

# The Revelation

## Lesson 19

Sin has been dealt with for the last time at the *Great White Throne*. However, humans are still living on this world with the sin nature. When the Judge had struck the gavel after the verdict of the last soul sent to the *lake of fire*, all living humans will have their bodies glorious transformed into sinless resurrected bodies like all the saints of all the ages without going through the portal of death. The LORD will not allow one more sin to occur. It will be time for a miraculous change in heaven and on earth. Sin had been dealt with and it was time for the heavens and earth to receive judgment. Peter spoke of this when he said the following.

**2 Peter 3:7** But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.

The LORD had judged the whole world before when He sent a flood. By His word he had promised that water would never be used in that way (Genesis 9:8-17). The next judgment would be by fire (2 Peter 3:7). We should *fear not* concerning this day! It will not occur at the hands of a lunatic president or king. It will occur at the hands of God Almighty! He knows what He is doing and the consequences of it all. It is coming. Peter saw it coming. John saw it coming.

### **K. The New Heaven from Heaven (21:1 – 22:5)**

#### **1. A New Heaven and Earth (21:1)**

**Rev 21:1** 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.

In his vision, John “**saw a new heaven and a new earth**” when the old heaven and earth “**passed away.**” What will change? Will the new heaven and earth be completely new or will it be a partial renovation?

First, the date of this renovation of heaven and earth has already been calendared on God’s schedule. It will come as the last stage of the LORD’s verdict of the *Great White Throne* proceedings. We can rightly call it *God’s “day of judgment”* (2 Peter 3:7). Men are not going to bring this change about. God will do it and He will not need help. The world already has the capacity to burn everything in a flash. Scientists tell us that roughly 21% of the atmosphere is oxygen and it is highly flammable. Each atom of oxygen is being held by the LORD and kept in check for *God’s day of judgment*.

Second, the Bible tells us that sin has tainted heaven and earth; therefore, both must be judged. Sin did not begin here on earth; it began in heaven and was imported by the *great red dragon* after he started the whole mess.

Third, the LORD has on His calendar this judgment day and it will not happen during the *age of grace (the Church)*. Neither will it happen during the 1,000-year age of the LORD reigning as *King of kings and LORD of lords*. But it is scheduled immediately after the conclusion of the 1,000-year reign. Once again, Peter tells us how that day will come.

**2 Peter 3:10** But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.

This passage is not referencing the *snatching away* of the Church to heaven, nor is it a reference to the *Battle of Gog* or the *Battle of Armageddon*. But the Bible uses the word “**day**” in association with those three events and more. Perhaps this is a good time to survey how the Scripture uses the word “**day**” in reference to coming events.

First, we are living in *man’s day* (1 Corinthians 4:3). In general, man is in the business of judging man and the LORD seems to be silent; however, He is not because He is always working all things for our good for believers.

Second, because we live in *man’s day*, the LORD provides for us the *day of salvation* (2 Corinthians 6:2). In other words, we may be under the rule of man, but the LORD’s sovereign grace is available to all who will receive it.

Third, Paul tells us about the *day of Christ* (1 Corinthians 1:8, 3:13; 2 Corinthians 1:14; Philippians 1:6; 2:16). This day is the moment all Christians long for! It is the day of the great *snatching away* foretold in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.

Fourth, we come to the *day of Jacob’s trouble* (Jeremiah 30:7; Ezekiel 8-22; Matthew 24:15-31). The Church has been *snatched away* and the LORD has begun to maneuver events that will lead to the *Nation of Israel* turning to the LORD as Savior.

Fifth, the *day of the LORD* will arrive. It is mentioned repeatedly in Isaiah, Ezekiel, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Zephaniah, Malachi, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians, 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter and the REVELATION. The *day of the LORD* is His day when He is King of kings and LORD of lords reigning on earth in total control and seen by men. His glorious 1,000-year kingdom on earth as we know it today will begin with a battle and end with a battle (Revelation 16:12-21; 19:11-21; 20:7-10).

Sixth, finally, we see the *day of God*. Peter gives another clue about this day.

**2 Peter 3:11-13** Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat! But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.

After the *Great White Throne Judgment*, a great and mighty holocaust will change the boundaries of the LORD’s creation and it will be done by the LORD! Why? It will be needed to fulfill the prophecy of Paul which says the following.

**1 Corinthians 15:25-28** For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be abolished is death. For HE HAS PUT ALL THINGS IN SUBJECTION UNDER HIS FEET. But when He says, "All things are put in subjection," it is evident that He is excepted who put all things in subjection to Him. When all things are subjected to Him, then the Son Himself also will be subjected to the One who subjected all things to Him, so that God may be all in all.

When the LORD's reign is complete on earth and He has handled sin for the last time, it will be time for Him to purify creation and prepare it all for the arrival of God's home. In Paul's passage above, all this preparation will be for the purpose of the LORD gathering all things that belong to Him and presenting them as a gift to *God the Father*. In this action, the Triune God will then be as Paul says, **"all in all."** To get to that point, all things must be purified with fire! The 1,000-year reign will be terminated when the *eternal future* begins. It will come to pass **"like a thief in the night"** (2 Peter 3:10). In other words, at the end of the *Great White Throne Judgment*, it will happen suddenly and without notice. The place called *heaven* will be destroyed in a flash and with a great noise and all the elements of space will melt away with the fervent heat. *Heaven* will be terminated. It will no longer be needed. Why? The answer is simple; *heaven* is on its way to earth. The Triune God is about to inhabit and dwell on earth! But earth must be prepared for this great arrival. For that process, the surface of the earth and its works, its **"elements"** must be burned (2 Peter 3:10).

The word **"element"** is interesting. It comes from the Greek *stoicheion* and it means *the letter of the word!* Amazing! Peter is talking about the components of this world which the LORD spoke into being. In other words, all the *words* of this world will be burned. Nothing but godly and holy words will be said from that moment on!

Peter uses the word **"melt"** and it is interesting too! It is the Greek word *luo* and it means *to break up*. In the Gospels it is translated *unloose* (Mark 1:7; Luke 3:16; John 1:27). It is used by John the Baptist when he said he was not worthy to untie the shoe laces of Jesus. John, the writer of this REVELATION, used it in John 11:44 to record the LORD's words to the bystanders to *loose* Lazarus from the grave clothes. In other words, it means to *set free from the bounds that have been binding*. All things that bind humans from the LORD will be burned once and for all, letting *loose* eternal worship and service to the LORD.

When Peter said, **"a great noise,"** it is the Greek word *rhoizedon* and it means the sound of a *roaring flame*.

Peter's word for **"fervent heat"** is the Greek word *kausoo*, a medical term meaning *to have a hot fever*.

Rightfully, we can take Peter's prophecy and words and insert them into the outline and story of the REVELATION. How did Peter know all that John would write in this book? He did not! Peter wrote years before this REVELATION was delivered. Yet, the LORD delivered the message to Peter just as He delivered the message to John!

After the *Great White Throne Judgment*, in a flash, with the sound of a roaring flame, heaven will pass away suddenly like a **"thief in the night"** never to be needed again. And then, with the fervent heat of the Word of the LORD, this earth will be purified once and for all, not by water, but by fire.

But the *city of God* will not be harmed. Never! In John's vision, it must have been on its way to its new home when John saw heaven, which had been the city's home, destroyed. It had been its home since the first day of creation, but never again.

## 2. A New Jerusalem (21:2)

Rev 21:2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband.

Picture this! As heaven was passing away forever in a blast, it must have been an incredible backdrop for the arrival of the **"holy city, new Jerusalem."** God's home was

transitioning to its new location after 8,000 years. To John, it was as beautiful as a bride parading down the isle with a tremendous light behind it, to take the hand of her husband.

### 3. A New Dwelling (21:3)

Rev 21:3 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,

The **"loud voice from the throne"** made this proclamation. Please do not think that this REVELATION has occurred yet, for it has not. The LORD was still on His throne during the full delivery of this vision. The LORD on His throne made this announcement to John so he could write it down. GOD, the home of GOD, the throne for GOD and the city of GOD had jarred loose from its moorings in heaven just in time to leave its bounds, transverse through the entire universe headed for one target, earth, a new earth, a sinless earth. Once there, all the saints of all the ages will dwell in that city for all eternity in the future.

### 4. A New Thing (21:4)

Rev 21:4 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."

And here we arrive at the words that are misapplied so many times in Christianity. **"He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death ... mourning, ... crying ...pain."** Those things were all part of the elements of the **"first things."** In REVELATION 21:1 we were told that the **"first earth"** had passed away. Finally, with the first heaven gone and the first earth purified, tears, death, crying and pain will not occur again because those were elements, words of the way life existed on the first earth, not the second.

### 5. A New Command (21:5)

Rev 21:5 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."

The voice from the throne said to John, **"I am making all things new. ... Write... ."** Not now, not in the Church age that we are living now, but in the future, when His reign on earth is over and the new heaven and earth arrives - the heaven full of sinlessness and earth the same.

### 6. A New Completion (21:6)

Rev 21:6a Then He said to me, "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.

That is the story, John! That is the vision. That is how Israel will finally make the LORD her Savior. That is how the LORD will arrive at His *Second Coming* and rule as King. He is the great **"I Am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end."** You now know the full story, from start to the finish! Write it down. **"It is done!"**

a) **Water for the Thirsty (21:6b)**

Rev 21:6b I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost.

Then the LORD returned to speak to the souls of those on earth in John's day. They apply to our day, too. For all who will hear the message of this vision through the years to come in the Church age until the *Second Coming of the LORD* and thereafter, there is a dual promise. The first promise from the LORD is the **“water of life without cost,”** satisfaction from the thirst for life with the LORD that will never run dry and it will be given to those who seek it. This is in opposition to those who hate the LORD and will find their thirst unquenched in *torment* and ultimately the *lake of fire and brimstone*.

b) **Inheritance for the Overcomer (21:7)**

Rev 21:7 "He who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son.

The second promise from the LORD is a grand inheritance from God. The promise of an eternal relationship with Him! The promise also includes all wonders that have been offered in eternity future by the LORD.

c) **Fire for the Second Dead (21:8)**

Rev 21:8 "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."

But the all-knowing LORD must address those who choose not to be saints. This vision was given at the beginning of the Church age so no one would be without excuse. Those mentioned in this verse are headed to the *Great White Throne Judgment* that will end in the second death in the *lake of fire*. Doomed! Alive but dead forever, out of the glorious presence of the LORD!

7. **A New Bride (21:9)**

Rev 21:9 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."

Now John saw the **“bride, the wife of the Lamb,”** when she exited the bridal chamber just before the departure from heaven to take care of things in the valley of Megiddo. That story was told in the *seventh bowl of the wrath of God*. That same angel, charged with pouring the contents of the *seventh bowl* wanted to show John that same bride now, during the days of the Church age, before the doors of the seven Churches were closed, before the first seal was broken in reality by the Lamb of God. He wanted to show John where the departed Church members lived. In reality, he wanted to show John where the LORD took every saint who would transition from earth to heaven through the portal of the first death

from the resurrection of the LORD after Calvary until the *Great White Throne Judgment*.  
"Come here, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb."

#### 8. A New City (21:10 – 22:5)

Rev 21:10 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, <sup>11a</sup> having the glory of God.

Just as John had been carried away in the Spirit to heaven from the cave on Patmos hours before so he could see from heaven's view, this angel must have taken him somewhere on earth where he would have a clear shot of the final approach of the *city of God* as it came to earth. A high mountain would do. It was not on Patmos. No high mountains existed on Patmos. This was the city John had seen during the major vision as he saw heaven pass away. Now, in a smaller and shorter vision, an addendum, we might say that John was able to obtain a closer view of the New Jerusalem. It might be new to John and perhaps the earth, but it was established as God's home on the first day of creation. It is as old as creation.

##### a) Crystal Clear Jasper (21:11b)

Rev 21:11b Her brilliance was like a very costly stone, as a stone of crystal-clear jasper.

As the city came into John's view, it seemed to be made of expensive stones that were "crystal-clear jasper." To John, the whole city looked like the same material he attributed to the LORD's throne (Revelation 4:3).

##### b) Walls and Gates (21:12)

Rev 21:12a It had a great and high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels;

We do not know how high the wall is at this point in the story, but it will be measured soon. John did see twelve gates with twelve angel guards, one at each gate.

##### (1) Names of the Tribes (21:12a)

Rev 21:12a and names *were* written on them, which are *the names* of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel.

John noticed that each gate had a name written on it. Being Jewish, he must have quickly recognized the names on the gates as those of the original twelve sons of Jacob who fathered the twelve tribes of the *Nation of Israel*.

##### (2) Names of the Gates (21:13)

Rev 21:13 *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.

John also noticed that the four-sided city had three gates on each side.

c) Foundation (21:14)

Rev 21:14 And the wall of the city had twelve foundation stones, and on them *were* the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

Furthermore, as the city came closer, John noticed that there were twelve steps or foundation layers under the city walls. Each step had the name of one of the twelve Apostles on each layer. It is here that we wish John would have given us the names written on those twelve steps. It would have settled many Church age arguments over who took Judas Iscariot's place in the eyes of God. Surely it is Paul and not Mathias, but we will never know until the LORD comes to receive each of us by the hand and take us to this city while it is still in heaven.

d) Measurement (21:15)

Rev 21:15 The one who spoke with me had a gold measuring rod to measure the city, and its gates and its wall.

The angel who poured the *seventh bowl of wrath*, who was speaking with John had a measuring stick in his hand. He would measure the city and John would record the measurements.

(1) Its Size (21:16)

Rev 21:16 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.

The square city was 1,500 miles long, wide and tall.

(2) Its Walls (21:17)

Rev 21:17 And he measured its wall, seventy-two yards, *according to human measurements*, which are *also angelic measurements*.

Even though the city was 1,500 miles high, the physical walls were only 216 feet high. In this verse we see a special note. As the angel measured the city, he used the same scale as that used by humans.

(3) Its Material (21:18-21)

(a) Walls (21:18)

Rev 21:18 The material of the wall was jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass.

John has already told us the city walls looked like “**jasper.**” John now tells us that the bulk of the interior of the city was “**pure gold**” but it looked like “**clear glass.**”

(b) Foundation (21:19-20)

Rev 21:19 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; <sup>20</sup> the fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, topaz; the tenth, chrysoprase; the eleventh, jacinth; the twelfth, amethyst.

With the city close enough, John could identify the types of stones used on each layer of the foundation. All off the stones were “**precious**,” meaning they were *valuable*.

#### (c) Gates (21:21)

Rev 21:21 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’s eyes returned to the gates and streets of the city. Each gate was made of a single pearl, a precious gem and the only one formed within the living flesh of an oyster irritated by an offending and hurtful object. In most cases, a single grain of sand harms it. The pearl is the oyster’s answer to that which harmed it. The pearl at the gates of this city is God’s answer to the wicked who harmed heaven’s beloved LORD. The pearl will forever be a reminder of the case of the event of Calvary.

The streets are like the rest of the city, pure but clear gold.

#### e) Map (21:22-22:5)

##### (1) The Temple and Lamb (21:22)

Rev 21:22 I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.

John noticed the absence of the Temple in the city. A temple will not be needed. The “**LORD God and the Lamb are its temple.**” Do not be confused at this point. The “**LORD God**” and the “**Lamb**” are the same person, the LORD Jesus. He is the Temple in the New Jerusalem.

##### (2) The Sun and Moon (21:23)

Rev 21:23 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.

The sun and the moon will not be hanging in the sky any longer. They will have been melted away with the heavens. The world will be illuminated by God, the LORD God, the Lamb, Jesus.

##### (a) The Nations and Kings (21:24)

Rev 21:24 The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it.

Nations will still exist! When the LORD sent forth the families from the *Tower of Babel*, He forced into being what He had instructed the people to do. Each language represented a new nation. However, in this case, all the nations for the earth will be resurrected saints from all the ages. Kings will also be on the earth. They will hold positions in the government of the LORD for all eternity future. They, too, will be resurrected saints.



(b) The Day and Gates (21:25)

Rev 21:25 In the daytime (~~for there will be no night there~~) its gates will never be closed;

Although angels will theoretically and ceremonially guard each of the twelve gates, the **“gates will never be closed,”** and they will never need to be closed. The earth will be sinless. Evil had been dealt with by the LORD and no harm will ever come to anyone again!

(c) The Glory and Honor (21:26)

Rev 21:26 and they will bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it;

The nations will have a task and responsibility during all of eternity future. All the glorified resurrected saints will be required to give **“glory and honor”** to the LORD God, the Lamb.

(d) The People and Book (21:27)

Rev 21:27 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.

No sinners will be there. Only the saved, redeemed by the blood of the Lamb with their names forever engraved in the **“Lamb’s Book of Life,”** which is there!

(e) The River and Throne (22:1-2a)

Rev 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, <sup>22:2a</sup> in the middle of its street.

At least one special street runs through the city starting at the throne. In the middle of that street is the **“river of the water of life, clear as crystal.”** This river will be the source for everyone to drink from for all eternity.

For perspective, the city is 1,500 miles deep. The throne of the LORD is in the middle of the city, 750 miles from the perimeter wall. Therefore, the *River of Life* is at least 750 miles long.

For further perspective, the 7.6 billion people in the world today can stand side by side on the *Big Island of Hawaii*. It contains 4,028 total square miles. That means that 1,886,792 people can stand in one square mile. One square mile has 27,878,400 square feet which means that every person has almost 15 square feet per person.

The river can be accessed from both sides, or 1,500 miles of river frontage which means that 7,920,000 people can drink from the river at the same time. That is just the river frontage inside the city without regard to the river’s access outside the city and throughout the world.

For a little more perspective, scholars estimate that 107 billion people have lived on the earth since creation to date. That means that 26,564,051 people would need to stand in one square mile on the *Big Island of Hawaii*. That means that each person who has ever lived could stand on the *Big Island of Hawaii* if they took up only about 1.04 square feet each. That would be tighter than sardines in a can, but the point is, everyone who has ever lived, if he or she were still alive today could just about stand front to back and side to side on the *Big Island of Hawaii*. Just the floor level of this city of God is 1,500 miles wide and deep or 2,250,000 square miles 559 times larger than the *Big Island*. Space in the city will not be a

problem because the number of glorified saints in eternity future will be far less than the 107 billion that have lived in this world to date.

(f) [The Tree and Fruit \(22:2b\)](#)

**Rev 22:2a** 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.

This one “**tree of life**” has grown since its day in the *Garden of Eden*. It has now grown large enough that the *river of life* can run through it and most likely, it extends from just a short distance from the throne to the perimeter wall. We do not know how wide the tree is but we do know it is on either side of the river and runs at least 750 miles from the throne to the perimeter wall.

(g) [The Curse and Servants \(22:3\)](#)

**Rev 22:3** 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;

The city is sinless. The world is sinless. The curse of sin is gone. Everyone serves God (the Father) on the throne and the Lamb, the LORD Jesus.

(h) [The Face and Name \(22:4\)](#)

**Rev 22:4** they will see His face, and His name *will be* on their foreheads.

The face of the LORD will not be hidden from the glorified saints living in the world. John has described the LORD’s face in the REVELATION. His name will be on everyone’s forehead. During the tribulation, His name was sealed on the 144,000 Israelites, but now, everyone will have the same name.

(i) [The Night and Sun \(22:5\)](#)

**Rev 22:5** 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.

Once again, John remarks that the LORD will be the light which illumines the world. But more than that, night will never occur in the city with the LORD reigning with the saints “**forever and ever.**” This city is the home of the “**bride, the wife of the Lamb**” in all its glory and beauty, safe and secure for all eternity future.

## IX. The Conclusion of the Book (22:6-15)

### A. Jesus the Author of these Words (22:6)

#### 1. Timing of the Events (22:6)

Rev 22:6 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.

These words are clear and need little commentary; however, we must address one word in this English translation, “soon.” It is mistranslated. The Greek word is *tachos* and it means *the speed at which something will happen*. It does not mean that the events recorded in this REVELATION will occur shortly after John writes them down. If that were the case, surely the LORD would have returned some time in these last 2,000 years since John put them on paper. Rather, the word should have been translated *suddenly*. The text should read **“the things which must suddenly take place.”**

#### 2. Blessings of the Events (22:7)

Rev 22:7 "And behold, I am coming quickly. Blessed is he who heeds the words of the prophecy of this book."

What a promise for a blessing! He is coming, that is a fact. All people would do well to **“heed”** these words, but the world is filled with people who think it is all a bunch of religious mumbo-jumbo!

#### 3. Testimony of the Events (22:8)

Rev 22:8a I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things.

John now gives a testimony and review of the vision. Here, he swears that the things he has written are just as he **“heard and saw.”**

##### a) John Falters (22:8b)

Rev 22:8b And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed me these things.

John also testifies that the things he **“heard and saw”** were so awesome that at one point he fell to the feet of the angel helping with him during the vision. This entry is not a new fault on John’s part but a reference to the event earlier in the story.

##### b) Angel Corrects (22:9)

Rev 22:9 But he said to me, "Do not do that. I am a fellow servant of yours and of your brethren the prophets and of those who heed the words of this book. Worship God."

John saw fit to repeat the angel’s response to his fault of the event of worshipping the angel. It was a misstep corrected with a purpose by the angel. This angel knew the One Who truly deserved worship – God (Revelation 19:10).

#### 4. Fate of the Events (22:10)

Rev 22:10 And he said to me, "Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near.

Because of the thought pattern in this passage through verse 12, John must mean here that the LORD is instructing him to spread the news of this vision in this book because **“the time is near.”** This statement comes from Revelation 1:3 in the beginning of the vision.

As we discovered when Jesus said, **“For the time is near”** in Revelation 1:3, it meant the *season is at hand*, which is a good and proper translation. Did Jesus mean it was nearly time for the fulfillment of this prophecy? Hardly! Jesus meant that it was time for the fulfillment of this prophecy to begin! And so it does here! The conclusion of the end of this vision portrayed to John does not mean the *Second Coming of the LORD* is about to happen: rather, the parade of the pageantry of this vision is about to begin!

#### 5. Warning of the Events (22:11)

Rev 22:11 "Let the one who does wrong, still do wrong; and the one who is filthy, still be filthy; and let the one who is righteous, still practice righteousness; and the one who is holy, still keep himself holy."

Here is the warning for all to understand and that it is why John has been instructed to include this verse. During the parade of this pageantry to the *Second Coming* and all the other events, sin will still be in constant conflict with righteousness. Notice the important parts of this verse, **“... the one who is filthy, still be filthy ... the one who is holy, still keep himself holy.”** What powerful insight! Throughout the whole pageantry, filthy people will choose to remain filthy and holy people must choose to remain holy. Do you see the word **“keep?”** That one word indicates that sin and righteousness, filth and holiness are choices.

#### 1. Reward of the Events (22:12)

Rev 22:12 "Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done.

It is the LORD speaking to John as He says, **“Behold, I am coming quickly...”** *Behold* means *pay attention* in every entry in the Scripture. **“I am coming quickly ...”** Here the Greek word *tachus* is used again. It means *suddenly*! It has nothing to do with time, it means *without notice*, for example, *like a thief in the night* when the homeowner does not know what is about to happen.

#### a) The Beginning and End (22:13)

Rev 22:13 "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

For the third and final time, the LORD tells John in this REVELATION that He created it all and He will be the final all-in-all.

b) **The Blessed and Right (22:14)**

Rev 22:14 Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter by the gates into the city.

John must return to the island of Patmos with the written record of this vision to send initially to the seven Churches. From there this vision will be sent to all the rest of the Churches then and down through the Church age. Here, the LORD tells everyone in the world how to be assured of receiving the blessing and right to live in the New Jerusalem for all eternity future. To enter those gates and eat from the *tree of life* requires a person to have *his robe washed*. It is not stated here; however, the whole Bible is filled with the instruction of how to receive a *washed robe* – by putting your faith in the LORD for His shedding His blood on the cross for the redemption of sins. In no other way can a person's name be recorded in the *Book of Life!*

c) **The Cursed and Wrong (22:15)**

Rev 22:15 Outside are the dogs and the sorcerers and the immoral persons and the murderers and the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices lying.

The LORD wants John and everyone else in the world to know that until the culmination of the ages with the arrival of the *New Jerusalem* and the inhabitation of God on earth after the *Great White Throne Judgment*, the world will still be filled with dogs, sorcerers, immoral persons, murderers, idolaters, and liars. They are cursed in the eyes of the LORD and they will always be “**outside**” and around the beloved of God until He comes to rid the world of evil forever.

**B. Jesus the Sender of these Words (22:16-20)**

1. **The Testimony of the LORD (22:16)**

Rev 22:16 "I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star."

In the LORD's own testimony to John, He confirmed that John was specifically selected to transmit this message to the “**Churches.**” When Jesus says He is the “**root ... of David,**” it means Jesus, as Creator, was the stock from which David came into the world. At the same time, Jesus was also born into this world to the line of David through two of his sons, Solomon and Nathan, His mother through the line of Nathan (Luke 3), His adoptive father through the line of Solomon (Matthew 1). This verse adds proof that Jesus has every right to be the *King of kings and LORD of lords* – fully God and fully man.

When Jesus says He is the “**bright morning star,**” it means He is the *morning star* that will be given to all who puts their trust in Him and overcomes the dogs, sorcerers, immoral persons, murderers, idolaters, and liars in this world who are trying to lead them into filth and wrong. It was the promise He gave in chapter 2:28 to the Church of Thyatira. There we learned that believers, untainted by the evil of the world, will also receive “**the morning star.**” This star is the power in heaven from the LORD, from the Father. It is no other than the LORD Jesus Christ Himself (Revelation 22:12). Just as Joseph's brothers had to learn that their 12 stars and 12 sheaves of the dream would ultimately bow down to Joseph in

Egypt, so too, all people will bow down before the LORD, the *Bright Morning Star*.

## 2. The Testimony of the Spirit and Bride (22:17)

Rev 22:17 The Spirit and the bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost.

The angel has said to John throughout this vision **“come”** and *I will show you!* All the showing of the vision is over. John has been shown all there is to see! Now, the Holy Spirit and the Church chime in with the invitation to **“come.”** This invitation is not for John, it is for everyone in the world. **“Come”** they say, to the LORD and drink of the **“water of life”** without charge. You need no money! You need no deal! You need no loan! You only need to **“come”** and accept the gift of the **“bright morning star,”** the LORD Jesus, at His word.

## 3. The Testimony of the Words of Prophecy (22:18-19)

Rev 22:18 I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues which are written in this book; <sup>19</sup> and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book.

But the LORD also gives a warning in this passage! He is saying to all the world, *do not dismiss this book and this vision as fiction. Do not mix it up, do not switch it around, do not delete a single thought in it.* But most of all, the LORD warns everyone, *do not ignore it.* This vision is the culmination of the work of the LORD. Its message is one that must be beloved by all who belong to Him. For all others, this book is a curse for all eternity on their souls.

## 4. The Testimony of the Testifier (22:20)

Rev 22:20 He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming quickly." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

And so, the LORD's final words come with this testimony, **"Yes, I am coming quickly."** Our English should say, *"Yes, I am coming suddenly."* To that John said, **"Amen, Come, LORD Jesus."** John was ready. Are you ready! If the LORD suddenly came today, would you be ready? Can you look at your life right now and say, **"Amen, Come, LORD Jesus."** Can you with a pure heart and clean hands say those words? If not, you need to heed the words of this vision and the testimony of all the bond-servants of the LORD who have worked for Him through the ages. Read the Word of GOD. Hide each word in your heart. Let it reach down past your persona, past your will, past your pride of life, your lust of the eye and your lust of the flesh to reach your soul. Cry out to the LORD, *"Be my Savior!"* He will, and He will give you all the blessings in this book and the promises found in the rest of His Word.

## X. The Benediction of the Book (22:21)

Rev 22:21 The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.

To that John says, “**The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.**” We must recognize in John’s last word he asks for “**grace.**” Many people do not understand that word. They think it is a gift for living a Godly life. It is not! The gift from the LORD for living a godly and saintly life is called a *blessing*. John is using the word “**grace**” purposefully. “**Grace**” is what the LORD gives to those who are undeserving, to those dogs, sorcerers, immoral persons, murderers, idolaters, and liars who finally turn from their evil ways and acknowledge Him and make Him Savior and LORD. It is their choice and His grace to accept them despite what they have done in the past. We were all like that before we met this Master and King. It does not matter to what degree we were like that, just a little evil or a whole lot evil, the fact is, we were all born with a sinful nature. We need our souls to be saved. In God’s plan, the only Savior could Be the Creator. And thus, we see John end the record of this vision with the plea to everyone who hears its message. Today we might say it like this. “*May all of you find the LORD and experience the forgiving gift of His grace.*” And John’s final word is “**Amen**” which means *truth*. This vision is nothing but truth!