

47. Life in the New Jerusalem

In our last two topics, we saw that we want to help our physical and spiritual children learn to explain what the New Jerusalem will be like. We have seen that it is a wonderful city where the glory of God will be reflected by the beauty of the city. The focus of this topic is to give a tiny introduction to the life we will have in the New Jerusalem.

Revelation 22:1-5 says, “And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. 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. 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. They shall see His face, and His name *shall be* on their foreheads. 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.”

John saw that the New Jerusalem will have a pure river. This river will come from the throne of God and of the Lamb. These verses mention several things about this pure river of water. First, the river is pure. This means that there is nothing in the water that would in any way be unclean. It is free from any pollution. Second, we see that it is the water of life. Christ mentioned the living water three times in the book of John. John 4:10-11 says, “Jesus answered and said to her, ‘If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, ‘Give Me a drink,’ you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.’ The woman said to Him, ‘Sir, You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. Where then do You get that living water?’” Then, John 7:37-39 says, “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.’ But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet *given*, because Jesus was not yet glorified.” These verses show us that living water is the Holy Spirit that God has placed in our hearts so that living water can flow from us. However, that living water will continue to flow from the Father and Christ throughout eternity. Third, that water is clear as crystal.

Next, these verses show that the tree of life will be in the New Jerusalem. That tree is first mentioned in Genesis 2:9, where we read: “And out of the ground the LORD God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life *was* also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.” Then, Genesis 3:22 adds, “Then the LORD God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever.” Adam could eat this fruit and live forever. If he would have eaten it after he sinned, he would have lived forever in sin. In fact, there are many trees of life on both sides of the river. These trees will bear twelve different kinds of fruit. There will be a different kind of fruit each month. The word “healing” can be translated either “household” or “healing” and speaks of service rendered by one to another.

In the New Jerusalem, there will be no more curse, because all of the effects of sin will cease to

exist. Instead, the throne of God and of the Lamb will be there. We will have the privilege of enjoying perfect fellowship with God and the Lamb, throughout eternity, as we serve Him. We will be able to see His face. That has not been true on this earth. God told Moses, in Exodus 33:20, “‘You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live.’” The name of God will be on the foreheads of all who are in heaven. In the Bible, the name of God on the forehead meant that person belonged to God and would have the character of God. Revelation 3:12 says, “He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And *I will write on him My new name.*” We will have the character of God on our heads and in our hearts.

In the New Jerusalem, there will be no night. There will be no lamp. There will be no light of the sun. Instead, the Lord God will give us His eternal light. Revelation 21:23 says, “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.” In addition, we see that all saints will rule with the Lord forever. This changed status is explained in Revelation 3:21, where we read: “To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.” Christ says that we will sit on the throne with Him. Romans 8:16-17 says, “The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him*, that we may also be glorified together.” Jesus made it clear that we will be glorified together with Him as fellow heirs.

Revelation 22:6-7 goes on to say, “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. ‘Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed *is* he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.’” The angel told John that these words are faithful and true. “Faithful” means *these words can be trusted and believed*. The reason for that is due to the fact that they are true. 1 John 5:20 says, “And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.” This verse uses the word “true” three times. These words are perfect because they are spoken by the Father and the Son. The Father and the Son sent the angel to tell John these words so that we, as His servants, could know the things that will soon come to pass.

The promise of Christ is, “Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed *is* he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.” The coming of Christ, to fulfill all of the things John was told to write in this book, is going to happen quickly. That means there will be no delay. That time has been clearly defined in this book. The events in this book can be summarized by the outline given in Revelation 1:19, which says: “Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.” The thing John had seen in chapter one was Christ in all of His glory. The things in Revelation chapters 2 and 3 include the period of the churches. That means that next event to happen will be the Rapture of the church, as the Christians are taken to heaven. The things that are hereafter include chapters 4 through the end of the book. Chapters 4-18 include the seven-year tribulation. Chapter 19 includes the coming of Christ to defeat all of

the forces of Satan and the antichrist. Chapter 20 includes the one-thousand-year rule of Christ, the final defeat of Satan, and the final judgments. Chapters 21 and 22 give us an introduction to eternity. Christ also promises that those who obey the words of the prophecy of this book will be blessed.

Revelation 22:8-10 says, “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. 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.” And he said to me, “Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand.” John spoke about himself in Revelation chapter one. Throughout the rest of the book, John wrote about the various things that the angel told him to write. In Revelation 21, John gave testimony of the fact that he saw the New Jerusalem coming down out of heaven. Now, John begins his conclusion by giving his personal testimony about the things that he has seen and heard throughout the book.

Then, John said that he fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who had shown him all of the things that he had written in the book. The angel immediately told John not to worship him. This is a reminder that we are not to worship any person or angel. The angel said that he is a fellow servant with John. This is a reminder that all who follow Christ are His servants even though He has chosen to call us His friends and His brethren. As followers of the Lord, we are all fellow brethren. This includes the prophets who wrote part of the books of the Bible as well as all who have followed the Lord and are obedient to the Word of God. Then, the angel told John, Worship God. 1 Corinthians 10:31 says, “Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.” Everything we do, including our worship, is to bring glory to God.

Then, the angel told John, “Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand.” In contrast, Daniel was told, in Daniel 12:4 and Daniel 12:9, ““But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase’ ... And he said, ‘Go *your way*, Daniel, for the words *are* closed up and sealed till the time of the end.’” Daniel was told that the words were to be shut up during his time. He was also told that at the time of the end that “many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase.” John was told not to seal this book because the time is at hand. In this day and age, we are seeing many run to and fro throughout the earth. We also see a very rapid increase in knowledge. This is an indication that we are near the time when the judgments described in Daniel and in Revelation are getting very close.

We want to help our physical and spiritual children learn to explain to others the importance of being prepared, so they will be prepared for the future. Those who are prepared will rejoice with Christ while those who fail to prepare will be judged. May the Lord richly bless you as you help your children learn to explain these things.