



Book of Revelation

VISION TO STRENGTHEN THE SAINTS

Oakland International Fellowship

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Revelation 21:9-22:19 Handout

Scene 8: Jerusalem the Bride

Tired of bad news? Get ready for the upcoming wedding (Mt 25) prepared for since the beginning of the world. The bride of Christ, the church, will glide down that grand aisle on Christ's second return, revealing her awesome beauty, wedding and future. While gazing at the bride's advance, all eyes will turn to the Bridegroom, Christ Jesus, who at great cost won her to Himself. Scene 8, the last one, provides a complete set of 7 revelations!

“And one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls . . . , saying, ‘Come here, I shall show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb’” (Rev 21:9).

Revelation #1: The Holy City, Jerusalem (Rev 21:10-21)

^{21:10} And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, ¹¹ having the glory of God. Her brilliance was like a very costly stone, as a stone of crystal-clear jasper. ¹² It had a great and high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels; and names were written on them, which are those of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel. . . . ¹⁴ And the wall of the city had twelve foundation stones, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. ¹⁶ And the city is laid out as a square, and its length is as great as the width; and he measured the city with the rod, 12,000 stadia; its length and width and height are equal. . . . ¹⁸ And the material of the wall was jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass. ¹⁹ The foundation stones of the city wall were adorned with every kind of precious stone. . . . ²¹ And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass. (Rev 21:10-21)

- “The holy city, Jerusalem” (10; 21:2; Ez 40:2, 1 Pe 2:5) is the same as the bride (9), the church of God decked out with greatness, glory, transparency. John clearly identifies the holy city, the heavenly or new Jerusalem with the church (Heb 12:22-23).
- “Twelve gates. . . the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel” (12) and “twelve foundation stones, and on them . . . the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb” (14) show at once that all the saints from Israel with hope in the Messiah and the church would be present. (“24 elders” used: 4:4, 10; 5:8; 11:16; 19:4; Ez 40:6).
- “The city . . . 12,000 stadia; its length and width and height are equal” (16) forms a huge perfect cube with a matching glorious wall depicting security from all enemies. (Same as 1,500 miles in each direction.)
- “The one who spoke with me had a gold measuring rod to measure the city” (15; Ez 40:3) portrays how the size is far greater than anything formerly described and that none of the elect will be missing.
- “Every kind of precious stone” (19-20) indicates its prolonged and astonishing value.
- “The street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass” (21) speaks of its brilliance and glory.

Summary: The 12's (24) indicate completeness—all the saints, the solidity its unchanging presence through eternity, and the precious gems her ongoing and incomparable beauty and value.

Revelation #2: The Glory of the Lord (Rev 21:22-27)

²² And I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God, the Almighty, and the Lamb, are its temple. ²³ And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine upon it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb. ²⁴ And the nations shall walk by its light, and the kings of the earth shall bring their glory into it. ²⁷ . . . but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

- “No temple in it” (22) for the whole Jerusalem, people of God, constantly thrives in God's presence. The people of God are always intimate with Him as He was in the Garden but more so (Gen 3:8).
- “The Lord God, the Almighty, and the Lamb, are its temple” (22) points to Genesis 1-2 where intimacy in God's presence is now permanently sealed, restoration of the highest kind being a major goal of the gospel.

- “The glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb” (23; 22:5; Ez 43:4-5; Is 60:1-5) shines a light from inside out which depicts a greater light than shone on the earth, evidently a reintroduction of the glory that Adam and Eve shared (lost when sinned-naked).
- “Only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life” (27) reveals the inclusivity of the gospel that all those with their names in the Lamb’s book of life will be included.

Summary: The Lord’s glorious light will shine through His people making everything gloriously beautiful, not like our sun which comes from the outside, making it blinding, but awesome as the light clothing Adam and Eve before sin. The light will differently energize the creation, revealing a greater splendor yet (Rom 8:22).

Revelation #3: The River of Life (Rev 22:1-5)

22:1 And he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming 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, bearing twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. ³ And there shall no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His bond-servants shall serve Him; ⁴ and they shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. ⁵ And there shall no longer be any night; and they shall not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God shall illumine them; and they shall reign forever and ever. (Rev 22:1-5)

- The “river of the water of life” (22:1; Gen 2:10-14; Ez 47:1) flowing from God’s throne again reminds us of Genesis 2 and the Garden of Eden and the river that flowed from the throne of God onto the earth through the Garden supplying life.
- “Tree of Life bearing twelve kinds of fruit” (2) touches back to Ez 47:12, promising life, quality, and healing.
- “They shall reign forever and ever” (5) speaks of the glorious light, the righteous people and the everlasting nature mentioned in Isaiah 60:19-22, “But you will have the LORD for an everlasting light... 21 Then all your people will be righteous; They will possess the land forever.”

Summary: The last chapters of Revelation fully realize the first two chapters of Genesis where intimacy, light, a river and fruit of the old creation is gloriously surpassed by the new couple (Christ and bride Gen 1:27-28) who “will live happily forever.”

Revelation #4-7: The Last Four Revelations (Rev 22:6-19)

⁶ ...“These words are faithful and true”; and the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, sent His angel to show to His bond-servants the things which must shortly take place. ⁷ “And behold, I am coming quickly. Blessed is he who heeds the words of the prophecy of this book...” ¹² “Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done...” ¹⁶ “I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things for the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, the bright morning star.” ¹⁷ And the Spirit and the bride say, “Come.” And let the one who hears say, “Come.” And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost. (Rev 22:6-19)

- “These words are faithful and true” (6) reveal the certainty of what God will shortly take place (i.e. scroll).
- “Sent His angel” (6) reveals God wisdom of knowing what is important: **God > Christ > Angel > John > Saints**.
- “Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near” (10; 1:3) in contrast to Dan 12:4’s message to Daniel, “Conceal these words and seal up the book until the end of time; many will go back and forth, and knowledge will increase.” The time has come: the end, escalation of travel and knowledge!
- “Wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life” (14) refers back to securing one’s spot in the eternal Garden by God’s washed robes for there is no room for the evil doers who lack such robes.
- “I am the root and the offspring of David, the bright morning star” (16) depict Christ as both David’s Lord and son: “born of David” (Mt 1:6; Lu 2:11; Ro 1:3).

Summary: One’s assured participation in the new creation depends on “washed robes” and one’s name in the “Book of Life” for many will pretend obedience but turn aside and distort the Words of Revelation and thus betray their true allegiance. Meanwhile, His people, the bride, calls out to her coming bridegroom, “Come!”

Discussion Questions

1. What extra significance does our relationship with God have by describing the church as Christ Jesus’ bride?
2. How does light create fantastic scenes? What is the most fantastic light scene you have seen? In what way will God’s light be much more glorious than the sun?
3. What does the phrase from the quote about Whitfield mean, “like people hearing for eternity” mean? Is that the way you listen to God’s Word or is His voice stifled by the world’s guck?