UNVEILED!

The Ancient Secrets of Daniel & The Revelation of Jesus Christ

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Underscores in the Biblical texts are added for emphasis. Brackets are added outside the text for clarification.

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

CHAPTER 21

21 Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. ² Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them *and be* their God. ⁴ And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

⁵ Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful."

⁶ And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. ⁷ He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. ⁸ But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

⁹ Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, "Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife." ¹⁰ And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, ¹¹ having the glory of God. Her light *was* like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal. ¹² Also she had a great and high wall with twelve gates, and twelve angels at the gates, and names written on them, which are *the names* of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: ¹³ three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west.

¹⁴ Now the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. ¹⁵ And he who talked with me had a gold reed to measure the city, its gates, and its wall. ¹⁶ The city is laid out as a square; its length is as great as its breadth. And he measured the city with the reed: twelve thousand furlongs. Its length, breadth, and height are equal. ¹⁷ Then he measured its wall: one hundred *and* forty-four cubits, *according* to the measure of a man, that is, of an angel.

¹⁸ The construction of its wall was *of* jasper; and the city *was* pure gold, like clear glass. ¹⁹ The foundations of the wall of the city *were* adorned with all kinds of precious stones: the first foundation *was* jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald, ²⁰ the fifth sardonyx, the sixth sardius, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst. ²¹ The twelve gates *were* twelve pearls: each individual gate was of one pearl. And the street of the city *was* pure gold, like transparent glass.

²² But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. ²³ The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb *is* its light. ²⁴ And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it. ²⁵ Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there). ²⁶ And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it. ²⁷ But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life. (Rev. 21:1-27 NKJV) [12,000 furlongs = 1,500 mi.; 144 cubits = 0.5 mi.]

Insights

She who rejected Him receives Him at last, and He calls her Beloved. She has prepared her heart for Him. At the end New Jerusalem descends from heaven as the Bride He foreknew from the beginning. He saw her as the mother of every believer, and considering her history, we've known her well. (Gal. 4:26) She too is, in a sense, born again. Jerusalem below is in bondage but above is free just as we are set free to be One with God forever.

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 ⁷ Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory,
 for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready;
 ⁸ it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure"—

for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints. (Rev. 19:7-8 $\mbox{ESV})$

After heaven and earth pass away, all that remains is new. The Old City is gone; New Jerusalem has come. A new earth and new heavens appear where God and the Lamb are her Temple, and the Lamb is her constant Light on the Eternal Day.

The prophecies encourage us to advance and not retreat, to press in and not fall back, to persevere and not give up. It's enough to know cowards and unbelievers must face the worst truth of all when their sins and transgressions banish them to the place where there is no death. Its worm never dies. There is no way out for hypocrites who profess the faith but live in sin. They must go where their guilt eats away at them forever. (Mk. 9:43-48) It's not as though we've never sinned, but we must repent each time sin catches us. Otherwise there's no escape at the judgment.

On the other side, no regrets come to mind. No devils plague us there. Our sins were washed away, and everything is new. We live in the light of His truth and love. We were judged and faced our losses, but our victories are our rewards. Our flesh is like His because His was like ours, and when we see Him, we shall be like Him, clothed in righteous works of faith, not forgetting those who brought us the light of truth; rather, we join them who did.

Her twelve gates are named by twelve tribes of Israel, and the foundations of her walls are twelve great stones on which are inscribed the names of the twelve Jewish apostles who founded the faith. He puts her jewels in proper places with purposes for each one. Together we function as the family of God. In New Jerusalem, the prophecies are done and time is past. Everything is spiritual where its metaphors become our new realities.

² "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son. ³ And he sent out his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding feast, and they were unwilling to come. ⁴ Again

he sent out other slaves saying, 'Tell those who have been invited, "Behold, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and my fattened livestock are *all* butchered and everything is ready; come to the wedding feast."⁵ But they paid no attention and went their way, one to his own farm, another to his business, ⁶ and the rest seized his slaves and mistreated them and killed them. ⁷ But the king was enraged, and he sent his armies and destroyed those murderers and set their city on fire. ⁸ Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. ⁹ Go therefore to the main highways, and as many as you find *there*, invite to the wedding feast.' ¹⁰ Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered together all they found, both evil and good; and the wedding hall was filled with dinner guests.

¹¹ "But when the king came in to look over the dinner guests, he saw a man there who was not dressed in wedding clothes, ¹² and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you come in here without wedding clothes?' And the man was speechless. ¹³ Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' ¹⁴ For many are called, but few *are* chosen." (Mat. 22:2-14 NASB) [Lit.: The wedding hall, or chamber, is full of guests. Only the worthy are chosen.]

His disciples invited many Jews who rejected the invitation. They beat and killed them. So God sent the Roman army to kill and scatter them, destroying the temple and burning the city.

God gives it to the teachers to learn from Him. By faith in His Spirit as our Rabbi, we can do the same. Jews don't see their Messiah as Jesus when they accept the teachings and traditions of rabbis who learned from those before them, denying what they refused to believe. Many of our own teachers do the same, but He glorifies Himself in us who might have no degrees but are filled with His Spirit by meekness. *My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. (from Hos. 4:6)* Those words hold true today.

⁹ And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God. (Rev. 19:9)

Insights: Chapter 21

As the seventh angel leaves the temple with the last bowl of wrath, the guests are gathered for the marriage to begin. Who are these guests, and where is the Bride? We are the guests, and His Bride is Jerusalem. (1 Pet. 2:5; Gal. 4:26) Does it test our love for her? One of the guests wasn't prepared for the celebration of the Lamb's marriage to His Bride but was dressed in street clothes. Jesus teaches the proprieties of heaven; we must honor the Bride because He loves her as she is. The Word of the Lord goes out from Jerusalem as the whole earth sings.

Jerusalem illustrates a supernatural law: the corruptible first, then the incorruptible. (See 1 Cor. 15) Our body is mortal before it's spiritual, dying to live. Jerusalem is also corruptible and passes away. She descends from heaven to a new earth as His unblemished Bride, but first He made her His own just as she was. He desired her to receive Him with all her heart.

 25 Of old hast thou laid the foundation of the earth: and the heavens are the work of thy hands. 26 They shall perish, but thou shalt endure: yea, all of them shall wax old like a garment; as a vesture shalt thou change them, and they shall be changed. (Ps. 102:25-26)

The submissive Bride is revealed by her loving Groom. The wedding guests gather in the finest attire. Sealed by the Spirit, our lamps are burning, and our vessels are full.

62 For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet,
until her righteousness goes forth as brightness,
and her salvation as a burning torch. [her y ^e shu ^c wâh]
² The nations shall see your righteousness,
and all the kings your glory,
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will give.
³ You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.
⁴ You shall no more be termed Forsaken,
and your land shall no more be termed Desolate,
but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her,
and your land Married;
for the LORD delights in you,
and your land shall be married.
(Continued)

⁵ For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your sons marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you. ⁶ On your walls, O Jerusalem, I have set watchmen: all the day and all the night they shall never be silent. You who put the LORD in remembrance, take no rest, ⁷ and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it a praise in the earth. ⁸ The LORD has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: "I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink your wine for which you have labored; but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the LORD, and those who gather it shall drink it in the courts of my sanctuary." ¹⁰ Go through, go through the gates; prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway; clear it of stones; lift up a signal over the peoples. ¹¹ Behold, the LORD has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to the daughter of Zion, "Behold, your salvation comes; [your yeshua] behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him." ¹² And they shall be called The Holy People, The Redeemed of the LORD; and you shall be called Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken. (Is. 62:1-12 ESV)

The marriage of the Lamb is His Union with His Bride, and Jerusalem is *prepared* ... *for her husband*. (21:2) She has beauty for her ashes, oil for her grief, and joy to replace her heavy heart.

His stunning Beauty, His Beloved, receives her King when He returns for her at the end of this age. Israel returned to the land, and as He was finishing invitations for the wedding guests, His chosen people regained Jerusalem.

⁴ And they shall rebuild the old ruins, [their return] They shall raise up the former desolations, And they shall repair the ruined cities, <u>The desolations of many generations</u>. ...
⁷ Instead of your shame *you shall have* double *honor*, And *instead of* confusion <u>they shall rejoice in their portion</u>. <u>Therefore in their land they shall possess double;</u> <u>Everlasting joy shall be theirs</u>. ...

¹⁰ I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, My soul shall be joyful in my God;
For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, <u>As a bridegroom decks *himself* with ornaments,</u> <u>And as a bride adorns *herself* with her jewels.
(Is. 61:4, 7, 10 NKJV) [Jerusalem's response]
</u>

⁷ Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.⁸ And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. (Rev. 19:7-8)

His Bride begins to make herself ready. Her Savior arrives unexpectedly. She hasn't known He was the One and mourns as He passes her by. She anxiously waits for her Bridegroom till He returns. Then sheltered in His tabernacle, shielded from wrath, she rejoices as a mother with children. The curtain is stretched; the cords are long; the stakes are strong. Their wedding banquet lasts a thousand years. It's the Feast of Sukkot.

¹⁴ I will be found by you, declares the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, declares the LORD, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile. (Jer. 29:14 ESV)

Lucifer was king of a harlot spread over the nations when he abandoned her to the next beast. Yeshua enters Jerusalem, and though she'd played the harlot, Hosea proved God is faithful to her, wooing her with His selfless love. Jerusalem is His, and He is hers when Yeshua returns to rescue His Bride:

⁸ On that day living water will flow out from Jerusalem, half of it east to the Dead Sea and half of it west to the Mediterranean Sea, in summer and in winter. ⁹ The LORD will be King over the whole earth. On that day there will be one LORD, and his name the only name. (Zec. 14:8-9 NIV)

In All the World

On Christmas Day 1969, an American evangelist took up a large cross, carrying the gospel on foot to every nation. Often in dangerous places, across deserts, through swamps, and over mountains, Arthur Blessitt returned forty years later from around the globe, the prophetic sign of the end of the age: ²¹⁴ And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness to all nations; and then shall the end come. (Mat. 24:14)

When we can't believe its difficult words because they don't fit what we've learned, then what we believe prevents us from believing God and turns us away from the truth. When its words contradict what we think we know, then we must tear down the strongholds in order to believe the Bible. We believe His words alone because we know His perfect love casts out the fear. It's spiritual warfare, ours to win by faith, prayer, and perseverance.

When has a religion ever created a government that was not fascist or brutish, but guaranteed liberty and rights to all men and valiantly fought to fulfill them? The Bible was the republic's foundation in 1787, declaring the free exercise of religion without establishing a state church. Somehow we left our foundation.

Babel influenced Israel; she affected the church too, yet God saves His nation and His people and never breaks His Word. When the Hebrews refused to repent, He destroyed all but a remnant. If we refuse, He'll do the same to us. He loves us who love and obey Him—not in our strength, but by His Spirit.

At the right time, our Savior will reign from Jerusalem over all the earth and all nations will go up to the city to worship the King. If we repent and pray and seek Him, we may be there too.

 24 "For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land. (Ezk. $36{:}24~{\rm NIV})$

He didn't say she wouldn't be tested or refined, but Israel *shall endure forever*. The church glibly reacts, "That's us!" In a way, it's true. We're grafted into her olive tree; nevertheless, she was given a kingdom after the dragon nearly destroyed her in a holocaust. History proved the prophecy. His anger against Israel wouldn't last forever. He assuaged her grief when He delivered her out of the belly of the beast. Then on May 14, 2018, the American Embassy opened in Jerusalem.²¹⁵

A National Debt

God does not forget His Jews, His inheritance. Of all mankind He entrusted them with His oracles. He kept His promises for ages and came as the seed of David. The nations heard He is God from the Jews. We owe them the grace He gave us.

⁷ Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice, ⁸ Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness: ⁹ When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years. ¹⁰ Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do always err in their heart; and they have not known my ways. ¹¹So I sware in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.

¹² Take heed, brethren, <u>lest there be in any of you</u> an evil heart of unbelief, in <u>departing</u> from the living God. ¹³ But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. (Heb. 3:7-13) [The Hebrew writer is addressing believers.]

²⁸ Concerning the gospel *they are* enemies for your sake, but concerning the election *they are* beloved for the sake of the fathers. ²⁹ For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. (Rom. 11:28-29 NKJV) Re: the Jews

Gabriel assured Daniel the Kingdom would come, but first the Jews needed their homeland. WW2 ended with grace after vengeance was spent. (Cf. Rom. 11:22)

⁶ For <u>a Child</u> hath been born to us, <u>A Son</u> hath been given to us, And the princely power is on his shoulder, And <u>He doth call his name</u> Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Father of Eternity, Prince of Peace. (Is. 9:6 YLT) The Holy Spirit is our Counselor and the Father, the Ancient of Days, but here He calls His Son, the Counselor, Father of Eternity, and Mighty God. We are baptized <u>in the name</u> of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit because God is One Spirit in His Son by the Father. Only one name is higher than all, and by that One we are saved. Yeshua/Jesus is His name, and His name is the Word of God.

The Child who was born to them, the Son who was given, defeated sin, hell, and death for the Jews and the nations, yet He made His name famous among the gentiles by His Son.

Jesus Christ is the name that saves our whole spirit, soul, and body, offering salvation from hell, even for gentiles, yet it's used as a curse. Peter told his fellow Jews, *Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved. (Acts 4:12)*

¹⁰ "And I will pour out on <u>the house of David</u> and the <u>inhabitants of Jerusalem</u> a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, <u>the one they have pierced</u>, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son. (Zec. 12:10) [David was king over an undivided Israel.]

²⁴ I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries <u>and bring you into your own land</u>. ²⁵ I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. ²⁶ <u>And I will give you a new heart</u>, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules. ²⁸ You shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers, and you shall be my people, and I will be your God. (Ezk. 36:24-28 ESV)

Why did God allow a holocaust? History is replete with His severity against them for their unbelief, warning us all:

 23 And the nations shall know that the house of Israel went into captivity for their iniquity, because they dealt so treacherously with me that <u>I hid my face from them</u> and gave them into the hand of their adversaries, and they all fell by the sword. (Ezk. 39:23 ESV)

Forty years after the resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ, the Jews lost their nation and their temple. God tracked them down like a hunter after game for almost two thousand years, but just as gentiles are blinded to His Revelation, the Jews can't see what He hides from them until He unveils it them. That is the glorious mystery of the Holy Bible. It takes the Holy Spirit to disclose them. His words are nonsense to the unbeliever:

²² For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. ²³ But woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck, in those days! for there will be great distress in the land, and wrath upon this people. ²⁴ And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive, into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled. (Luke 21:22-24) – Yeshua

In Jeremiah 51 Babylon was cursed for her animosity against the Jews. The vengeance of God ended, but their killers cannot justify their evil works. Grace is apart from its recipient's deeds. It comes from the heart of its benefactor. Thus God graciously gave the Jews the Kingdom but judicially sent the beast to hell:

¹¹ "I watched then because of the sound of the pompous words which the horn was speaking; I watched till the beast was slain, and its body destroyed and given to the burning flame. (Dan. 7:11 NKJV)

The grace God granted the Jews was in His faithfulness to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Whoever opposes Israel opposes God who proves Himself in their Bible as a light to the nations. Now Jews are finding a personal Savior in Yeshua their Messiah.

Many Jews are oblivious to God on a daily basis though He continues extending His grace. As tribes make aliyah, Israel and Judah are uniting at last. [See Ezk. 37:15-28] But till they receive Him, their trials continue:

⁷ Your country is desolate, your cities are burned with fire: your land, strangers devour it in your presence, and it is desolate, as overthrown by strangers. $...^9$ Except the LORD of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant, we should have been as Sodom, we should have been like unto Gomorrah. (Is. 1:7, 9)

⁹ ... When your judgments come upon the earth, the people of the world learn righteousness. (Is. 26:9b NIV)

There is no question that God chastens, even scourges, His own. We know about suffering, or we don't belong to Him. He may bring us to the brink of death, even through its veil, only to sanctify us to keep us. Enduring all kinds of trials, our holiness is in Christ by faith in His power, and He works mightily in us. (See Heb. 12)

¹² For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.¹³ Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. (Eph. 6:12-13)

Let's not let love grow cold. He commands us to love others as ourselves and to love God more than anyone else regardless of the times or the culture. We're to do our best to be at peace with everyone, a challenge in today's violent and vitriolic culture.

His tapestry of words is interwoven through both testaments. The Witness that the Word is One, their Artisan, is the Author:

⁴⁴ Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶ and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷ and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning in Jerusalem. (Lk. 24:44-47 ESV)

⁴ Who hath ascended up into heaven, or descended? who hath gathered the wind in his fists? who hath bound the waters in a garment? who hath established all the ends of the earth? What is his name, and what is his son's name, if thou canst tell? (Prov. 30:4)

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

CHAPTER 22

22 Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb² down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ³ No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. ⁴ They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵ There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.

⁶ The angel said to me, "These words are trustworthy and true. The Lord, the God who inspires the prophets, sent his angel to show his servants the things that must soon take place."

⁷ "Look, I am coming soon! Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy written in this scroll."

⁸ I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I had heard and seen them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who had been showing them to me. ⁹ But he said to me, "Don't do that! I am a fellow servant with you and with your fellow prophets and with all who keep the words of this scroll. Worship God!"

¹⁰ Then he told me, "Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this scroll, because the time is near. ¹¹ Let the one who does wrong continue to do wrong; let the vile person continue to be vile; let the one who does right continue to do right; and let the holy person continue to be holy."

¹² "Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done. ¹³ I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.

¹⁴ "Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through

the gates into the city. ¹⁵ Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

¹⁶ "I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star."

¹⁷ The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let the one who hears say, "Come!" Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life.

¹⁸ I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this scroll: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to that person the plagues described in this scroll. ¹⁹ And if anyone takes words away from this scroll of prophecy, God will take away from that person any share in the tree of life and in the Holy City, which are described in this scroll.

²⁰ He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon."

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

²¹ The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen. (Revelation 22:1-21 NIV)

Insights

³Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near. (Rev. 1:3 NIV)

Jesus knew the hardships we would face as we *work out* our *salvation with fear and trembling. (See Phil. 2:12)* He knows the warfare ahead of us and is always with us who love Him and keep His words to the end. He loved us as sinners and gave us new birth to make us holy as He is holy. He gave us His Spirit to empower us so that we do great feats by faith in His name.

In our love for the truth, we secure our salvation, living by faith in Jesus Christ who removed our curse. God prepares us by our faith in the truth. A blessing is on us who read and hear *The*

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Revelation of Jesus Christ. Its words open our minds to understand at the end of the age. Now that they're opened, we realize the end is just the beginning when pain turns to joy and time to eternity.

The Mystery in the Midst

Yeshua is in the heart of the Word as the Seed in the bosom of God. He's the Word in the Spirit who spoke in the midst of the fiery bush as the Angel of God. He is in the middle of the Father, Son, and Spirit, in the midst of the seven churches. When two or three are in prayer, He's in the middle of us there. In the midst of the years, He recalled mercy. (Hab. 3:2) He's the Word in the woman's seed, carried in the midst of the virgin. He lived as a man between two covenants and died between two Passover meals on a wooden cross between two thieves. He's the middle of three Seder matzos, the afikoman, buried in its linens.²¹⁶ He descended to the middle of the earth and rose in the midst of the first day as the Firstfruits in the middle of Passover week. Jesus walked amid two men on their way to Emmaus. He appears in the midst of a cloud and comes for half the virgins at midnight. He rules between two resurrections and between two judgments, amid seven plagues and seven trumpets in the middle of Daniel's seventieth week; between the sabbaths of Succoth; amid twentyfour thrones and four living creatures in the middle of the fire in the midst of the throne of God as the voice that calls out from amid the creatures and dwells in our midst forever.

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² The same was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ In him was life; and <u>the life was the light of men</u>. ⁵ And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. ⁸ He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. ⁹ That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.

¹¹ He came unto his own, and his own received him not. ¹² But as many as received him, <u>to them gave he power</u> <u>to become the sons of God</u>, even to them that believe on his name: ¹³ Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, <u>nor of the will of man</u>, <u>but of God</u>. ¹⁴ And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. (Jn. 1:1-14) [Gr.: *exousia*, "power or right to become."]

All nature contains similes of spiritual truths for us to see the ways of God. The creation describes its spiritual counterparts, prompting the Savior to parables and metaphors. As Jesus taught the people, God gave His Son knowledge, understanding, and wisdom. Inside each metaphor is its spiritual cause. His insights compared them to heaven to unveil it to us.

²⁴ Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If anyone will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. ²⁵ For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. ²⁶ For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? ²⁷ For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works. (Mat. 16:24-27)

In 1948 Jews were rejoicing in their freedom when Egypt struck at midnight. Instantly a desperate war for the soul of their nation began when their half-brothers sprang on them like a trap! The Jews weren't ready. Are we? We're enthralled by a revival and enchanted by a rapture, but to suffer and die for our faith, we lack preparedness. (Hos. 4:6; Mat. 22:1-13; Lk. 12:35-40)

We are in His Son at the right hand of the Father—how high a calling! Angels fell into darkness for envy of the gift He freely gives us. He'll appear and raise us from the dust or catch us up in Him, not even death can destroy us who endure to the end.

4 And it will come about in the last days That the mountain of the house of the LORD Will be established as the chief of the mountains. It will be raised above the hills, And the peoples will stream to it.

Insights: Chapter 22

² Many nations will come and say, "Come and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD And to the house of the God of Jacob. That He may teach us about His ways And that we may walk in His paths." For from Zion will go forth the law. Even the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ³ And He will judge between many peoples And render decisions for mighty, distant nations, Then they will hammer their swords into plowshares And their spears into pruning hooks; Nation will not lift up sword against nation, And never again will they train for war. ⁴ Each of them will sit under his vine And under his fig tree, With no one to make them afraid. For the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken. (Micah 4:1-4 NASB)

Jews returned to the land in joy after the pain of a holocaust. On their way to its wilderness, the British intercepted them and sent them to internment camps in Cyprus till Britain dropped the mandate in 1948.²¹⁷ The Jews learned their lesson well: nothing is treasured that isn't worth the cost it takes to keep it.

46 God is our refuge and strength,

a very present help in trouble.

- ² Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,
- ³ though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling. Selah
- ⁴ There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.
- ⁵ God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved; God will help her when morning dawns.
- ⁶ The nations rage, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts.
- ⁷ The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. Selah (Psalm 46:1-7 ESV)

Yeshua spoke in parables for His followers to hear, see, and learn what He kept from others. Often not even the disciples

could understand the Lord. They were puzzled by the spiritual way He perceived the world. He ascended to send us His Spirit and teach us the foundations of our faith as witnesses of Christ Himself because God is Spirit, and He has given His Spirit to us.

What Time Is It?

²⁸ And it shall come to pass, that like as I have watched over them to pluck up, and to break down, and to throw down, and to destroy, and to afflict; so will I watch over them, to build, and to plant, saith the LORD. ...

³⁴ And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will for-give their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more. (Jer. 31:28, 34)

Although He sends us like sheep among wolves, we contain something far beyond anything the world can imagine. Darkness reigns over the earth. We might be the only light they'll ever see. Our significance is in our service to others as followers of Christ. We're here to shine as the light of the world and make the difference as salt of the earth, sanctified and made holy by faith, standing for righteousness in our land. We live for Christ, and in America we are given the right to vote for the values of our faith.

If we fall we confess our sin to God (and at times to others), trusting His power to cleanse us. Then we get up and go on; that takes faith too.

God called Abram out of Chaldea into an unknown land and increased his fortune as he went. He provided for the Hebrews in the wilderness by Moses and fed Elijah by ravens at a brook. He slew a giant with a stone from a shepherd boy's sling and the Midianites by Gideon's three hundred. With a few small fish and some bread, God in Christ fed five thousand men. *In everything with prayer and supplication* <u>with thanksgiving</u>, let your requests be made known unto God. (Phil. 4:6)

Yeshua has risen and ascended into heaven to send us His Holy Spirit so we can live the lives we were born to live. We've all sinned and offended one another, but by God's grace for us, we can forgive the offenses of others. (Jas. 3:2) Let's do it. Jesus said when we see the start of these things, redemption is imminent: the perplexity of nations, signs in the earth and signs in the seas and the skies. Jews have returned to the land. Jerusalem is their capital. The Middle East is at war and the world is at war. Israel resists the One who loves her while He waits for her. *This generation will not pass, till all these things be fulfilled. (Mat. 24:34)* No one knows the exact day or hour, but the signs and the seasons indicate it's the end of the age.

³² Now learn a parable of the fig tree; when his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer *is* nigh: ³³ so likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, *even* at the doors. ³⁴ Verily I say unto you, this generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled. ³⁵ Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away. (Mat. 24:32-35) Yeshua

³⁵ Thus says the LORD, Who gives the sun for light by day And the fixed order of the moon and stars for light by night. Who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar; The LORD of hosts is His name: ³⁶ "If this fixed order departs From before Me," declares the LORD. "Then the offspring of Israel also will cease From being a nation before Me forever." ³⁷ Thus says the LORD, "If the heavens above can be measured And the fountains of the earth searched out below, Then I will also cast off all the offspring of Israel For all that they have done," declares the LORD. (Jer. 31:35-37 NASB)

He speaks and we fall at His feet as though dead. He comes on a cloud, and Purity penetrates the air. The earth trembles with cataclysms. The trumpet sounds and angels catch us up. Then He comforts us by His Word, resting His Sword on us like a Scepter.

¹² He said therefore, A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return.
 ¹³ And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come. (Lk. 19:12-13)