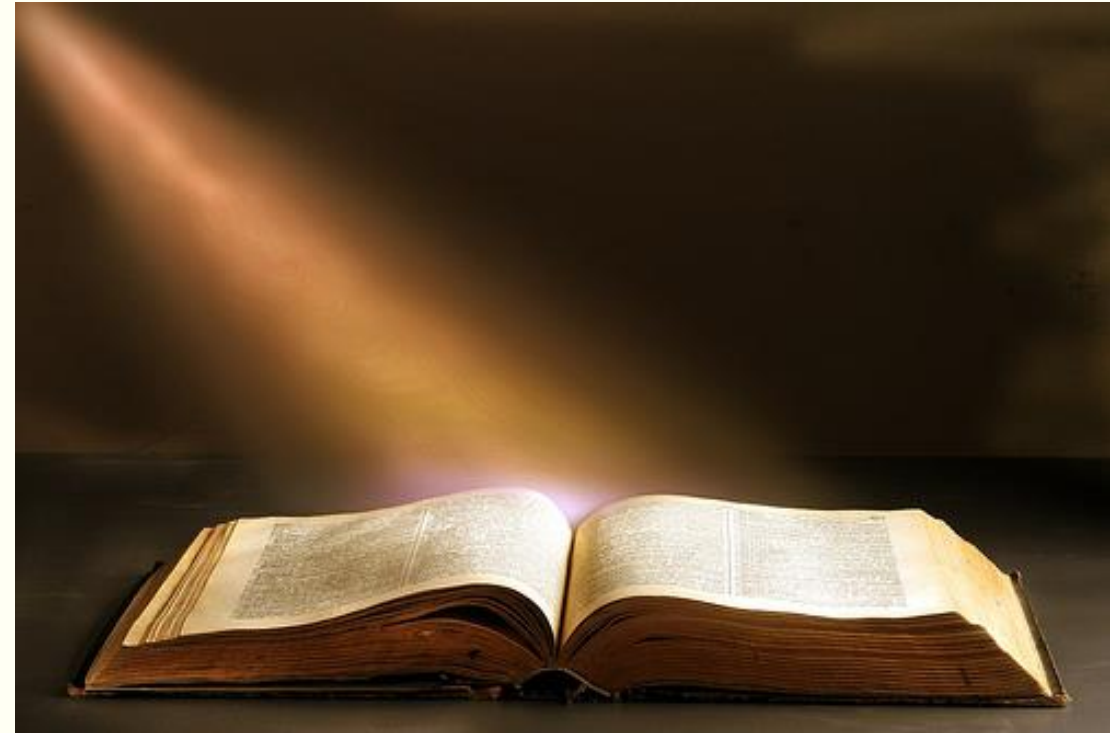
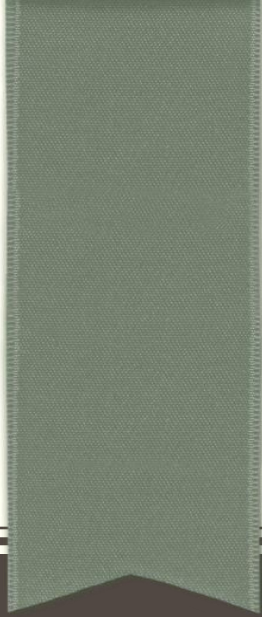


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# Exploring the Book of Revelation: Verse by Verse

## Chapter 22





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# CHAPTER 22

The Epilogue

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# Chapter 22

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Primary purpose of our Bible study is to understand Jesus' message to His church AND its personal application for us today

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The New Jerusalem

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Tale of Two Cities

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Chiastic overview

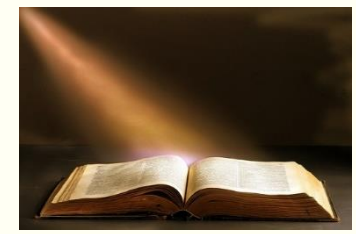
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The Epilogue

# Revelation 22:1-7

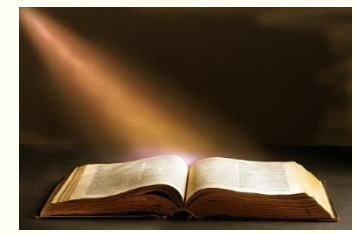
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**1** And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. **2** In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. **3** And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. **4** They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. **5** There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever. **6** Then he said to me, “These words are faithful and true.” And the Lord God of the holy prophets sent His angel to show His servants the things which must shortly take place. **7** “Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.”

# Revelation 22:8-17

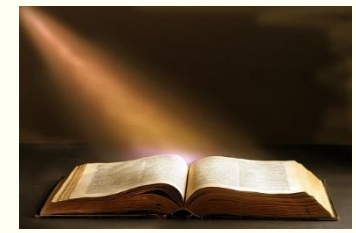
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**8** Now I, John, saw and heard these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who showed me these things. **9** Then he said to me, “See that you do not do that. For I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God.” **10** And he said to me, “Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand. **11** He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still.” **12** “And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. **13** I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last.” **14** Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. **15** But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie. **16** “I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star.” **17** And the Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let him who hears say, “Come!” And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.

# Revelation 22:18-21

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**18** For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; **19** and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book. **20** He who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming quickly.” Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus! **21** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

# The New Earth

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“On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.” – John 7:37-38

The river which flowed through Eden watered the garden (Gen 2:10). Ezekiel is in vision and sees a river flowing out from the temple of God giving life to all (Eze 47).

John also sees the river of life flowing from the throne of God and the tree of life at the center. New Jerusalem replaces the garden of Eden, the lost paradise.

“Along the bank of the river, on this side and that, will grow all kinds of trees used for food; their leaves will not wither, and their fruit will not fail. They will **bear fruit every month**, because their water flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their **leaves for medicine.**” – Eze 47:12

One tree is on both sides of the river. To eat from the tree of life is to live forever and all the redeemed will have access to it and share in the gift of eternal life. The curse of banishment from Eden is removed. The image and character of God is restored!

To eat of the tree of life is essential to perpetuate immortality. God is the Source of Life. The redeemed even in their sinless, immoral state are still dependent upon God for life

“The throne of God and of the Lamb” is center of the Holy city and the ruling seat of both God the Father and God the Son. The redeemed can freely approach God and enjoy an intimate relationship with God, the source of life and immortality

The abiding presence of God’s glory will outshine the light of the heavenly bodies. In the radiance of the glory of God, the redeemed will reign forever and ever.





11. Therefore your gates shall be open continually;  
    **They shall not be shut day or night,**  
That men may bring to you the **wealth of the Gentiles,**  
    And their **kings** in procession.

18. **Violence shall no longer be heard** in your land,  
Neither **wasting** nor **destruction** within your borders;  
    But you shall call your walls Salvation,  
    And your gates Praise.

19. **“The sun shall no longer be your light by day,**  
Nor for brightness shall the **moon give light** to you;  
But the **Lord will be to you an everlasting light,** and your God your glory.

20. Your sun shall no longer go down,  
    Nor shall your moon withdraw itself;  
    For the Lord will be your everlasting light,  
    And the **days of your mourning shall be ended.**

21 Also **your people shall all be righteous;**  
    They shall **inherit the land forever,**  
The branch of My planting, the work of My hands,  
    That I may be glorified.

Rev 21 & 22 depict the fulfillment of the Old Testament promises to Ancient Israel that God would finally restore them to a kingdom of glory upon the earth. These promises will be fulfilled to Spiritual Israel in the New Earth.

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ISAIAH 60: 11,18,19 - 21



“The time has come to which holy men have looked with longing since the flaming sword barred the first pair from Eden, the time for “the redemption of the purchased possession.” Ephesians 1:14. The earth originally given to man as his kingdom, betrayed by him into the hands of Satan, and so long held by the mighty foe, has been brought back by the great plan of redemption. All that was lost by sin has been restored. “Thus saith the Lord ... that formed the earth and made it; He hath established it, He created it not in vain, He formed it to be inhabited.” Isaiah 45:18. **God's original purpose in the creation of the earth is fulfilled as it is made the eternal abode of the redeemed.** “The righteous shall inherit the land, and dwell therein forever.” Psalm 37:29. “My people shall dwell in a peaceable habitation, and in sure dwellings, and in quiet resting places.” “Violence shall no more be heard in thy land, wasting nor destruction within thy borders; but thou shalt call thy walls Salvation, and thy gates Praise.” “They shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them. They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: ... Mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands.” Isaiah 32:18; 60:18; Isaiah 65:21, 22. Every trace of the curse is swept away. No eternally burning hell will keep before the ransomed the fearful consequences of sin. **One reminder alone remains: Our Redeemer will ever bear the marks of His crucifixion.** Upon His wounded head, upon His side, His hands and feet, are the only traces of the cruel work that sin has wrought. Says the prophet, beholding Christ in His glory: “He had bright beams coming out of His side: and there was the hiding of His power.” Habakkuk 3:4. That pierced side whence flowed the crimson stream that reconciled man to God—**there is the Savior's glory, there “the hiding of His power.”** “Mighty to save,” through the sacrifice of redemption, He was therefore strong to execute justice upon them that despised God's mercy. And the tokens of His humiliation are His highest honor; through the eternal ages the wounds of Calvary will show forth His praise and declare His power.”

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GREAT CONTROVERSY, PAGES 674

# Tale of Two Cities

New Jerusalem	Babylon
Vision introduced by angel (21:9)	Vision introduced by angel (17:1)
John carried in the Spirit (21:10)	John carried in the Spirit (17:3)
Bride of the Lamb (21:9)	Great prostitute/harlot (17:1)
Decorated with gold and precious stones (21:11)	Decorated with gold and precious stones (17:4)
Offers water of life to all (22:1)	Offers the wine of fornication (18:3)
Dwelling place of God (21:3)	Dwelling place of demons (18:2)
Nothing unclean and abominable (21:27)	Full of unclean and abomination (18:2)
Kings of the earth/nations bring glory (21:24)	Kings of the earth/nations give their power (21:24)
River of life flows through its midst (22:1)	Sits on many waters - River Euphrates (17:1)
Faithfulness to God	Rebellion against God
It is glorified and endures forever (21:23)	It is made desolate and burned (18:9,10)

# Chiastic Structure of Revelation

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- Prologue (Rev 1:1-8)
  - Promises to the overcomer (Rev 1:9 – Rev 3:22)
    - God's work for humanity's salvation (Rev 4 – Rev 8:1)
      - God's wrath mixed with mercy (Rev 8:2 – Rev 9:21)
        - Commissioning John to prophesy (Rev 10 – Rev 11:18)
          - Great controversy between Christ and Satan (Rev 11:19 – Rev 13:18)
        - Church proclaims the end-time gospel (Rev 14:1-20)
      - God's final wrath unmixed with mercy (Rev 15 – Rev 18:24)
    - God's work for humanity's salvation completed (Rev 19 – Rev 21:4)
  - Fulfillment of the promises to the overcomer (Rev 21:5 – Rev 22:5)
- Epilogue (Rev 22:6-21)

## CHIASTIC STRUCTURE OF REVELATION

SATAN'S ATTACKS ON GOD AND HIS PEOPLE					GOD'S VICTORY OVER SATAN AND HIS FORCES				
				<b>SATAN'S ULTIMATE DEMONSTRATION</b> 11:19—13:18 History and future of Satan's activity.	<b>GOD'S ULTIMATE DEMONSTRATION</b> 14:1-20 Worldwide proclamation of the gospel, ultimate outcome.				
		<b>TRUMPET PLAGUES</b> 8:2—11:19 God's protection of the world is withdrawn, Satan is allowed to cause chaos.	<b>SEVEN LAST PLAGUES</b> 15:1—18:24 Close of probation, plagues of God upon the impenitent						
	<b>INVESTIGATIVE JUDGMENT</b> 4:1—8:1 The sinless universe assesses candidates for eternal life.	<b>CHURCH ON EARTH</b> 1:10—3:22 God's church struggles against the attacks of the enemy.	<b>EXECUTIVE JUDGMENT</b> 19:1—20:15 Christ comes for His people, judges systems and people who have rebelled against him.						
<b>PROLOGUE</b> 1:1-10	Messages to the seven churches.	Courtroom in heaven, lamb and the scroll, seven seals, sealing of 144,000, the great multitude.	Dragon and the woman, war in heaven, beasts from the sea and the earth, mark of the beast	144,000, Three angel's messages, the two harvests	Temple closed, 7 last plagues, battle of Armageddon, judgment of Babylon	Second coming of Christ, millennium binding of Satan, Great white throne judgment	<b>CHURCH IN THE KINGDOM</b> 21:1—22:5 God's church glorified in His eternal Kingdom.	<b>EPILOGUE</b> 22:5--21	
							New heaven and earth, New Jerusalem.		

# Epilogue

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This concludes the final vision of the Book of Revelation. Like the Prologue (Rev 1:1-8), the Epilogue summarizes the Book of Revelation repeating the Prologue

The Epilogue confirms and repeats the reliability of the prophecies given from God through His angel to the prophet John three times in the book of Revelation

Every generation of the people of God is to live in the constant expectation of Christ's imminent Second coming. It is repeated three times in Rev 22

The 6<sup>th</sup> Beatitude (vs 7) repeats an important element of the 1<sup>st</sup> Beatitude (1:3). It is not enough to be knowledgeable about prophecies. We are to **understand and keep** it so we are preserved from the great deception to deceive the world (2 Thess 2:1-12)

The prophecies are given, not to satisfy one's curiosity about the future, but to help God's people to remain steadfast and unswervingly loyal to Jesus in the face of persecution and difficulty as they watch and wait for His soon coming

“And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.”  
2 Cor 11:14

The lure to worship supernatural beings which overwhelmed John twice highlights the danger to worship angels and the central issue of worship in the final crisis

The angel rejects worship and warns John to worship God alone!

Humanity joins the family of God – those that keep the words of the prophecy



# Epilogue

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“But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and **seal the book** until the time of the end...But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and **seal the book** until the time of the end.” – Dan 12:4,9

In contrast to the prophecies of Daniel that were to be sealed until the time of the end (1798 AD) as the visions were not relevant to the people of Daniel’s time, the angel commands John not to seal the prophecies of Revelation for the time is near.

“Many shall be purified, made white, and refined, but the wicked shall do wickedly; and none of the wicked shall understand, but the wise shall understand.” – Dan 12:10

As earth’s final events unfolds, the world will be polarized into two distinct groups: those who heed the prophetic word and those who reject it.

Though God has no pleasure in the death of the wicked but desires that all men be saved, the hearts of men will be steadfast in the path of righteousness or unrighteousness that even if Jesus’ Coming is delayed, it will not change the course of their lives.

“For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.” – Matt 16:27

Eternal life is a gift, and not a reward! (Rom 6:23) We cannot earn our way to heaven, but we will be rewarded in accordance with our works.

When probation closes and every case is decided, Christ will come shortly with His reward

While salvation is by grace through faith in Jesus, judgment is according to works as a result of love, which are the evidence of a godly character and relationship with Christ



# Epilogue

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Jesus' words closes with a reminder that He knows what the future brings and is ultimately in control of the course of history

The conditions of eternal life remain the same from Paradise to entry into the New Jerusalem – perfect obedience to God from a heart of love

The last and 7<sup>th</sup> Beatitude has been distorted in later Bible translations from the Sinaiticus and Alexandrinus manuscripts. Blessed are those who do His commandments (KJV, NKJV) and NOT “Blessed are those who wash their robes” (NIV, RSV, ASV, CEV, NASB, AMP).

The salvation of the redeemed and their access to the New Jerusalem is as a result of their obedience to Christ rather than what they have done for themselves

Those excluded from the city are commandment breakers include the dogs (unholy ones who are backbiters, evil and haters – Phil 3:2) and everyone who loves and practice a lie “Greek – pseudos” meaning deceit, conscious and intentional falsehood like the devil who is the father of lies and peddled lies in heaven to deceive a third of the angels

“You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.” – John 8:44

Jesus continues to affirm that He is the source of the visions of the Book of Revelation and the angel was commissioned by Him. Both the angel and Christ speak alternately.





# Epilogue

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“...and I will give him the morning star. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” – Rev 2:28, 29

Jesus is the Messiah, the fulfillment of Davidic prophecy, the Promised Morning Star. The Root and Offspring of David refers to His deity and humanity. He is God-man! He heralds the end of the night of sin and darkness and ushers in the everlasting day of light

“Ho! Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk **without money and without price.**” – Isa 55:1

Jesus sends His greatest and final invitation, far and wide, by the power of the Spirit and through the church to all who will listen. **“Come and take the water of life freely.”** This is the most profound invitation ever given to mankind and the greatest decision ever made!

**In Christ alone can all human spiritual thirst be quenched.** The true gospel message of salvation is free. The false gospel is not free. **The loss of a soul is immeasurably tragic.**

“You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you.” – Deut 4:2

God gives a final dire warning. It is dangerous to tamper with the words of prophecy in the Book of Revelation to distort and misinterpreting it with the intent to deceive

With longing desire, Jesus cannot wait to come back for His people. He reminds us that He is coming quickly, and His faithful people respond with a longing sigh as their only blessed hope is in the grace of Christ. **Amen, Even so, come Lord Jesus!!!**



## Revelation 1:3

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Blessed is he who **reads** and those who **hear** the words of this prophecy and **keep** those things which are written in it; for the **time is near**.

# Sources

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