

SERMON OUTLINE

In Revelation 21:9-22:5 we are shown 6 components that show a more detailed look at the New Jerusalem, the bride-city from God (vs. 9-10).

- I. The New Jerusalem contains the glory of God (21:11).
- II. The New Jerusalem consists of the people of God who reflect His glory (21:12-14, 18-21).
- III. The New Jerusalem provides perfect security for the people of God because of the perfect glorious presence of their God (21:15-21).
- IV. The New Jerusalem comprises the glorious presence of God and the Lamb (21:22).
- V. The New Jerusalem radiates the glory of God (21:23-27).

VI. The New Jerusalem contains only life (22:1-3a).

VII. The New Jerusalem is the place in which God's servants intimately worship Him and reign with Him forever (22:3b-5).

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, April 21, 2019

Passage: Revelation 22:1-5

Memory Passage: Revelation 21:3-4

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Rev. 22:1-5, Is. 35:5-10, & Ez. 47:1-12.** Summarize what you have learned so far about the new heaven, new earth, and new Jerusalem from your study of chapter 21.

(b) What similarities do you see between Isaiah's and Ezekiel's visions of the next age and John's? How does God's use of images found in Isaiah and Ezekiel help you understand what Revelation 22:1-5 represents?

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Rev. 22:1-5.** What does the "river of the water of life" represent?

(b) Why is the river "bright as crystal?"

(c) Why is it important that this river flows "from the throne of God and of the Lamb?"

(d) What is symbolized by the fact the river flows "through the middle of the street of the city?"

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Rev. 22:1-5.** Is there only one tree of life or more than one in Rev. 22:2 (consider Gen. 2:9-10, Ez. 47:12, Rev. 2:7, 22:2 "on either side of the river")? If the possibility of more than one exists, explain this imagery.

(b) Interpret the meaning of the phrase "12 kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month." Remember this is apocalyptic (for instance, how could there be 12 literal months if there is no sun or moon to guide a calendar?) so treat numbers accordingly.

(c) Who are "the nations" that are healed, and does this imply there is some sort of sickness that requires this healing? Explain your answer in light of verses such as Rev. 21:4 & 22:3.

(d) What "curse" no longer exists ("anything accursed is more clearly translated "any curse"), and why is this fact contrasted ("but") with "the throne of God and the Lamb"?

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Rev. 22:1-5.** Why is it significant that God's servants "will see his face" when they worship him and how is this different from worship the old creation?

(b) What is symbolized by God's name being on His servants' foreheads (cf. Is. 62:1-5; Rev 2:17; 3:12; 6:17-7:3; 14:1)?

(c) Verse 5 continues the list of things not present or needed in the new heavens and new earth (cf. 21:5, 8). Explain in full what will not be present in the age to come.

(d) How does Christ's resurrection have to do with all the blessings mentioned in 22:1-5 (after all, Sunday is Resurrection Sunday!)?

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Rev. 22:1-5.** Take a moment to reflect on all you have learned about the theology of the temple throughout our study of Revelation. Write a paragraph explaining how the description of the new Jerusalem in the new heavens and new earth both restore and expand the garden before the fall. Ideas for your consideration include (but are not exhausted by: (1) the creation mandate (Gen. 1:28), (2) the contents of the garden (trees, tree of life, river, jewels, etc.), (3) the relationship between the garden, the earthly temple, and God's heavenly temple, (4) Adam's role (and the role of every believer throughout history) to be serving priests of and reigning kings with our God.

(b) Now choose one of these concepts and write at least 3 applications which flow from this concept that you will implement in your life this week. I realize we have covered this ground several times before in our study of Revelation, but as we near the end it is important to review to make sure we are comprehending ☺.

DATE: April 21, 2019

PASSAGE: Revelation 22:1-5

The New Heaven and New Earth (Part IV)