The Book of Revelation

Zanesville, OH | Wednesday/Sunday Bible Study

**Chapter 22**

* **22:1-5– The Restoration of Eden**
  + **Verses 1-5**– John observes a river flowing from the throne of God (cf. Ezek. 47:1-9). The river is said to be sparkling like crystal and its waters is the waters of life (cf. Jer. 2:13; 17:13; Jn. 4:10-11, 14; Rev. 7:17).
  + On either side of the river is the “tree of life” (cf. Gen. 2:9; 3:22-24). The imagery here serves to emphasize that what was in the beginning is now going to be revisited due to the destruction of evil and God’s grace through Christ.
  + Christ promised the overcomers in Rev. 2:7 that they would eat of the tree of life. The point is that what was once lost in the garden of Eden is now restored because of Christ’s death and resurrection on the Cross in conjunction with fervent faithfulness.
  + The continuation of the mention of twelve occurs here and the leaves of the tree is said to provide healing (cf. Ezek. 47:12). The curse in Eden is now reversed (cf. Gal. 3:13) and the ultimate sense of “healing” is to be with God where one is secure and satisfied.
  + Verses 3-4 reiterate the demise of the curse as God and The Lamb continue in the midst of this perfected city (cf. Zech. 14:11). The bondservants of God serve Him and they experience the most intimate aspect of their relationship with Him as they see His face (cf. 1 Jn. 3:2; Rev. 7:15-17).
  + They have access to Him because they have His name on their foreheads (cf. 7:1-8). Reiterating 21:23, the city will never see darkness (night). They do not need the celestial bodies since the greatest celestial figure is in their midst (cf. 1 Jn. 1:5).
* **22:6-9– The Testimony of John**
  + **Verses 6-9**– The words that have been declared are “faithful and true” reflecting the nature of God and Jesus Himself (cf. Jn. 1:18; Rev. 1:5; 3:14). These things must “soon take place.” Verses 6-7 reiterate the beginning of the book in 1:1-3.
  + John now testifies that he has indeed saw all these things and wrote them down. He places his “stamp of approval” so to speak on the things that have been seen and written throughout the book. This is not a hallucination or some wild fantasy.
  + John attempts to worship the angel who has been showing him the things related to the perfected city but he is rebuked for doing such (cf. Acts 10:25-26; Rev. 19:10). It is difficult to know why John tries to do this but the point of the passage is that only God is to be worship and only He can accept true worship (cf. Matt. 4:10; Jn. 4:23-24).
  + John is told not to “seal up” the words of the prophecy of this book since the time is near. This stands in contrast to Dan. 12:4, 9. The events spoken of in Revelation are to unfold shortly and will continue throughout human history until the consummation.
* **22:10-21– Final Exhortation to Holiness**
  + **Verses 11-21**– These verses conclude the book and the entire biblical narrative. Those who are evil and do no repent will keep getting worse (cf. 2 Tim. 3:13) and the holy ones will continually seek God looking for the day Christ returns (2 Pet. 3:11-12).
  + Jesus will come and He will render to each one according to what they have done (cf. Matt. 16:27; Rom. 2:6-11). He is the beginning and the end, the first and the last thereby guaranteeing His promise of the second advent and the authority He has the judge all man.
  + Those who come to Christ and wash away their sins in baptism will wash their robes and have access to the tree of life and the city (cf. Rev. 7:14). Outside the city are all those who are immoral and stand in opposition to God. These are cursed (cf. 1 Cor. 6:9-10; Rev. 21:8).
  + Jesus identifies Himself as the descendant of David, the Messiah (cf. Isa. 11:1, 10; Rom. 1:3). He is also the morning star (cf. 2:28). Verse 27 alludes to Isa. 55:1-3 and the promise that those who thirst for God and for righteousness will be satisfied.
  + The book comes to a close with a warning to those who would be tempted to twist the words of the book (cf. Gal. 1:6-9; 2 Pet. 3:16). Jesus reiterates that He is coming quickly and John exclaims that he wants Him to come quickly (cf. 1 Cor. 16:22).
  + The book closes with a benediction that is typical in most NT epistles. God wants to offer His grace freely to everyone who is willing to be faithful to Him even in the face of death. The overcomer will be blessed and will experience the fullness of God’s grace.