

New Jerusalem – Open for Life

Thomas Robinson, *Apocalypse Today 8*, July 22, 2018

Revelation 19:11 – 22:21

Christ comes, armed with his Message, clothed in the Life given by his own Blood.

¹¹ Then I saw the heaven opened, and look, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in justice he passes judgment and goes to war [Isa 11:4]. ¹² His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. ¹³ He is clothed in a garment dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God [Rev 1:1, 9]. ¹⁴ And the armies in the heaven were following him on white horses, and were dressed in fine linen, white and pure. ¹⁵ From his mouth proceeds a sharp sword in order that he may smite the nations, and he will shepherd them with an iron staff [Rev 1:16; 12:5; Isa 11:4; Ps 2:9 Gk; Heb 4:14]. He is treading the winepress of the passion of the wrath of God the Almighty [Rev 14:19-20; Isa 63:1-3]. ¹⁶ On his garment and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords [Rev 17:14; Dt 10:17].

The forces of Empire and conquest (the Beast) resist, but are cast away.

¹⁷ Then I saw a single angel standing in the sun, and he cried with a great voice saying to all the birds that are flying in mid-heaven, “Come, gather to the great supper of God [Ezek 39:17-20], ¹⁸ in order that you may eat flesh of kings, and flesh of generals, and flesh of mighty people, and flesh of horses and of those who ride them, and the flesh of all, both free and slave, both small and great” [Ezek 39:17-20]. ¹⁹ And I saw the wild beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered to make war against the one sitting on the horse and against his army. ²⁰ And the beast was taken captive, and with him the false prophet who performed the signs in his presence with which he led astray those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image. While still alive, these two were cast into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur [Rev 20:10]. ²¹ And the rest were killed by the sword that proceeded from the mouth of the one sitting on the horse, and all the birds ate their fill from their flesh.

All power of deception and death (the Dragon) is locked up for 1000 years.

20:¹ Then I saw an angel descending from the heaven, holding in his hand the key to the Abyss and a great chain [Rev 1:18; 9:1]. ² And he took hold of the serpent-dragon, the ancient snake, who is Accuser and the Satan [Rev 12:9], and bound him for a thousand years [Ps 90:4; 2Pt 3:8], ³ and threw him into the Abyss, and shut it and put a seal on it over him, so that he might not lead the nations astray any longer, until the thousand years were completed. After these things it’s necessary for him to be loosed for a brief time.

Those the Dragon killed and oppressed reign with Christ during the 1000 years.

⁴ Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them and judgment was granted to them [Dan 7:9-10, 22], also the souls/lives (*psyché*) of those beheaded because of the testimony borne by Jesus and

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because of the message (*logos*) of God, and whoever did not worship the beast nor his image and did not receive the mark upon their forehead and on their hand. And they were alive and reigned with the Messiah for a thousand years [Ezek 37:9-10].⁵ The rest of the dead were not alive until the thousand years were completed.

This is the first resurrection (*anastasis*).⁶ Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection! Over these the second death has no authority, but they will be priests of God and of the Messiah, and they will reign with him for the thousand years.

But the Dragon returns humanity to his Delusion of Death. Both must be removed.

⁷ And when the thousand years are completed, the Satan will be loosed from his prison⁸ and will come out to lead astray the nations in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog [Ezek 38-39], to gather them into the war; whose number is as the sand of the sea.⁹ And they came up over the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the encampment of the holy people and the beloved city, and fire came down from heaven and devoured them.¹⁰ and the Accuser who was leading them astray was thrown into the lake of the fire and sulfur where both the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented by day and night into the ages of ages.

God's judgment with the book of Life destroys Death itself, the Last Enemy.

¹¹ And I saw a great white throne and the one sitting on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away, and no place was found for them.¹² And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne. And books were opened, and another book was opened, which is the one of life. And the dead were judged from what was written in the books, according to their works.

¹³ And the sea gave up the dead in it, and Death and Hades gave the dead who were in them [Rev 1:18; 6:8], and they were judged, each according to their works.¹⁴ Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of the fire [1Cor 15:26]. This is the second death, the lake of the fire.¹⁵ And if anyone was not found written in the book of life, they were thrown into the lake of the fire.

All things New can begin: New Earth, New Jerusalem, the Bride, God with People.

21:¹ Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had went away, and the sea was no more [Isa 65:17].² And I saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem [Rev 3:12], coming down out of the heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband [Rev 19:7; 21:9; Jer 2:2].³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look, the tent/tabernacle of God is with humans [Rev 13:6]. He will set his tent with them, and they themselves will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God [Ezek 37:27].⁴ He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death will no longer exist [Isa 25:7-8; Hos 13:14; Rev 7:7], nor will there be grief, nor wailing, nor pain any more, for the first things passed away."

⁵ And the one seated on the throne said, "Look, I am making all things new." [Isa 42:9] And he says, "Write! – because these words are faithful and true."⁶ And he said to me, "They have happened! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end [Rev 1:8; 22:13]. To the one who is thirsting, I myself will give from the spring of the water of life as a gift [Rev 22:17; Jn 7:37-39; Isa

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55:1]. ⁷ Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children. ⁸ But for those full of fear and those without faith and those who do abhorrent things, and murderers, and the immoral, and poisoners, those who serve idols, and all liars, their part is in the lake burning with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.”

An Angel shows John the Bride, New Jerusalem, Heaven and Earth United.

⁹ Then came one of the seven angels holding the seven bowls, filling them with the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, “Come, I’ll show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb.”

¹⁰ And he carried me away in Spirit onto a mountain, great and high, and he showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of the heaven from God, ¹¹ having the glory of God, its brilliance like a most precious jewel, like a jasper stone shining like crystal. ¹² It has a wall, great and high, having twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names inscribed, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: ¹³ From the east three gates, from the north three gates, from the south three gates, and from the west three gates. ¹⁴ And the wall of the city has twelve foundations, and on them twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

The City is splendid beyond imagination: God’s grace to Israel into the Church.

¹⁵ And the one speaking with me had a measuring reed of gold to measure the city and its gates and its wall. ¹⁶ The city is laid out as a square, its length the same as its width. And he measured the city with his reed, 12,000 stadia [about 1,500 miles]. Its length and width and height are equal. ¹⁷ He also measured its wall, 144 cubits [about 240 ft.] by human measurement, which in this case an angel used. ¹⁸ The wall was constructed of jasper, and the city was pure gold, like pure glass. ¹⁹ The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with every precious stone. The first was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald, ²⁰ the fifth onyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh yellow topaz, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth peridot, the eleventh jacinth, the twelfth amethyst. ²¹ And the twelve gates were twelve pearls, each of the gates was from a single pearl, and the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.

The City completes & interprets the Story through the life-blood of the Lamb/God.

²² And I saw no sanctuary in the city, for its sanctuary is the LORD God the Almighty and the Lamb. ²³ And the city has no need of the sun or the moon to shine for it, for the glory of God illuminates it, and its lamp is the Lamb. ²⁴ And the nations will walk through its light, and the kings of the earth are bringing their glory into it. ²⁵ And its gates will certainly never be shut in day time – for night will not exist there. ²⁶ They will bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it. ²⁷ But there will never enter it, anything unholy nor one who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the book of the life of the Lamb.

All human exile ends! Eden’s tree of life and God’s life-giving presence heal all.

22:1 Then he showed me a river of water of life, bright as crystal, flowing out from the throne of God and of the Lamb ² through the middle of the city’s broad street [Ezek 47:1; Zech 14:8; Ps

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46:4; Gen 2:10];. Also, he showed on either side of the river a tree of life producing from it twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit month by month, and the leaves of the tree are for healing the nations [Rev 2:7; Gen 2:9; 3:22-23; Ezek 47:12]. ³ No longer will there be anything cursed [Gen 3:14-19; Zech 14:11 Gk]. Rather throne of God and of the Lamb itself will be in the city, and his servants will minister for him, ⁴ and will see him face to face, so even his name is on their foreheads. ⁵ And there'll no longer be night. They have no need for light of lamp and light of sun, because the LORD God will shine on them, and they will reign into the ages of ages.

John's prophecy describes the reality of the world unfolding now at every moment.

⁶ And he said to me, "These words are faithful and true. And the Lord, the God of the Spirits of the prophets, sent his angel to show his servants what must quickly happen."

⁷ "And look, I am coming quickly [Rev 3:11; 22:12, 20]. Blessed is the one who holds firmly the message (*logos*) of the prophecy of this book."

⁸ I, John, myself am the one hearing and seeing these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel showing me these things, ⁹ but he said to me, "Don't do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers and sisters, both the prophets and those who hold firmly the words of this book. Worship God!"

¹⁰ And he says to me, "Don't seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near [Rev 1:3; Dan 8:26; 12:4, 9]. ¹¹ The unjust person, let it still be injustice they do, and the filthy person, let them still be polluted, and the just person, let them still practice justice, and the holy person, let them still be consecrated."

¹² "Look, I'm coming quickly, and my reward with me to give out to each person as their work is. ¹³ I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

¹⁴ Blessed are those who wash their robes [Rev 7:14], so that they will have the authority to share the tree of life and that by those gates they will enter into the city. ¹⁵ Excluded outside are the dogs and the poisoners and the immoral and murderers and those who serve idols and everyone who loves and invents lies.

Jesus invites all to share in his Life now – in the Spirit, Bride, & Water of Life.

¹⁶ "I, Jesus, sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star." [Rev 1:1; 5:5]

¹⁷ Both the Spirit and the Bride are saying, "Come." And let anyone who hears say, "Come." And let any who is thirsty come. Let anyone who wants it take water of life as a gift!

¹⁸ I testify to everyone who hears the words (*logos*) of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to these things, God will add to them the plagues described in this book, ¹⁹ and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away their share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.

²⁰ The one who testifies these things says, "Yes, I am coming quickly." Amen! Come, Lord Jesus! ²¹ May the grace of the Lord Jesus be with all!

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Ezekiel 37:12-14, 24-27; 38:1-4; 39:17-18

37:¹² Therefore prophesy, ... "Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. ¹³ And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves ¹⁴ And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live

37:²⁴ "My servant David shall be king over them, and they shall all have one shepherd. ... ²⁶ I will make a covenant of peace ... an everlasting covenant with them. And I ...will set my holy place in their midst ²⁷ My dwelling shall be with them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

38:¹ The word of the LORD came to me: ² "Son of man, set your face toward Gog, of the land of Magog ... and prophesy against him ³ and say, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I am against you, O Gog ... ⁴ And I will turn you about and put hooks into your jaws, and I will bring you out, and all your army, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed in full armor, a great host....

39:¹⁷ "As for you, son of man, thus says the Lord GOD: Speak to the birds of every sort ...: 'Assemble and come... to the sacrificial feast ... on the mountains of Israel, and you shall eat ... the flesh of the mighty, and drink the blood of the princes of the earth....

I Corinthians 15:25-26

²⁵ For he [Christ] must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶ The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

Visions moving toward Consummation

John writes to Christians in small communities under pressure of persecution and compromise, living within the all-encompassing culture of Roman imperial culture & claims of greatness.

John saw vivid visions of evil, corruption, and powers of Death in the Serpent-dragon/Accuser, Wild beast, False prophet, Great Harlot. Not people but embodiments of Death, deception, violence, empire, wealth, etc. He saw the fall of the Harlot, Rome's empire, now powerful.

His final visions show him the outcome. The Harlot, one empire. The Beast, all empires. The Dragon, all forces of deception and Death. The last enemy Death itself. Opposite God's Life.

John knows scripture! In his vision he sees reflections of Ezekiel's visions, now through the lens of the Slain Lamb/Jesus whose Life-Blood freely given overturns the fear/power of Death.

The consummation is the end of Death and a vision of Life and healing of God's creation.

The Death-throes of Death – A Thousand Years

God truly loves his human creatures, but they're vulnerable to deception, delusion about power, wealth, death from the Dragon, Beast, the forces of Death. These have no power in relation to God. They deceive humans into fighting God. Birds already invited! But the Beast is destroyed. The Dragon is imprisoned. Martyrs reign, but humans are still delusional. When Satan is loosed, he leads them astray. A Lake of Fire destroys all united with death.

Only when humans are set right in judgment by the book of Life defined by the Slain Lamb [21:27] is Death itself destroyed and the delusion finally broken. "All things New" begins!

The City-Garden – Healing Creation and Nations

The Bride! The City! New Jerusalem. Like no city I could imagine. Gold, Cubical, Holy of Holies. Union of heaven (God's realm) and earth (God's creation): "On earth as in Heaven." It interprets the whole Bible—12 Tribes, gates; 12 Apostles, foundations—through the human/divine Lamb, who destroys death by suffering it on the cross and creating resurrection Life.

It is cosmopolitan Eden, a lively place, open gates, all of humanity. All exile ends. Everything good is healed: Water and Tree of Life. Jesus invites that process to start now in us!