

March 22, 2025

"Revelation In Review" – 18

West Valley End-Time Ministries Newsletter

"The Beginning of a New Story" — Revelation 21:1-8

Review

In our last chapter, Revelation 20, we were shown the events of the 1,000-year millennium – what was transpiring both on earth and in heaven. In this chapter, "the camp of the saints and the beloved city [the New Jerusalem] has come down from heaven to earth. The saints have lived in heaven for a thousand years, now – the very city that has now come to earth where God establishes His own residence with us in a brand-new world. The wicked have been judged and condemned, "and fire has come down from God out of heaven and **devoured** them" Revelation 20:9. The saints have watched from within the city the destructive fires of hell, safe from its effects. Malachi tells us that now nothing is left but "stubble" and "ash". Malachi 4:1-3. Evil and all the evidence of six thousand years of Satan's work of evil are completely destroyed, and it's time at last for God to restore to His now perfect creatures all that was lost as a result of the curse of sin. In chapters 21 and 22, God will create a new heaven and a new earth for the saved to enjoy throughout eternity, free from sin and evil, death and pain, tears and sorrow! The next two chapters, the last chapters of the Book of Revelation, paint the magnificent picture of Eden restored – the new beginnings of God's original plan for humanity which was interrupted by sin.

A New Heaven and New Earth – Revelation 21:1-8

Now I saw **a new heaven and a new earth**, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away....

Isaiah also speaks of this new heaven and new earth with added detail in the verses which follow:

"For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; and the former shall not be remembered or come to mind. ... The voice of weeping shall no longer be heard, nor the voice of crying. No more shall an infant from there live but a few days, nor an old man who has not fulfilled his days.... They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for as the days of a



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.

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Our Instructor, Jessica Lindsey

John 21

Breakfast by the Sea

1 After these things Jesus showed Himself again to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias, and in this way He showed *Himself*: **2** Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the *sons* of Zebedee, and two others of His disciples were together. **3** Simon Peter said to them, “I am going fishing.”

They said to him, “We are going with you also.” They went out and immediately^[in] got into the boat, and that night they caught nothing. **4** But when the morning had now come, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. **5** Then Jesus said to them, “Children, have you any food?”

They answered Him, “No.”

6 And He said to them, “Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find *some*.” So they cast, and now they were not able to draw it in because of the multitude of fish.

7 Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on *his* outer garment (for he had removed it), and plunged into the sea. **8** But the other disciples came in the little boat (for they were not far from land, but about two hundred cubits), dragging the net with fish. **9** Then, as soon as they had come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid on it, and bread. **10** Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish which you have just caught.”

11 Simon Peter went up and dragged the net to land, full of large fish, one hundred and fifty-three; and although there were so many, the net was not broken. **12** Jesus said to them, “Come *and* eat breakfast.” Yet none of the disciples dared ask Him, “Who are You?”—knowing that it was the Lord. **13** Jesus then came and took the bread and gave it to them, and likewise the fish.

14 This *is* now the third time Jesus showed Himself to His disciples after He was raised from the dead.

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Jesus Restores Peter

15 So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, *son* of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?”

He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.”

He said to him, “Feed My lambs.”

16 He said to him again a second time, “Simon, *son* of Jonah, do you love Me?”

He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.”

He said to him, “Tend My sheep.”

17 He said to him the third time, “Simon, *son* of Jonah, do you love Me?” Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, “Do you love Me?”

And he said to Him, “Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You.”

Jesus said to him, “Feed My sheep. 18 Most assuredly, I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry *you* where you do not wish.” 19 This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, “Follow Me.”

The Beloved Disciple and His Book


20 Then Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following, who also had leaned on His breast at the supper, and said, “Lord, who is the one who betrays You?” 21 Peter, seeing him, said to Jesus, “But Lord, what *about* this man?”

22 Jesus said to him, “If I will that he remain till I come, what *is that* to you? You follow Me.”

23 Then this saying went out among the brethren that this disciple would not die. Yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but, “If I will that he remain till I come, what *is that* to you?”

24 This is the disciple who testifies of these things, and wrote these things; and we know that his testimony is true.

25 And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen.



tree, [so shall be] the days of My people, and My elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands. They shall not labor in vain, nor **bring forth children** for trouble.... The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox, and dust shall be the serpent's food. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain," says the LORD. Isaiah 65:17-25.

"The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a **little child** shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young ones shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The **nursing child** shall play by the cobra's hole, and the **weaned child** shall put his hand in the viper's den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD....Isaiah 11:6-9.

Can you imagine what it's going to be like to start a family in the new earth, build homes, plant gardens, and enjoy being with the animals in the way Adam and Eve lived before sin?! The tree of life, which is now in heaven, preserved for us to enjoy for eternity, will again be found where God planted it six thousand years ago. And we will have access to it again as soon as we arrive in heaven! In these chapters, we find the fulfillment of the words of Paul – "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him" 1 Corinthians 2:9.

God Will Dwell Among Us – The Headquarters of the Universe Will Be Moved to Earth!

Then I, John, saw the holy city, **New Jerusalem**, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, **the dwelling 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.

No More Tears, Death, Sorrow, or Pain

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."**

Isaiah says, "He will swallow up death forever, and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces...." Isaiah 25:8.


All Things Made New

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."

Revelation Ends As It Begins – Note the Comparison

Chapter 1 – "I am the Alpha and the Omega, [the] Beginning and [the] End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

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Chapter 21 – And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End."

The Overcomer Inherits It All

I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. **He who overcomes shall inherit all things**, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.

For many years, this verse, and ones like it in Revelation chapters 2 and 3, bothered me and made me feel that this promise would never apply to me. The reason? I didn't feel like an overcomer. I knew my life was far from what God requires for a place in heaven, and even after all my attempts to "live the life" of a follower of Christ, and with all my pleading with God for a life that met every requirement of His perfect Law, I had no hope of ever achieving the perfection required.

Then I discovered the story of **His life of perfect righteousness, lived for me, as me, on my behalf, to be claimed as my own by faith!** When I discovered that **all He requires of me for eternal life has been provided for me by that One Perfect Life, I was undone!** I claimed as my own the life He lived, in the same way He claimed as His own the life that is mine – and paid the penalty of eternal death as me that I might have the inheritance that was His! That's the Gospel, and for me it changed how I looked at EVERYTHING!

So what is it that is meant by the eight instances in Revelation where the Bible says, "**He who overcomes**" and is then followed by a promise? John, the same John who wrote Revelation, explains in his first epistle:

For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world--our faith. Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? 1 John 5:4, 5.

Jesus said it like this:

"And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But **he who endures to the end** shall be saved" Mark 13:13.

The days ahead for the Church are going to be difficult – and for many of us, these days already are, because of the sorrows and trials of life this side of heaven. But we haven't yet experienced the full force of the hatred of the enemy that is just before us, as the Dragon and his agents come up against the followers of Christ in opposition to their allegiance to the Gospel, the Sabbath, and to the Lamb! But as we cling to the righteousness that **is ours in Christ** as a covering and stand true in our faith to the One whose experience we must endure during the Great Time of Tribulation, we will overcome the forces of evil, in their hatred for Christ and His Church, and receive of all the promises found in the Bible for Christ's followers!

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The Wicked Lose It All

The unrighteous, on the other hand, who have lived in rebellion against the King of Kings will also reap their reward as described in the following decree:

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.**"

The **second death** is the **eternal death** for which the entire human race was destined – UNTIL CHRIST! Paul says, "Through one man [Adam] sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned [in him]" Romans 5:12. But then came Jesus, Whom Paul says "God made to be sin for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God **in Him!**" 2 Corinthians 5:21. And "over such [those who place their faith in Him] the **second death** has no power!" Revelation 20:6.

An important point to remember when reading these texts is that hell ends in death for the wicked, not eternal life in a burning fire! Eternal death, the second death, is **death, not life** in another place called hell, as most Christians wrongly believe and are taught. Hell will be this earth on fire – a fire that is unquenchable and complete in its destruction – whose **smoke** ascends forever into the infinite universe. The new earth will be created over the charred old earth and over the ashes of sin, its effects, and all its perpetrators! God is unintentionally defamed by many Christians who have bought the lie of the serpent, "You shall not surely die!" Genesis 3:4. Only those who believe in Christ shall "never die" John 11:26. But those who refuse to embrace the grace of our Savior "**will surely die!**"

Next week we will continue our study of Revelation 21 and 22 as John gives us a glimpse of heaven and the holy city we will inhabit when Jesus takes us back to heaven on the day of His return. Prepare to use your imagination as you see what's ahead in heaven for the Church!

Stay Tuned!

Coming Up!

In April, the West Valley Ministries 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!