the Tabernacle Complex. Benjamin, Ephraim and Manasseh were always on the west side of the Tabernacle Complex. Ephraim, being the standard bearer, was always camped between Benjamin and Manasseh. The question marks indicate that Benjamin and Manasseh's camp may have been reversed from what we see in this chart. The same is true for each of the other sides.

4. In eternity, will we see the Father or just Jesus? Is it Jesus who will be “living among men?” (Revelation 21:3)

In the New Jerusalem you will see God the Father, God the Son (Jesus) and God the Holy Spirit. In the New Jerusalem, all three will be “living among” resurrected humanity on earth.

5. How many souls are involved from Alpha to Omega?

None. The term “Alpha and Omega” is a title for the LORD Jesus. “Alpha” being the first letter in the Greek alphabet and “Omega” being the last. It designates His eternity. He created everything and He will be there through all eternity with it. Culturally, it means, *He is without end – no beginning and no end.*

6. The tree and fruit: leaves of the tree for the healing of the nations: Won’t they be healed already?

Let us make sure we understand two terms in your question for this answer – nations and healing. In lesson 19, I addressed the word *nations*. When we see that word, we should not think about America, England, China or any other nation as we call them today. Its reference began at the tower of Babel when the LORD confused the languages of Noah’s family and each group was sent out to populate the world by family languages. Notice the language of that disbursement below.

**Genesis 10:<sup>5</sup>** From these the coastlands of the nations were separated into their lands, **every one according to his language, according to their families, into their nations.**

From that language, we can discern that the families scattered across the earth to begin to multiply. In the beginning, each family was sparse because there were only 69 males at the time of the tower of Babel on earth. We do not know the number of females. These families grew in number to become the nations. When we see the word “nations” we should think of families. Families are very important to the LORD here on earth and families are important in heaven and all eternity.

Now to address the word “healing.” It is a lone word in the Bible, only found in this form in Revelation 22:2. It is the Greek word *therapeian* and it is a medical term that means *to attend*. When it was first used in the English translations in the 1380 Wycliffe Bible and the 1525 Tynadale Bible, it meant *restored wholeness*. In this case it means *the leaves are a symbol of the restored wholeness of the families living in eternity*. It does not mean that they need to be healed of anything – they are whole and perfect.

7. Since we all have choice, would this happen again – sin?

Sin was dealt with by the LORD for the last time at the *Great White Throne Judgment*. After that judgment was complete and all sin was cast into the *lake of fire and brimstone*, the LORD made the new heavens and the new earth sinless! Therefore, with the end of the *Great White Throne Judgment* and the change of the heavens and the earth, sin will never occur again.

8. In the New Jerusalem, exactly what will be 1500 miles high? One building, multiple buildings? One street (21:21)? Will we ever go out of the city?

The golden glow of the city will extend 1500 miles into the air. We struggle with the image of a 1500-mile city hanging on the earth. If the structure of the city actually extended 1500 miles up, it would pass the *Space Station* by 1250 miles. The *Space Station* orbits at 254 miles above earth.

At the end of lesson 19, I reported that the *Population Institute* estimates that 107,000,000,000 people have lived on this earth since its creation. I also demonstrated to you that the *Big Island* of Hawaii could hold all 107,000,000,000 today because that is the square footage of the island. The square footage of the New Jerusalem on the floor level is 62,658,900,000,000. That is plenty of room for all the saints to live for all eternity on one level. We are also told in the Revelation that the wall around the city is 216 feet tall. That is three times the height of Sagemont's Cross; however, the Empire State building is 1250 feet tall. It is therefore, my opinion, that the glow of the city will reach 1500 miles into the atmosphere. The physical layout of the floor level of the city will cover 1500 miles square on the surface of the earth with the center of the city resting atop the current site of the city of Jerusalem.

9. Is there significance to the size of the New Jerusalem?

It is the size determined by the LORD and the Bible tells us nothing about its significance.

### **THE 1,000-YEAR REIGN OF THE LORD**

10. Will there be Christians who lose their salvation during the 1,000-year reign?

No. Salvation can never be taken away. It is eternal once it is given. However, during the 1,000-year kingdom, the whole world will adhere to the LAW of the LORD. It is similar to the Mosaic Law, but not exactly. In the book of Ezekiel, we are going to learn that during the 1,000-year kingdom, the sacrificial system of the LORD will return. It has not been practiced by Jews since 70 AD, but it will be installed again for 1,000-years when the LORD is on His throne on earth beginning in the 7000<sup>th</sup> year since the creation of Adam.

11. Where does it say in Revelation about animals not killing each other? I thought that over the whole earth animals would not kill each other.

Two passages address this and they are in Isaiah (11:6 and 65:25). Both passages address life in the 1,000-year kingdom.

**Isaiah 11:**<sup>6</sup> And the wolf will dwell with the lamb, And the leopard will lie down with the young goat, And the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little boy will lead them.

**Isaiah 65:**<sup>25</sup> "The wolf and the lamb will graze together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox; and dust will be the serpent's food. They will do no evil or harm in all My holy mountain," says the LORD.



The context of both passages address life in the 1,000-year kingdom on the LORD's Holy Mountain. That mountain will be 50 miles long and wide. On that holy mountain, the two verses above apply. However, off the mountain, all the animals of the world will still need to eat because they are still in the food chain established by the LORD from the beginning.

12. In the new kingdom, will there be that special food/wine like the one that was provided at Jesus' cousin's wedding?

All the foods and drinks will be the same as they are today for humans. For all the resurrected saints, they will eat manna and fruit from the tree of life and drink from the river of life.

13. Why even have the 1,000 years?

The 1,000-year kingdom was the LORD's plan from the very beginning. It is prophesied in multiple passages in the Old Testament. It is the time when He will be the only King reigning on this earth.

14. Why is Satan released again and again?

Satan is only bound once and released once. It is part of the LORD's plan. Satan is the pawn that the LORD uses to test humanity, their character, their integrity when it comes to believing and trusting in the LORD. He wants the people who truly trust Him to be with Him for all eternity. However, by binding Satan away for the 1,000-years of the LORD's reign on earth, the population of the world will grow by leaps and bounds during that time. Every human on earth will have visited the LORD on His throne many times during life and then, the LORD will have Satan loosed to test those who are willing to be deceived. The LORD knows their hearts. The purpose of Satan's deception is to allow the LORD to record their decisions about Him in His books. When they stand at the *Great White Throne Judgment*, they will have no excuse for their actions and decisions and will be sent to the *lake of fire and brimstone*.

15. What is life like for the "unsaved" or "not yet saved" people during the 1,000-years?

Because Satan and his demons will not be in the 1,000-year kingdom, very few sins will occur, but when they do, they will be dealt with quickly. It will be hard to tell the saved from the unsaved in the kingdom years. That is why Satan will be needed at the end of the kingdom years to separate the wheat from the tares.

16. When it is said that all nations must come to Jerusalem for the Feast of Tabernacle (Succoth) or have no rain for the next year, is it referring to all nations who rose against Israel?

No. It is referring to anyone from any nation/family unit anywhere in the world. It is required of everyone.

17. Will there be different conditions/seasons? I'm tired of hearing about "global warming."

In the New Jerusalem, we know little about this question, but we can be assured that the weather will be perfect in eternity.

However, in the 1,000-year kingdom the story will be different. Isaiah teaches us that a dome will cover the mountain of God (50 x 50 miles) and weather under the dome will be perfect too. Outside the dome the weather will be the same as it is today. The world will not be changed yet. That will happen after the *Great White Throne Judgment* 1,000 years later. Because the first earth has not passed away, everything will be the same.

18. Since we all have choice, would this happen again – sin?

In the New Jerusalem for all eternity, no! However, in the 1,000-year kingdom, because the earth and humans will still be the same as they are now, sin will still be possible, although, rare.

19. In the 1,000-year reign, the dead have been raised, have glorified bodies and come back to rule with the LORD in the great city (50x50). Will we all only be in the city or will we be in the rest of the world too, and what will we be doing? Will we be visible? And eat? Marry?

We will be stationed all over the world governing the humans on earth. No earthly rulers will hold positions in the LORD's government. You will receive your assignment during the *Judgment Seat of Christ* (not mentioned in the REVELATION) during the marriage ceremony to the LORD after the great snatching away. We will be the priests and ministers of God here on earth. See lesson 17 for the commentary and Isaiah 61:1-9.

20. Also, from the lesson/sermon last week you told how there would be WORK when we returned with Christ to the earth for the 1000 years. All my life I have been thinking only about walking up the streets of gold and living in the mansion that Christ tells about in John.

When you make the transition from this life to that one, you will be so renewed and ready to WORK FOR THE LORD! You will be so excited about it that you will not even need to close your eyes and sleep for one second for all eternity future!

21. If there really is fishing in heaven, the city, how can that be since there will be no death? And when you catch the fish, the fish will die. Also, does this mean no more juicy steaks? Will we be vegetarians at the wedding feast?

The reference to fishing by the river that comes from the temple is found in Ezekiel 47:7-10. It is a reference to the 1,000-year kingdom when the LORD is reigning on earth and humans are still living here too. Death has not been thrown into the *lake of fire*; therefore, humans will be able to enjoy their fish and steaks. The birds are the only ones eating at the marriage feast and they will be eating the flesh of all the dead bodies in the valley of

Armageddon. No vegetarian birds will be present. And finally, in Ezekiel we will learn that the whole sacrificial system at the temple will be back in full swing with a few modifications. As for the resurrected saints of all the ages, we will be eating manna, fruit from the tree of life and drink from the river of life.

22. I noticed during the study that you lightly touched on a timeline, even using the year 7000 as the beginning of the 1000-year reign of Christ here on earth. And I think I also heard during the study that while we are indeed living in the book of Revelation right now, the end events or even the 'catching up' of the church could be far away. What are your thoughts on these end of time events starting from 2018?

One of our Apostolic Fathers answers this question. The *General Epistle of Barnabas* says the following.

**Barnabas 13:5** For with him one day is a thousand years; as himself testified, saying, Behold this day shall be as a thousand years. Therefore, children, in six days, that is, in six thousand years, shall all things be accomplished. <sup>6</sup>And what is that he saith, and he rested on the seventh day; he meant this, that when his Son shall come, and abolish the season of the Wicked One, and judge the ungodly; and shall change the sun and the moon and the stars, then he shall gloriously rest in the seventh day. ... <sup>9</sup>Lastly, he saith unto them; Your new moons and your sabbaths I cannot bear them. Consider what he means by it; the sabbaths, say he, which ye now keep are not acceptable unto me, but those which I have made; when resting from all things I shall begin the eighth day, that is, the beginning of the other world.

### **HEAVEN (The New Jerusalem now and when it comes to earth)**

23. Will our pets be in heaven?

Sadly, I must report the answer is no. For that answer, all we have to do is return to the LORD's instruction to Noah when he debarked from the Ark. Here is what the LORD said concerning animals.

**Genesis 9:3** "Every moving thing that is alive shall be food for you; I give all to you, as *I gave* the green plant. <sup>4</sup> "Only you shall not eat flesh with its life, *that is*, its blood. <sup>5</sup> "Surely I will require your lifeblood; from every beast I will require it. And from *every* man, from every man's brother I will require the life of man.

This passage indicates that all animals on earth are part of the food chain except humans. Humans are never to be eaten. Animals do not have the same kind of souls as humans. They are intended for their use as food for other animals and humans.

Will there be animals in heaven? Yes, we know of at least one kind – horses. However, these horses have been there since the first day of creation.

24. Will there be different conditions/seasons? I'm tired of hearing about "global warming."

The Bible tells us nothing about weather in heaven save that it is a perfect place.

25. Why is God going to give “us” a white stone with a new name?

We are just going to have to trust the LORD on this one. You are going to get a white stone and it will have your new name that is written down in glory on it! We will know all about it when we get there!

26. Why are “we” given hidden manna? (Revelation 2:17)

When we get to heaven, we will enjoy eating manna which the Bible tells us is the food of the angels. Along with that, we will eat from the tree of life and drink from the river of life.

### ***Age in Heaven and Family***

27. What age will people be in heaven? If we die as a baby or as a senior citizen, will we be stuck for eternity as “old” or “young”? Will we recognize our loved ones?
28. I am also concerned about how we will look...age does a job on the human body especially the face...will I look different and have everlasting energy...improved attitude, etc.
29. I have an infant daughter in heaven. Will our loved one’s age? Will I be able to hold her in my arms?
30. If we will know our families in heaven, will we know some of our families are not there?
31. We have been attending a lot of funerals this past year ...we are usually told that the love ones are now with the ones that have gone on ...before. Is there Scripture to back this up?
32. I believe there are grumpy Christians...saved but live with a bad personality...personalities will be changed also?

We need to lump these questions together. We do not know what we will look like in heaven until our souls join our resurrected bodies. The transformed bodies will be perfect. Nothing will be out of place about them at all. We do not know about babies or children who have died. Will they still be young, or will they be old? We do not know. What we do know is, they will be perfect. And what about personalities? Will they still be the same as they were on earth? No, they will be perfect because they are sinless. Will families know each other? Absolutely! Families are so important to the LORD that He created us to be in families. Now, there will be no giving and taking in marriage in heaven; Jesus told us that. Marriage in the Bible mean the union of a man and a woman to make one flesh in a sexual union. Only a man and woman can do that. It has nothing to do with the ceremony. Two men cannot do that, and neither can two women. Family relationships will be established here on earth and recognized in heaven.

To address what we will know when we die, Paul says the following about the difference between life on earth and the moment Jesus takes your hand and takes you to heaven to be with Him.

<sup>1</sup> Corinthians 13:9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part; <sup>10</sup> but when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away.<sup>11</sup> When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a

child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things. <sup>12</sup> For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known.

The perfect here refers to our transition from this life to the next. From the sinful imperfect to the sinless perfect! That occurs when the LORD comes to take us to heaven.

Here on earth, we know very little about everything! But, the instant we go to be with the LORD, we will know everything about everything just like the LORD. It is a promise. Yes, we will know our loved ones who have gone on before. They will know you, too. In fact, because they are already there, they know when you will be arriving. That is what it means when Paul says, **“but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known.”** Not only will you get to hold your loved ones, you will get to be with them for all eternity.

### ***Jobs After We Die***

33. The pastors all talk about finding rest now that the person has died...This job sounds hard...almost as hard as dealing with inter-city HS students for 35 years...I have been looking forward to rest.

When pastors speak of the “rest,” they mean the rest from the toils of life on this sinful and sick world. You do not want to rest in heaven with the LORD. Your first day there will be the first day of all the wonders of eternity for you. Just wait! You will be thrilled beyond all imagination to receive all the gifts the LORD has for you there. Your first moment in with the LORD will be the start of a life that you cannot even begin to image this side of heaven!