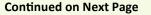


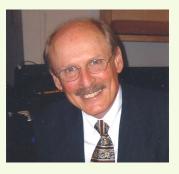
## "Welcome To Your New Home!"

Before Jesus returned to heaven, after completing His mission on earth as our Savior, He made a promise to His disciples, and through them to us. He told them He was returning to "His Father and to our Father", to prepare a place for us in His Father's house. He further promised that He would come back again to take us to the home He was preparing for us. The promise He made to His disciples is one that He is about to come to pass for all who have claimed by faith His saving grace. Jesus is coming soon — we are living in the season of His return! And when He returns with the armies of heaven as King of Kings and Lord of Lords to deliver His followers from the armies of the enemy [the Dragon Serpent of Eden], we will be "caught up together with [the risen saints of the ages — Adam and Eve, Noah, Daniel, David, and all the saved of earth] "in the clouds of heaven to meet the Lord in the air." Then Jesus will take us back to our promised new home in heaven where "we shall always be with the Lord." (John 14:1-3; 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17). Yes, this is for real and soon to be!

In the last two chapters of Revelation, we are told what our new home in heaven is going to be like – in great detail – and that's what we're going to see in this last study of "Revelation In Review."

In our last issue, we learned some pretty wonderful things about what **life** is going to be like in heaven, and on the new earth. In this issue, John describes what our actual **"home" in heaven** is going to be like – in the city where we will live until God brings us back to earth to destroy evil and all its vestiges and create "a new heaven and a new earth." As you will remember from our previous studies, our first thousand years of life after Jesus returns will be in heaven – our heavenly home. We will have a place to live in the city. Once we return to earth, God will create the earth all over again – something we will get to watch! There we will also have a "country home," which we will get to build ourselves! And every Sabbath (throughout eternity), we will return to our "city home" to worship before our Creator Redeemer (Isaiah 66:22, 23).





Pastor Darrell Chilson

"We are living in the season of Christ's return."

Jesus said, "Watch and be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

The mission of
West Valley Ministries is to help
Christ's followers
recognize the signs
of His approaching
return and be prepared for that
Great Day.

## **Our New Home in the City**

Following is John's description of the New Jerusalem, where our promised home will be which Jesus is preparing for us:

- ◆ The light with the city is absolutely crystal clear, and as brilliant as a precious jewel (Rev 21:11)
- ◆ The walls of the city are massive and high, with twelve gates, beside which twelve angels are posted.



- ◆ Each gate has a name of one of the twelve sons of Jacob (Israel) inscribed upon it three gates on each side of the city (Rev 21:12, 13)
- ◆ These massive walls of the city have twelve foundation stones supporting them, each with the name of one of the twelve apostles upon them (Rev 21:14)
- ◆ The city is laid out in a square each side measuring more than 1400 miles in length! To get an idea of the "footprint" of this city, imagine a city as large as two-thirds the size of the continental United States of America. The New Jerusalem covers more than 3 million square miles! But that's not all! The city is as high as it is wide and long more than 1400 miles high! And this city will house all the redeemed of the ages, saved by the "doing and dying" of Jesus Christ! Every "saint" will have a place to live in this city! (Rev 21:16)
- And then John describes the materials out of which the city is built for God's children to enjoy:
  - ⇒ Each wall is made of jasper
  - ⇒ Each foundation stone is decorated with a different kind of precious stone
  - ⇒ Each gate is made of a single pearl
  - ⇒ The city and the streets of the city are made of pure gold, like transparent glass
- There is no temple in the city, for the Father and the Son "are its temple"
- There is no sun or moon to light the city, "for the glory of God illuminates it, and the Lamb is its light"
- ◆ There is no night there, and the gates are never closed
- ◆ The only people who live there are those whose names have been written in the Lamb's Book of Life no one who would ever threaten the happiness of the saved will be there EVER!
- "The pure river of the water of life, clean as crystal, flows from the throne of God and the Lamb"
- ◆ Above the city's main street, and growing on either side of the river, is the tree of life the very tree from Eden. And every month of the year, a new fruit will grow on the tree

I am again reminded of how Paul speaks of the tender and lavish love of God in His efforts to make life wonderful for those who have responded in faith to the sacrifice of His Son. He says, "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor has it entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him!" 1 Corinthians 2:9.

## The Epilogue and the Invitation

The Book of Revelation ends with the same invitation Jesus gave to His hearers when He was with us on earth – "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink" John 7:37. John repeats these words in

**Continued on Next Page** 

Revelation 22:17 – "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."

Over the course of our "review" of Revelation, we have seen the extent to which Satan's rebellion against God and his hatred for Christ have impacted the followers of Jesus throughout the centuries, and especially in the days which immediately precede His return. Since Eden, Satan has sought to deceive every man, woman and child into thinking that God is unfair, an unjust tyrant, and unapproachable, demanding God who is unloving and is seeking to keep as many people as possible out of heaven by His unachievable requirements for salvation. Satan has sought to project his own evil character on the One who "came to seek and to save the lost." He has done everything in his power to prevent those created in the image of God from ever being in His presence. The Dragon has made war with Christ and His "bride" [the Church] in both his camouflage of Christianity (coming in deception as an "angel of light") and in his devilish garb of the "tail and pitchfork" – whatever strategy he thought might be most effective in destroying, first Christ (in Bethlehem, throughout His life, and at Calvary), then when he failed with Christ, his attempts to destroy Christ's followers, again through both stealth and in open warfare. Revelation is a vivid account of the battle between Christ and Satan, between the followers of Christ and the agents of Satan – the war between good and evil played out over the past 6,000 years.

But when Revelation's story comes to an end, the saved will be in the Holy City watching as Satan and evil are forever destroyed in the consuming fires of hell! Christ will be the Victor, and those who have trusted Him, the beneficiaries of all that is His! The story of Revelation ends as it should, with an end to evil, pain, death, tears — and in final fulfillment of God's original dream for His creatures — Eden restored, God making His home with us, and you and I with a chance to build homes, plant gardens, have families, and enjoy God's beautiful creatures and creation without anything to spoil our happiness — ever again!

So in the final verses of Revelation, God not only assures us that He is coming soon, but He makes His final appeal to us to "Come" to Him in faith that we might enjoy forever all the blessings of His amazing grace! These are His final words to us at the end of the story:

"These words are faithful and true and will shortly take place. Behold, I am coming quickly! Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand. Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last." 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. "Surely I am coming quickly." Even so, come, Lord Jesus! (Revelation 22:6-20 selected portions).

Next week our Newsletter will take on a new format and subject matter. Our weekly Bible Classes will be on the Book of Acts — the story of the Church that Jesus said He would build, and against which the gates of hell would not prevail — quite a different version of the Christian Church from what we see in Christendom today!

In addition, we will start a prophecy series from the Book of Daniel. You will be surprised at how much the prophecies of Daniel help us understand all we have been studying these past few months in the Book of Revelation.

More is "on tap" — please pray for this ministry and invite others to join!