REVELATION

From Creation to New Creation

How the Last Book of the Bible Completes the First

A detailed, easy-to-read narrative study using the King James Version

Revelation 21:5 (KJV) - *And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new.*

Introduction: The Bible's Great Story Reaches Its Goal

The Book of Revelation is sometimes treated as a strange appendix to the Bible, filled with frightening beasts, mysterious numbers, wars, judgments, and difficult symbols. Yet Revelation is not disconnected from the rest of Scripture. It is the final chapter of the same story that begins in Genesis. Its images are rooted in the Law, the Prophets, the Psalms, the Gospels, and the Epistles. Its message is not confusion but unveiling: Jesus Christ will triumph, evil will be judged, creation will be renewed, and God will dwell forever with a redeemed family made fit to bear His image.

> ***Revelation 1:1 (KJV) -*** *The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John:*

The word "signified" is important. John received a message communicated through signs. Those signs are not invitations to uncontrolled imagination. Scripture repeatedly explains Scripture. Waters represent peoples and nations. Beasts represent rulers or kingdoms. Horns represent kings and power. A faithful woman pictures the covenant people of God; a harlot pictures spiritual unfaithfulness. Babylon gathers into one name the spirit of proud human rebellion, false worship, oppressive government, and corrupt commerce.

The central conclusion is simple enough for any reader to grasp: God finishes what He began. In Genesis, God announced His purpose for humanity. The fall brought sin, death, exile, pain, and a curse. In Revelation, the serpent is defeated, death is abolished, the curse is removed, paradise is restored, and the redeemed see God's face. The New Jerusalem is not merely a beautiful city at the end of a prophetic timetable. It is the dwelling place of God with His children, the completion of the plan announced when God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness."

> ***Genesis 1:26 (KJV) -*** *And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion…*

> ***Revelation 21:3 (KJV) -*** *Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people…*

1. The End Is the Answer to the Beginning

To understand Revelation, begin with Genesis. The first three chapters of Genesis establish the great questions that the rest of the Bible answers. Who is the rightful ruler of creation? What does it mean for humanity to bear God's image? How can fellowship with God be restored after sin? Will the serpent's rebellion succeed? Can death be overcome? Revelation gives the final answer to every one of these questions.

What is introduced in Genesis	What is completed in Revelation
Heaven and earth are created (Genesis 1:1).	A new heaven and a new earth appear (Revelation 21:1).
Light is separated from darkness (Genesis 1:3-5).	God's glory lights the city; there is no night (Revelation 21:23-25; 22:5).
The tree of life stands in Eden (Genesis 2:9).	The tree of life stands beside the river and heals the nations (Revelation 22:2).
A river waters the garden (Genesis 2:10).	A pure river of water of life proceeds from God's throne (Revelation 22:1).
The serpent deceives humanity (Genesis 3).	The old serpent is exposed and cast into the lake of fire (Revelation 12:9; 20:10).
Sin brings sorrow, death, and the curse.	There is no more death, sorrow, crying, pain, or curse (Revelation 21:4; 22:3).
Humanity is driven from God's presence.	God dwells with the redeemed, and they see His face (Revelation 21:3; 22:4).

> ***Genesis 3:15 (KJV) -*** *And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.*

This first promise of redemption governs the entire biblical story. The serpent would wound the promised Seed, but the Seed would crush the serpent's head. At Calvary, Christ suffered the serpent's hostility and conquered through His death and resurrection. In Revelation, the victory is publicly and finally enforced. The Devil is not reformed, rehabilitated, or allowed to continue forever. He is judged.

> ***Revelation 20:10 (KJV) -*** *And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone... and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.*

The Bible therefore moves from creation, through fall and redemption, to new creation. Revelation does not replace the earlier Scriptures; it gathers them together and brings them to their appointed end.

2. The Person at the Center: Jesus Christ Revealed

Revelation is not chiefly a book about the Antichrist. It is "The Revelation of Jesus Christ." The first chapter removes every thought that Jesus is merely a helpless teacher from the past. John sees the risen Lord as Priest, King, Judge, and God's victorious Son. His eyes are as a flame of fire, His voice is as the sound of many waters, and from His mouth proceeds a sharp two-edged sword. The One who was crucified now holds the keys of hell and death.

> ***Revelation 1:17-18 (KJV) -*** *Fear not; I am the first and the last: I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.*

This vision echoes Daniel's descriptions of heavenly glory. Daniel saw the Ancient of days and "one like the Son of man" receiving an everlasting dominion. Revelation identifies Jesus with that promised ruler. His kingdom cannot be voted out, conquered, inherited by another dynasty, or destroyed by time.

> ***Daniel 7:13-14 (KJV) -*** *I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven… And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom… his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.*

The Christ of Revelation is also the Lamb. This is one of the book's greatest paradoxes: the conquering Lion appears as a slain Lamb. God's kingdom is secured not by evil methods used for a religious purpose, but by the sacrificial obedience of Jesus Christ. He is worthy because He was slain and redeemed men to God by His blood.

> ***Revelation 5:9-10 (KJV) -*** *Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood… And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.*

3. The Seven Churches: Christ Walks Among His People

Before Revelation describes world judgment, Christ addresses His churches. This order matters. The Lord who will judge nations first examines those who bear His name. The seven churches were real congregations in Asia, yet their strengths and failures describe recurring conditions among believers in every age: love that has cooled, fear under persecution, compromise with error, dead religion, patient faithfulness, and self-satisfied lukewarmness.

Church	Main condition	Christ's call
Ephesus	Doctrinal vigilance, but first love left behind.	Remember, repent, and do the first works.
Smyrna	Poor and persecuted, yet spiritually rich.	Fear none of the coming suffering; be faithful unto death.
Pergamos	Holding Christ's name while tolerating compromise.	Repent and reject corrupt teaching.
Thyatira	Love and service mixed with tolerated spiritual seduction.	Hold fast and overcome.
Sardis	A reputation for life, but spiritual deadness.	Watch, strengthen what remains, remember, and repent.
Philadelphia	Little strength, yet faithful to Christ's word.	Hold fast; no man should take thy crown.
Laodicea	Lukewarm, wealthy in self-estimation, poor before God.	Be zealous, repent, and open the door to Christ.

> ***Revelation 3:19-20 (KJV) -*** *As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. Behold, I stand at the door, and knock…*

Every message ends with a promise to the overcomer. Overcoming is not human boasting. The New Testament identifies the victory as faith in Jesus Christ.

> ***1 John 5:4-5 (KJV) -*** *For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?*

4. The Throne, the Scroll, and the Worthy Lamb

Chapters 4 and 5 carry the reader from struggling churches on earth to the throne room of heaven. The change in viewpoint is decisive. Earth may appear chaotic, but heaven is not alarmed. God sits upon the throne. Worship surrounds Him. Lightning, voices, and thunder proceed from the throne, while living creatures and elders acknowledge that all creation exists by God's will.

> ***Revelation 4:11 (KJV) -*** *Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.*

A book sealed with seven seals appears in God's right hand. John weeps because no created being is worthy to open it. Then comes the announcement: "the Lion of the tribe of Juda" has prevailed. Yet when John looks, he sees "a Lamb as it had been slain." The Lion conquers as the Lamb. The cross is not a detour in God's plan; it is the center of God's victory.

> ***Genesis 49:10 (KJV) -*** *The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come…*

> ***Isaiah 53:7 (KJV) -*** *He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter…*

As the Lamb opens the seals, He demonstrates that history belongs to Him. Neither emperors, markets, armies, demons, nor disasters have the last word. Judgment unfolds under the authority of the crucified and risen Christ.

5. The Seals and the Words of Jesus

The opening of the first six seals in Revelation 6 follows the pattern Jesus gave in the Olivet Discourse. This parallel shows that Revelation develops, rather than contradicts, the prophetic teaching of Christ.

Seal	Revelation scene	Christ's earlier warning
First	White horse: conquest and deceptive victory.	"Many shall come in my name… and shall deceive many" (Matthew 24:5).
Second	Red horse: peace removed and war unleashed.	"Ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars" (Matthew 24:6).
Third	Black horse: scarcity and famine.	"There shall be famines" (Matthew 24:7).
Fourth	Pale horse: death through sword, hunger, pestilence, and beasts.	"Pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places" (Matthew 24:7).
Fifth	Martyrs cry beneath the altar.	"They shall deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you" (Matthew 24:9).
Sixth	Earthquake and disturbances in sun, moon, and stars.	"The sun be darkened… the stars shall fall from heaven" (Matthew 24:29).

> ***Matthew 24:13-14 (KJV) -*** *But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.*

Revelation never presents judgment as meaningless cruelty. It exposes sin, vindicates persecuted saints, calls the rebellious to repentance, and clears the way for the righteous kingdom of God. Even during judgment, God

remembers mercy. Revelation 7 pauses the action to show servants sealed by God and a multitude from every nation standing before the Lamb.

> ***Revelation 7:9-10 (KJV) -*** *Lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues... cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.*

6. Trumpets and Vials: A Greater Exodus

The trumpet and vial judgments deliberately recall the plagues of Egypt. In Exodus, Pharaoh treated people made in God's image as property. Egypt's power, economy, religion, and military strength seemed absolute. God answered that arrogance with judgments that exposed Egypt's gods and delivered His people. Revelation expands the same pattern to a rebellious world system.

Exodus plague	Revelation parallel	Shared meaning
Water becomes blood (Exodus 7:20).	Sea and rivers become blood (Revelation 8:8; 16:3-4).	Life-giving resources become witnesses to judgment.
Hail and fire (Exodus 9:23-24).	Hail and fire fall upon earth (Revelation 8:7; 16:21).	Creation itself opposes hardened rebellion.
Locusts (Exodus 10:12-15).	Tormenting locusts arise (Revelation 9:3-11).	What destroys the oppressor's security cannot be controlled by him.
Darkness (Exodus 10:21-23).	Heavenly lights and the beast's kingdom are darkened (Revelation 8:12; 16:10).	The kingdom that rejects God's light enters darkness.
Boils (Exodus 9:9-10).	Grievous sores strike worshippers of the beast (Revelation 16:2).	False worship cannot protect its devotees.

> ***Exodus 12:12 (KJV) -*** *Against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD.*

The judgments also reveal human hardness. Again and again, people refuse to repent. This reminds the reader that suffering alone does not necessarily soften the heart. Apart from grace, a person may experience the consequences of sin and still cling to the sin itself.

> ***Revelation 9:20-21 (KJV) -*** *And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands... Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.*

7. Daniel's Beasts and the Final Rebellion of Empire

Daniel's Image: The Rise and Fall of Human Dominion

Before Daniel saw the vision of four beasts in Daniel 7, God revealed the course of world history through a dream given to King Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel 2. This dream forms one of the most important prophetic foundations for understanding Revelation.

Nebuchadnezzar saw a great image whose appearance was awesome and terrifying. The head was made of gold, the chest and arms of silver, the belly and thighs of brass, the legs of iron, and the feet partly of iron and partly of clay.

Daniel 2:31-33 (KJV) - Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible. This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass, His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay.

Daniel explained that the image represented a succession of world empires that would dominate human history.

Daniel 2:38 (KJV) - Thou art this head of gold.

The head of gold represented Babylon under Nebuchadnezzar. Yet Babylon itself did not suddenly appear in history. The roots of Babylon reach back to the earliest organized rebellion against God. Genesis introduces Nimrod as a mighty ruler who established his kingdom in the land of Shinar, where Babel was built.

Genesis 10:8-10 (KJV) - And Cush begat Nimrod: he began to be a mighty one in the earth... And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel...

Following Babylon would come three additional kingdoms. The silver kingdom would be Medo-Persia, the brass kingdom Greece, and the iron kingdom Rome. The later feet of iron mixed with clay portray a divided continuation of human political power following the shadows of the Roman empire, strong in some ways and fragile in others. Human governments would change forms, languages, rulers, and boundaries, but they would continue the same fundamental pattern: humanity attempting to govern apart from God's authority.

The image represents more than political governments alone. It portrays the entire structure of fallen human civilization organized independently from God. Its political systems, military power, economic structures, cultural institutions, and false religious systems together form one great image of human self-rule. Revelation later gathers this same reality into the symbols of Babylon, the Beast, and the False Prophet. Different empires appear throughout history, but the spirit behind them remains the same: organized rebellion against the Creator.

Just as Babel sought to make a name for itself apart from God, the kingdoms of men repeatedly exalt human wisdom, human power, human wealth, and human authority above God's rule. Scripture therefore presents Babylon not merely as an ancient city but as a continuing principle of rebellion that manifests itself throughout history.

The most significant part of the dream was not the image itself but its destruction.

Daniel 2:34-35 (KJV) - Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces... and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.

The stone cut without hands represents the kingdom of God established through Jesus Christ. Unlike the kingdoms of men, it is not built through human power, military conquest, political negotiation, or earthly succession. It originates from God Himself.

Daniel 2:44 (KJV) - And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.

This prophecy provides the grand backdrop for the Book of Revelation. Revelation does not merely predict the collapse of one nation or one political system. It describes the final destruction of the entire rebellious world order represented by Nebuchadnezzar's image. Babylon falls. The Beast is destroyed. The False Prophet is judged. Satan is cast into the lake of fire. Every kingdom built in defiance of God comes to an end.

In contrast, Christ receives an everlasting dominion. The stone becomes a mountain filling the earth, a picture of God's kingdom extending throughout creation. What began as a promise in Genesis, what was pictured in Nebuchadnezzar's dream, and what Daniel later saw in vision reaches its fulfillment in Revelation when the kingdoms of this world become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ.

Revelation 11:15 (KJV) - The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.

Daniel's image and Daniel's beasts therefore describe the same historical reality from two perspectives. The image shows how human empires appear in their own eyes: glorious, majestic, powerful, and impressive. The beasts show how those same kingdoms appear from heaven's perspective when they reject God's authority: predatory, oppressive, and beastlike. Both visions point to the same conclusion. Human dominion cannot heal the world. Only the returning King, Jesus Christ, can establish the righteous kingdom that shall never pass away.

Daniel supplies the clearest Old Testament key to Revelation’s beasts. Daniel saw a lion, bear, leopard, and a dreadful ten-horned beast. He was told plainly that these beasts represented kings and kingdoms. Revelation 13 combines the earlier creatures into one composite beast. The final rebellious empire inherits the violence, pride, speed, appetite, and blasphemy of the empires that came before it.

> ***Daniel 7:17 (KJV) -*** *These great beasts, which are four, are four kings, which shall arise out of the earth.*
>
> ***Daniel 7:23 (KJV) -*** *The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms...*

The beastly image is morally significant. Humanity was created to bear God’s image and exercise dominion under God. When rulers reject God and devour people, they cease to act humanely and become beastlike.

Revelation therefore presents a conflict of images: the image of God fulfilled in Christ and His redeemed people, and the image of the beast imposed by coercive power.

Daniel's "little horn" speaks great words against the Most High, persecutes the saints, and acts for "a time and times and the dividing of time." Revelation 13 describes the beast speaking blasphemies, making war with the saints, and continuing forty-two months. These are corresponding descriptions of the same pattern of final rebellion.

> ***Revelation 13:5-7 (KJV) -*** *And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies... and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. And it was given unto him to make war with the saints...*

Revelation repeatedly uses equivalent periods: forty-two months, 1,260 days, and time, times, and half a time. These expressions focus attention on a limited season. Evil is fierce, but it is not eternal. Its time is measured by God.

8. The Dragon, the Beast, and the False Prophet

Revelation 12 and 13 draw back the curtain on the spiritual power behind political events. The dragon is explicitly identified as "that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan." He opposes the woman, seeks to destroy the man child, accuses the brethren, and gives authority to the beast. A second beast, later called the false prophet, promotes the first beast and uses signs, propaganda, and economic pressure to enforce worship.

> ***Revelation 12:9 (KJV) -*** *And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world...*

This forms a counterfeit deity: the dragon seeks the place of the Father, the beast imitates a messianic ruler, and the false prophet promotes worship through deceptive power. Yet the counterfeit is temporary. Its apparent unity is built on lies, fear, and coercion. God's kingdom is built on truth, righteousness, and the redemptive blood of the Lamb.

> ***Revelation 12:11 (KJV) -*** *And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.*

The mark in the hand or forehead signifies ownership, allegiance, and obedient participation. This imagery has biblical roots. God commanded Israel to bind His words upon the hand and between the eyes, symbolizing action and thought governed by His covenant. Ezekiel saw the faithful marked in their foreheads before judgment. Revelation contrasts those sealed by God with those marked by the beast. The decisive question is: Whose name, authority, and character will a person bear?

> ***Deuteronomy 6:6-8 (KJV) -*** *And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart... And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes.*
>
> ***Revelation 14:1 (KJV) -*** *And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads.*

9. The Two Women: The Bride and Babylon

Revelation presents a powerful contrast between two women. One is associated with God's covenant people and finally appears as the bride of the Lamb. The other is the great harlot, Babylon, intoxicated with wealth, power, idolatry, and the blood of saints. The contrast is between faithfulness and adultery, holiness and corruption, self-giving love and self-indulgent exploitation.

> ***Revelation 17:5 (KJV) -*** *And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.*

Babylon begins as a biblical idea in Genesis 11. Humanity gathers to build a city and tower, make a name, and resist God's command. The spirit of Babel is organized independence from God. Historical Babylon later oppresses Jerusalem, destroys the temple, and carries the people into exile. Revelation uses Babylon to gather the entire anti-God world system into one symbol: false religion, political tyranny, luxury, trafficking, and commercial greed.

> ***Genesis 11:4 (KJV) -*** *Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name…*

Revelation 18 describes merchants mourning because the market has collapsed. Their grief is not repentance over exploitation; it is sorrow over lost profit. Babylon even trades in "slaves, and souls of men." God's judgment reveals the true moral cost hidden beneath luxury.

> ***Revelation 18:4 (KJV) -*** *Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.*

The fall of Babylon is therefore both an event and a warning. God's people must not measure success by Babylon's standards. Wealth, influence, beauty, and political connections cannot preserve a system whose foundation is rebellion against God.

10. The Marriage Supper and the Return of the King

After Babylon falls, heaven erupts in praise. The attention moves from the harlot to the bride, from corrupt luxury to clean linen, and from false kings to the true King. The bride is granted fine linen, which Revelation explains as "the righteousness of saints." Salvation produces a people prepared for faithful union with Christ.

> ***Revelation 19:7-8 (KJV) -*** *Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come… And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white…*

Then heaven opens and Christ appears on a white horse. The first rider on a white horse in Revelation 6 is associated with deceptive conquest; the Rider of Revelation 19 is plainly called Faithful and True. His eyes are as a flame of fire. He judges and makes war in righteousness. His name is the Word of God, and on His garment is written "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."

> ***Revelation 19:11 (KJV) -*** *And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.*

> ***Revelation 19:16 (KJV) -*** *And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.*

The Second Coming is the public answer to every boast of rebellious power. The beast and false prophet are defeated. Christ does not negotiate away His rightful dominion. The kingdom belongs to the One who created, redeemed, and lawfully judges the world.

11. The Thousand Years and the Last Revolt

Revelation 20 describes Satan bound for a thousand years, the reign of Christ with His saints, and a final rebellion after Satan is released. The millennial kingdom demonstrates what the world is like under the direct rule of the rightful King. It also demonstrates that perfect outward conditions alone do not cure inward rebellion. Even after a long reign of righteousness, deceived nations gather against the beloved city when Satan is released.

> ***Revelation 20:4 (KJV) -*** *And they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.*

The Old Testament anticipated a worldwide reign of righteousness, peace, and the knowledge of God.

> ***Isaiah 2:4 (KJV) -*** *And he shall judge among the nations… and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation…*

> ***Zechariah 14:9 (KJV) -*** *And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one.*

At the end, Gog and Magog surround the saints, using names taken from Ezekiel's prophecy to identify the final organized assault on God's rule. Fire from God ends the revolt. Satan is cast into the lake of fire. The rebellion that began through the serpent in Eden is finally and permanently removed.

12. The Great White Throne: Justice Without Error

John then sees a great white throne. Earth and heaven flee from the face of the Judge. The dead, small and great, stand before God. Books are opened, and the dead are judged according to their works. Another book is opened, the book of life. This scene declares that no person is forgotten, no secret remains hidden, no injustice escapes notice, and no human status can influence the verdict.

> ***Revelation 20:12 (KJV) -*** *And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened… and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.*

Death and hell are cast into the lake of fire. Death itself is treated as an enemy and abolished. This agrees with Paul's teaching that Christ must reign until every enemy is placed beneath His feet.

> ***1 Corinthians 15:25-26 (KJV) -*** *For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.*

The seriousness of this judgment explains the urgency of the gospel. Revelation does not teach salvation by human merit. The saved are redeemed by the blood of the Lamb. Yet works reveal allegiance and character; they are open evidence in the court of God. Those not found in the book of life face the second death.

13. A New Heaven, a New Earth, and No More Curse

With evil judged, John sees the goal toward which the Bible has been moving from its first page: a new heaven and a new earth. The word "new" does not suggest that God abandons His purpose for creation. It announces creation renewed, purified, and brought under the unhindered glory of God.

> ***Revelation 21:1 (KJV) -*** *And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away…*

> ***Isaiah 65:17 (KJV) -*** *For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.*

The holy city, New Jerusalem, descends from God out of heaven. The direction is important: God brings His dwelling to redeemed humanity. The biblical hope is not merely that saved souls escape creation forever, but that God's will is done in a renewed creation and that His dwelling is with men.

> ***Revelation 21:2-4 (KJV) -*** *And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven… Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them… And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying…*

Every phrase answers the fall. Death is gone. Sorrow is gone. Crying is gone. Pain is gone. The former things have passed away. This is not a vague spiritual comfort; it is the declared future of God's redeemed creation.

14. The New Jerusalem: The Family Home of God and His Children

The city is shown as a bride, emphasizing relationship rather than architecture alone. Its dimensions communicate completeness and holiness. It has twelve gates named for the tribes of Israel and twelve foundations named for the apostles of the Lamb. The redeemed people of God are not divided into competing stories; God's covenant purpose reaches its unified fulfillment in Christ.

The city does not need the sun or moon, because the glory of God lightens it and the Lamb is its light. This fulfills the prophetic hope of Isaiah.

> ***Isaiah 60:19 (KJV) -*** *The sun shall be no more thy light by day; neither for brightness shall the moon give light unto thee: but the LORD shall be unto thee an everlasting light, and thy God thy glory.*

> ***Revelation 21:23 (KJV) -*** *And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.*

Nothing that defiles enters the city. Holiness is no longer threatened by corruption. The gates are not shut by day, and there is no night. Security is complete because every enemy has been judged and every inhabitant belongs to the Lamb.

> ***Revelation 21:27 (KJV) -*** *And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth… but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.*

15. The River and Tree of Life: Eden Restored and Enlarged

The final chapter returns to the imagery of Eden. A pure river of water of life proceeds from the throne of God and of the Lamb. The tree of life stands on either side of the river, bearing twelve kinds of fruit. The leaves are for the healing of the nations. What was guarded after the fall is freely available in the redeemed world.

> ***Revelation 22:1-2 (KJV) -*** *And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb… and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.*

Ezekiel had seen a river flowing from the temple, bringing life wherever it went. Revelation reveals the final reality: life flows directly from God and the Lamb.

> ***Ezekiel 47:9 (KJV) -*** *And it shall come to pass, that every thing that liveth… whithersoever the rivers shall come, shall live…*

Then comes one of the shortest and greatest statements in the Bible: "there shall be no more curse." The curse introduced in Genesis 3 is gone. Human labor is no longer frustrated by thorns. Fellowship is no longer broken by shame. Creation no longer groans under corruption. God's servants serve Him, see His face, bear His name, live in His light, and reign for ever and ever.

> ***Revelation 22:3-5 (KJV) -*** *And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it… And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads… and they shall reign for ever and ever.*

16. The Completion of God's Image-Bearing Plan

The deepest thread connecting Genesis and Revelation is God's purpose to have human children who bear His image and share righteous dominion under Him. Genesis 1 does not present humanity as an accident. God

deliberately says, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.” Humanity is created to reflect God’s character, represent His rule, cultivate His creation, and live in fellowship with Him.

> ***Genesis 1:27-28 (KJV) -*** *So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him… And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it…*

Sin damaged humanity’s ability to display that calling faithfully, but it did not cancel God’s plan. The Son of God came as the perfect image of the invisible God. Those who are united to Christ are being renewed after His image and are destined to be conformed to the image of God’s Son.

> ***Colossians 1:15 (KJV) -*** *Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:*
>
> ***Romans 8:29 (KJV) -*** *For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son…*
>
> ***1 John 3:2 (KJV) -*** *Beloved, now are we the sons of God… but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.*

Revelation completes this purpose. The redeemed see God’s face, bear His name, serve Him, and reign forever. They are not independent gods, nor do they cease to be creatures. They are God’s children by grace, fully restored to holy fellowship and made fit to represent His character. The kingdom is the family home of God and His redeemed children. God is with them, they belong to Him, and everything that prevented communion has been removed.

> ***Revelation 21:7 (KJV) -*** *He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.*

This is the completion of the plan announced in Genesis. God desired image-bearing children who would live under His loving authority and exercise faithful dominion in His world. The fall did not force God to abandon that purpose. Through the Lamb, God defeats the serpent, forgives sin, raises the dead, renews creation, and brings His children into the everlasting kingdom.

17. How Revelation Calls Us to Live Now

Revelation is not given merely to satisfy curiosity about future events. It calls for worship, endurance, holiness, discernment, courage, and hope. The correct response to Revelation is not sensational fear but faithful allegiance to Jesus Christ.

Call	Meaning for the believer
Worship God	Refuse to give ultimate loyalty to political, economic, cultural, or religious idols.
Keep Christ’s word	Measure teaching by Scripture rather than excitement, popularity, or signs.
Endure suffering	Remember that persecution is temporary and resurrection is certain.
Come out of Babylon	Reject participation in idolatry, exploitation, immorality, and arrogant luxury.
Bear faithful witness	Overcome by the blood of the Lamb and the word of testimony.

Call	Meaning for the believer
Live in hope	Let the promised new creation shape present holiness and courage.
Invite the thirsty	Continue offering the water of life freely through the gospel.

> ***Revelation 14:12 (KJV) -*** *Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.*

> ***2 Peter 3:13-14 (KJV) -*** *Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. Wherefore… be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.*

Conclusion: "Even So, Come, Lord Jesus"

The Book of Revelation is the triumphant completion of the whole biblical story. Genesis introduces creation, image-bearing humanity, marriage, the tree of life, a life-giving river, the serpent, sin, death, exile, and the curse. Revelation presents renewed creation, the marriage of the Lamb, the tree and river of life, the serpent defeated, death destroyed, exile ended, and the curse removed.

Daniel explains the beasts and the measured period of arrogant world power. Exodus explains the plagues and divine deliverance. Isaiah explains the new heavens and new earth, the everlasting light, and the removal of death. Ezekiel explains the living river, restored city, measured temple, prophetic book, and Gog and Magog. The Gospels explain the seals and the coming of the Son of man. The Epistles explain the man of sin, resurrection, judgment, the bride, the image of Christ, and the inheritance of the saints. Revelation gathers these lines into one final picture.

The conclusion is not that darkness wins, that governments save humanity, or that history repeats without purpose. The conclusion is that Jesus Christ is Lord. The Lamb is worthy. Babylon falls. The beast is defeated. Satan is cast down. Death is destroyed. Creation is renewed. The New Jerusalem descends. God dwells with men. His redeemed people see His face, bear His name, live as His children, and reign with Him forever.

> ***Revelation 22:17 (KJV) -*** *And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come… And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.*

Selected Symbol Key

Symbol	Scriptural meaning	Key references
Waters / sea	Peoples, multitudes, nations, tongues; turbulent nations.	Revelation 17:15; Isaiah 17:12; Daniel 7:2-3
Beasts	Kings, kingdoms, or empires acting in rebellion.	Daniel 7:17, 23; Revelation 13:1-2
Horns	Kings or concentrated ruling power.	Daniel 7:24; Revelation 17:12
Stars	Angels or messengers, depending on context.	Job 38:7; Revelation 1:20
Candlesticks	Churches and Spirit-empowered witnesses.	Zechariah 4; Revelation 1:20; 11:4

Symbol	Scriptural meaning	Key references
Fine linen	The righteousness of saints.	Revelation 19:8
Faithful woman / bride	God's covenant people in faithful relationship.	Ephesians 5:25-32; Revelation 12; 19; 21
Harlot	Spiritual adultery and an unfaithful system.	Jeremiah 3; Ezekiel 16; Revelation 17
Babylon	Organized rebellion, false worship, oppression, and corrupt commerce.	Genesis 11; Jeremiah 50-51; Revelation 17-18
Forehead / hand mark	Ownership, thought, allegiance, and action.	Deuteronomy 6:8; Ezekiel 9:4; Revelation 13-14

Revelation 22:20-21 (KJV) - *He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.*