

December 2007 Broadcast Notes

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Title: Rev 21, 22

Events that take place at the end of the 1,000 years

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Begin Text:

Today, we conclude our three year study on the book of Revelation. Before we get started, I would like to refresh your thoughts on two issues from last month's presentation.

Issue #1: An outline of 15 events surrounding the Second Coming:

----a---b---C---d---e---f---g---h---i---j---k---l---m---n---o---

- a. 6th bowl -- demons sent out to the kings of Earth
- b. Armageddon begins as Jesus approaches
- c. Second Coming - 1335th Day of the Great Tribulation
- d. Righteous dead are resurrected on that Sunday (?) morning
- e. Righteous living called up shortly thereafter
- f. The devil, demon and employees cast into a lake of fire
- g. A command pronounced by Jesus kills the remaining wicked: "Die"
- h. Devil and his angels locked in the abyss by Sunday noon
- i. Saints return to Heaven with Jesus to determine judge the wicked (restitution)during the 1,000 years

- - - Earth desolate - - -

- j. At the end of 1,000 years, Holy City descends
- k. Wicked dead are resurrected to stand before God's White Throne
- l. Silence occurs in Heaven - 7th seal - Everyone admits that Jesus is righteous and true, every knee bows but the wicked are not repentant for their sins
- m. After realizing their fate, the devil urges the wicked to attack Holy City - he deceives the nations into thinking they can save themselves
- n. Fire falls from Heaven -- burns up wicked - they become ashes
- o. New Heaven / New Earth created

----a---b---C---d---e---f---g---h---i---j---k---l---m---n---o---

Let's go through this outline again with some additional details added in...

About 20 days before the Second Coming occurs, when the sixth bowl is poured out, the devil will send three of his most powerful demons to visit the ten kings of Earth.

These demons will be on a mission to get the disillusioned kings of Earth to join with Lucifer and his angels in their attempt to destroy Jesus and the Father as they draw near Earth.

To convince the ten kings that survival is possible, the demons will perform a number of powerful miracles.

These miracles will bolster the courage of these disillusioned kings and they will join forces with Lucifer to destroy Jesus and the Father with nuclear missiles and anything else they can find.

This battle against an approaching Jesus is called [Armageddon](#) in Rev 16 and it will culminate on the 1,335th day of the Great Tribulation with a sudden and total defeat for the enemies of Jesus.

The first visible sign of the Second Coming will be a small cloud in the sky. At first, Jesus and His glorious army will look like a cloud about the size of man's hand.

When Jesus gets close enough, nuclear missiles from the arsenals of Earth's kings will be fired toward Jesus. These missiles will cause no harm.

The approaching cloud contains the Father and the Lamb and this cloud will continue to grow in brilliance and definition as it nears Earth.

Thunder and lightning will emanate from this cloud and the people of Earth will begin to cry -- out of fear.

Finally, after a [couple weeks](#) of failed attempts to destroy Jesus and His army with weapons of war, the cloud containing Jesus and His angels spreads out and it encircles the whole Earth. Its appearance will be like flames of fire and noise louder than a thousand B-52 bombers taking off will shake the Earth and intimidate the living.

The people of Earth will run for cover. The wicked will realize they are helpless. They are overwhelmed with fear of being captured alive.

The righteous will be overwhelmed with awe at the glory and majesty of Jesus.

To the wicked, the appearing of Jesus will be a horrible nightmare. For them, Jesus is like the fearful monster in science fiction movies that cannot be stopped from causing great destruction.

At the appointed moment, on the 1,335th day, everything on Earth breaks loose.

The surface of the Earth will be ripped up as if by unseen hands. The land will heave, the mountains and the islands will tremble and start moving out of their places....

The once mighty armies of mankind will cower and run for cover.

Rev 6:15 Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and every slave and every free man hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains.

Rev 6:16 They called to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the [face of him who sits on the throne](#) and from the wrath of [the Lamb](#)!"

Rev 6:17 For the great day of [their](#) wrath has come, and who can stand?"

The Father will come with Jesus:

Mat 26:63 But Jesus remained silent. The high priest said to him, "I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God."

Mat 26:64 "Yes, it is as you say," Jesus replied. "But I say to all of you: In the future you will see the Son of Man [sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One](#) and coming on the clouds of heaven."

The [first thing to happen](#) during this upheaval will be the resurrection of the [righteous dead](#).

Jesus will call the righteous dead to life and they will come up out of the dust of Earth with glorious bodies and they will not stop to visit with their loved ones. No! They will shoot out right of their graves and immediately ascend toward Jesus who remains in the sky.

The wicked will see this happen. And to their dismay, they will see people resurrected which they recently murdered.

This event will force the wicked to realize that their doom is inescapable.

[Note: Jesus will not touch this defiled Earth at the Second Coming. This is why the righteous dead will meet Him in the air!](#)

After the righteous dead are resurrected and near His side, Jesus will then call for the righteous living.

The righteous living will be transformed in a split-second.

Their filthy clothing, their matted hair and tattered beards will disappear. Their weak and frail bodies will look like victims from the Holocaust. But, this will change.

When Jesus calls for them, they will be found hiding in dungeons, caves, and deserts and suddenly, their worn-out bodies and clothing will be transformed into glorious bodies of health and beauty.

They will ascend and together with the righteous dead they will meet the Lord [in the air](#).

1 Th 4:16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with [the voice of the archangel](#) and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will [rise first](#).

1 Th 4:17 After that, we who are still alive and are left [\[on Earth\]](#) will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord [in the air](#). And so we will be with the Lord forever.

After the saints are safely hovering with Jesus in the sky, and while the wicked are scrambling from the wrath of the Lamb, Jesus sets the oceans of Earth on fire.

[I am guessing](#) this huge fire is related to the great earthquake that accompanies the breaking of the sixth seal -- do you remember that this final earthquake moves [every](#) mountain and island out of their place?

Rev 16:18 "...No earthquake like it has ever occurred since man has been on earth, so tremendous was the quake."

Rev 6:14 "...and every mountain and island was removed from its place."

Speculation:

I have a suspicion that Jesus [will return](#) Earth to [one land](#) mass at the Second Coming --- just as it was in the beginning.

Do you remember that in Genesis 10:25, the land mass of the world was divided into continents after the flood?

Science agrees [\[perhaps you've seen National Geographic maps showing how the irregular shapes of the continents will combine and produce one land mass\]](#) that there is much evidence concluding that Earth had one land mass and one great ocean, but somehow, the Earth became fractured.

I believe this fracturing is described in Gen 10:25.

So, if Jesus moves the mountains and islands back together, the net effect is that Earth would once again consist of one land mass and one huge ocean.

Given the global convulsion that attends the Second Coming, it's quite possible that natural gas and oil buried deep within the Earth could rise to the surface of this huge ocean and these gases and this floating stream of oil would enable the ocean to become a fiery lake that looked like "burning sulfur" to John. (Burning sulfur creates billows of dark smoke.)

As the saints look down on Earth, they see the bodies of the devil and his angels along with all of the devil's employees the world over thrown alive into this global lake of fire.

Remember, the devil's government (the great prostitute) will be functioning [all over the world](#) at the time of the Second Coming.

Since the prostitute was a consolidation of religious and political powers, this helps to understand why Jesus consolidates the world into one huge land mass. This makes the resulting ocean "a huge lake of fire."

Jumping ahead for a moment, John says that in the Earth made new, there will be ["no more sea."](#)

This comment suggests that at the end of the 1,000 years, the ocean will be dried up and millions of square miles that cannot be used by human beings at the present time will be transformed into land and this land will be given to the saints as a generous inheritance.

Anyway, the devil and his angels and all his employees will be thrown into this lake of fire this fire will burn for a 1,000 years.

The remainder of the wicked will [then be killed](#) by a single word that comes out of the mouth of Jesus. "Die!"

This command is described in Revelation 19 as [a sword](#) that comes out of Jesus' mouth.

After they are [separated](#) from their bodies, the devil and his angels will then be returned [to the abyss](#) where they will be locked down in [an invisible state](#) and chained to this huge fireball for 1,000 years.

After the devil and his angels are safely locked down, the saints will go to Heaven with Jesus and they will live with Jesus in the New Jerusalem -- just as He promised.

John 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you [\[in my Father's house\]](#), I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am."

After they get there, the saints will begin their assigned duty of **judging** the amount of restitution each wicked person must provide.

Remember, the judgment conducted by the saints during the 1,000 years has **nothing to do** with whether a person receives eternal life or eternal death.

Jesus Himself will make all eternal life and eternal death **decisions before** the Second Coming takes place.

This is another reason why the doctrine of a pre-Advent judgment is important.

People need to know that Jesus decides who will be saved and who would be lost **BEFORE** the Second Coming occurs!

So, the saints will reign with Jesus, they will be given authority to sit in judgment with Jesus during the 1,000 years to determine the amount of **restitution** which must be extracted from the wicked through suffering.

Why is restitution necessary?

God's justice demands full restitution.

Before the wicked are permanently destroyed, **God requires every injustice to be converted into perfect justice.**

Before a New Heaven and a New Earth are created, all wrongs will be made right -- either voluntarily (through genuine repentance) or involuntarily (divine extraction).

Therefore, saints will thoroughly review the case of every wicked **person** and every wicked **angel** and they will determine **the amount of suffering** which must be **extracted** from each evil person **to achieve perfect justice.**

Don't ever forget this: The whole universe has been and will forever be subject to the golden rule.

God demands that everyone make restitution for wrong deeds.

If you do so voluntarily -- out of genuine sorrow for your sin, you will be blessed.

If restitution has to be **extracted** from you, then you are under the curse of sin because you are **not sorry** for your sin. Actually, you are defiant about remaining in rebellion.

Because wicked people have no intention of making restitution, every suffering they inflicted or imposed upon others has to be **extracted** from their flesh by fire.

Luke 12:5 "But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear him who, after the killing of the body, has power to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him."

At the end of the 1,000 years, the Holy City will descend to Earth.

The wicked of all ages will then be resurrected to face their Maker and to receive their sentences. (Plural)

1. One sentence concerns restitution, the length of suffering required in the fire.
2. The other sentence is the penalty for sin which is the second death -- a

death from which there is no hope of resurrection.

When God sends fire down from the sky at the end of the 1,000 years, the wicked will be sustained in the flames of hell **for as long as necessary** so that restitution can be fully extracted from them.

Some of the wicked will perish quickly as though "salted with fire," others will suffer horrible torment for a long time.

This suffering will be perfectly commensurate with their crimes -- the suffering they imposed upon others.

Then, at that time, the enduring golden rule will be clearly demonstrated to the universe. God will demonstrate that the integrity of His law: **"As you do unto others, the same will be done unto you."**

Think about this: The golden rule is not an **arbitrary** rule.

The golden rule is the **only way** that justice can be uniformly and fairly administered among **a wide range of created beings** having the power of choice.

Life for life.
Limb for limb.
Wing for wing for angels :-)
Tooth for tooth.
Bruise for bruise.

Finally, after the devil and his angels finish suffering in the flames of hell (they will burn for a long time -- maybe a few months), they will ultimately **perish (cease to be)**.

At that moment, the universe will not only be purified, free of sin and sinners for the first time in thousands of years, but more importantly, the universe will see at that moment that justice cannot be avoided or escaped!

God will not allow one sin to escape notice or justice.

Murderers may think they can cover up their crimes, thieves may think they got away with their loot, liars may think they hide the truth, but this is not the case AT ALL.

Profound statement coming:

The drama at the end of the 1,000 years proves that **God will resurrect dead people if necessary** to see that restitution is extracted and justice is served!

After Earth is purified by fire and sin and sinners are no more, Jesus will proceed to create a New Heaven and a New Earth and the saints will watch with awe and amazement.

The meek will then inherit the Earth and live happily ever after.

Rev 21:7 He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son.

Rev 21:8 But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars-- their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death."

Mal 4:1 "Surely the day is coming; it will burn like a furnace. All the

arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble, and that day that is coming will set them on fire," says the Lord Almighty. "Not a root or a branch will be left to them.

Mal 4:3 Then you will trample down the wicked; they will be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day when I do these things," says the Lord Almighty."

Issue #2: Contrary to what many people believe, the Bible **does not** support the doctrine of an eternally burning hell.

The Bible **does teach** that hell will burn just long enough to satisfy the demands for perfect and to destroy the wicked and this is **why hell is presented** in certain Bible **passages as ongoing suffering**.

In other words, hell won't burn for eternity, it will only seem like it to the wicked!

Mark 9:47 And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell,

Mark 9:48 where "'their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.'

Mark 9:49 Everyone **[thrown into Hell]** will be salted with fire."

Rev 20:10 "And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever. **[unto the end of the age]**"

Rom 12:19 "Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; **I will repay,**" says the Lord."

Because most Christians believe that hell burns for eternity, I would like to give you a few reasons showing why the Bible **does not** support the doctrine of an **eternally burning hell**.

I hope you will be able to remember some of these points, so get a pencil if necessary and write them down in your Bible:

1. The **reward** that will be given to **the saints at the last day** is **eternal life**.

In other words, the only people to receive **eternal life** at the Second Coming are the saints.

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him **shall not perish** but **have eternal life**.

John 6:40 For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him **shall have eternal life**, and I will raise him up **at the last day**."

OK, here's the problem: A person can't burn and writhe in hell throughout eternity without first receiving eternal life.

In other words, a wicked person has to **receive eternal life** before he can writhe in hell for eternity.

But, the wicked will not receive eternal life. The Bible teaches that **eternal life** will be granted only **to the saints**, and that the wicked will **perish**.

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

So, a wicked person cannot burn in hell for eternity because wicked people don't receive eternal life.

2. Here's a second point that militates against the doctrine of an eternally burning hell:

Most Christians believe that Jesus died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins.

But, if the penalty for sin is burning in hell throughout eternity, then Jesus did not pay the price for sin. Period.

Even if you say that Jesus burned in Hell for three days and three nights, that is not eternity. Even after billions and billions of years, eternity has just begun!

The fact that Jesus did not burn in hell for eternity should cause every person believing in eternal hell to reconsider his theology!

In order to pay for our sins, the penalty for sin had to be imposed upon Jesus and it was.

So, what is the penalty for sin?

The penalty for sin is "death by execution -- without hope of resurrection."

Gen 2:16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:

Gen 2:17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die. [be executed]"

Adam and Eve were to be put to death on the very day they sinned, but Jesus seeing that they did not sin defiantly, became man's intercessor instead of man's executioner.

(More about this in a moment)

3: Let's assume for a moment that a wicked person goes to Hell at the time of death, why then are the wicked resurrected at the end of the 1,000 years?

What is the point of resurrecting Cain (the first murderer) if he has been burning in Hell for the past 6,000 years?

Think about this: What would be the point of resurrecting Abel if He has been sitting at Jesus' side with the angels for the past 6,000 years?

The doctrine of the two resurrections is in direct conflict with the doctrine of an eternally burning hell as well as the idea of going to an immediate destiny at death.

4: Let's take this process one step further: If a person goes to Heaven or Hell at the time of death, this necessitates judgment at the moment of death. Someone in Heaven has to make a decision for eternal life or eternal hell at that precise moment.

But, the Bible fully disputes the idea of immediate judgment at death.

The Bible teaches there is a pre-Advent judgment.

The judgment bar of Christ has a beginning point in time and an ending point in time, and the books of Daniel and Revelation tell us the judgment bar of Christ began in 1844 and it closes at the end of the 1,260 days, just before the seventh trumpet sounds.

Therefore, no one could be judged by Christ prior to 1844. (Yes, God the Father has made a few exceptions: Enoch, Elijah and the 24 elders, but these exceptions were made because there are a couple issues that needed to be resolved and taking a few people to Heaven was the best way of resolving these issues.)

Even more, until Christ was found worthy to take over the throne of the Father in 1798, Jesus could not judge anyone prior to this date.

Daniel 7:10 "....The court was seated, and the books were opened."

Jesus said:

John 5:22 Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son,

John 5:23 that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him."

With these words, Jesus spoke of a time when He would be given the throne.

At that time, He would be honored even as the Father is honored and worshiped.

Eph 1:9 "And he [the Father] made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ,

Eph 1:10 to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment -- to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ."

The point here is putting everything under Jesus did not happen until 1798. And we know from Daniel 8 and Hebrews 8, that Jesus could not judge anyone until 1844!

So, Bible prophecy says that immediate judgment at death is not possible.

5: The Bible teaches that a New Heaven and New Earth will be created after the old Heaven and Earth have passed away.

Rev 21:1 "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away...."

This verse means that hell itself has to pass away. In fact, hell fire is the means through which Earth will be purified of sin!

Sin and sinners will have no place on Earth, in Earth or under the Earth when everything is made new.

God's universe will be clean.

6: If there is an eternally burning Hell, what judgment is left for the saints to conduct during the 1,000 years?

1 Cor 6:2 Do you not know that the saints will judge the world ?

1 Cor 6:3 Do you not know that we will judge angels...?

Think about this: If all of the wicked receive the **same amount of suffering**, e.g., burning in hell for eternity, then there's nothing for the saints to judge during the 1,000 years!

7: The Bible declares the wicked will be devoured - destroyed - annihilated - turned into ashes.

Mal 4:3 Then you will trample down the wicked; they will be **ashes** under the **soles of your feet** on the day when I do these things," says the Lord Almighty."

Listen carefully: Hell fire will serve two purposes:

First, it is the means through which **restitution is extracted** from those who would not repent of their evil.

Second, fire is God's method of **executing** the wicked and purifying Earth.

Remember, it was said earlier that the penalty for sin is death by execution without hope of resurrection. This explains why Jesus was **executed** on the cross and why He made the remark on the cross that God had forsaken Him!

I'll say more about this in a moment....

The doctrine of hell is all messed up by Christians today largely because people don't properly understand **the necessity for restitution, the doctrine of God's vengeance, the Second Death nor apocalyptic prophecy.**

Yes, I can see how people conclude that people will burn in Hell forever.

There is language in the Bible that seems to support the idea of eternal suffering in hell until you put **everything the Bible has to say** about Hell on the table.

Then, and only then, does the truth on this topic clear up.

The Bible is like a giant crossword puzzle. When all of its doctrines are properly defined and understood, all of the pieces will harmoniously align in one beautiful mosaic.

8. Here's the final reason why Hell doesn't burn for eternity: God's own law, the golden rule, does not permit God to punish wicked people beyond the point of achieving restitution. Period. God abides by His own laws. This submission is proven by the death of Jesus! The Father would not allow Jesus to die if there had been any other way to redeem man.

The point here is that there is no sinner, not even the devil, that merits endless torture in hell throughout eternity!

If God tortured demonic angels and "slightly wicked" people throughout the endless ages of eternity, He would be a tyrant because **justice demands that punishment be commensurate with the crime.** Tyrants don't do this. They abuse their victims with excessive punishment. Tyrants are not fair.

Look again at the golden rule: "As you do unto others, the same will be done unto you." And you should see the limits of torture in hell.

In summary, I believe that God has deliberately made the matter of an

eternally burning hell a topic of controversy to keep the subject of eternal burning hell alive! [pun intended]

By keeping the subject in a state of controversy, it forces those who seek the whole truth to resolve this complex issue and for me, the truth on this topic is as clear as the noon day sun.

God is fair and just. He is truly a God of love. There is no meanness nor arrogance in God. Look at Jesus washing the feet of the disciples. This is an example of the character of the Father for the Father and the Son have the same character of love. They are one in purpose, plan and action.

A few words about the penalty for sin: The Second Death

Jesus died the Second Death in our place. He did not have to burn in hell for even 15 seconds because the penalty for sin is not burning in hell.

As a co-eternal member of the Godhead, Jesus suffered the most horrible thing that a God having eternal life within Himself and boundless love for His children could experience.

Jesus went to His death without any hope of resurrection.

Yes, prior to His death, Jesus predicted his resurrection, but when Jesus died on the cross, He died believing that He would not be resurrected.

How is this possible?

When the Father applied the curse of sin to Jesus on the cross, Jesus experienced something He had never experienced before. He was totally forsaken by the Father.

Mat 27:46 About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?"--which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

Jesus was abandoned by the Father at the cross so that He could die without any hope of a resurrection.

Here's why:

2 Cor 5:21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us....

Because sin was transferred to Jesus, He had to experience the Second Death which is death by execution without hope of resurrection.

Because we have a God of love, God went first. He was the first to experience the Second Death.

"Grace and Peace to you....

Rev 1:5 "... from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood"

The title, firstborn of the dead, means Jesus was the first to experience the Second Death. He is not called the firstborn of those that sleep.

Think about this: In order to save mankind, God had to experience the penalty for sin Himself.

God does not impose suffering on human beings or angels that He has not first suffered.

There was no need for Jesus to experience torture in the fires of Hell because experiencing torture in the fires of Hell **is not** the penalty for sin! That suffering is "payment in kind -- as in restitution."

Torture in hell is all about justice -- extracting restitution from wicked people who refused to make their wrongs right.

So, what Jesus suffered on the cross has nothing to do with restitution. It has to do with the penalty for sin.

In order to rescue mankind from the curse of sin, a member of the Godhead -- not just a righteous man -- had to die.

This fact puts the death of Jesus on a higher plane than what most people understand.

When you look at the cross, you need to see an eternal member of the Godhead dying in your place.

Justice demands a life for life.

A God had to give up His eternal life in order for a sinner to have it.

On the cross, Jesus became separated from the Father because Jesus had (a) to be executed and (b) die without any hope of resurrection.

And here is the heart of God, this is the core of the gospel of Jesus Christ, Jesus **willingly** gave up His life on the cross without any hope of being resurrected in order that we might have His eternal life.

A co-eternal member of the Godhead, the Creator of Heaven and Earth, was willing **to forever cease to exist** in order that we might be given His eternal life.

A greater example of love is not possible throughout the whole universe -- in space or time.

This is the incomprehensible love of God! This is what Jesus -- a co-eternal member of the Godhead -- was willing to do for you and me and even more -- the Father, who loved Jesus with a perfect love that exceeds the love of a husband for a wife -- was willing to allow it.

The plan of salvation **is not based** on the death of a righteous man named Jesus.

No, No, No!

The plan of salvation is based on the **willing death** of an immortal, co-eternal member of the Godhead.

Because an angel is a created being, an angel could not redeem sinners.

Angels do not have eternal life within them.

They are subject to death and in fact, one-third of them will die the Second Death in hell.

Because Adam was a created being, he could not redeem man. Adam did not have eternal life within himself.

The point here is that Jesus willingly gave up His immortal life as well as His prerogatives as a co-eternal member of the Godhead so that believers **in**

Him could be rescued from sin's penalty.

Jesus achieved two things for sinners: (1) He lived a life of perfect submission to the will of God and this 33 year struggle against sin produced a spotless robe of righteousness which is freely granted to us through faith in Jesus and (2) Jesus, as an immortal God, He gave up His eternal life so that we could have it.

Yes, Jesus did both! I hope you can see why the Father has decreed "The Revelation of Jesus Christ" must take place. Such "universe class" love has to be fully exposed!

Rom 5:10 For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!"

Jesus paid the penalty for our sins by accepting our guilt and dying the Second Death.

Jesus also provided the righteousness we need by living a perfect life.

Now that you understand these things, you should understand the song of the numberless multitude around the throne: "And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." (Rev 7:10)

This song means that salvation was entirely God's rescue, not ours.

Such is the profound love and truth that will never cease to amaze the saints after they get to Heaven and understand even more clearly who Jesus really is and all that He really is.

It's no wonder that in the book of Revelation, the angels and elders fall on their faces as they worship the Lamb and the Father because there has never been nor will there ever be a greater expression of love than revealed in the plan of salvation.

OK, now that you are acquainted with the end time processes and purposes, including the purpose of hell and the second death, let's look at the last verse in prophecy #11 and then move into the last prophecy #12:

Rev 21:1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea.

This verse brings prophecy 11 to a close... after the purifying fires of hell have ended, a new Heaven and a new Earth will be created. Prophecy #11 ends here and the last prophecy in Revelation begins:

Prophecy #12 backs up a little bit on the timeline because the descent of the Holy City is the first thing to happen at the end of the 1,000 years. So, prophecy #12 begins a few weeks before a new Heaven and a new Earth are created.

So, here's the first thing to happen at the end of the 1,000 years:

Rev 21:2 I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

Rev 21:3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.

The God described here is plural, both the Father and Jesus.

We will see this plurality unfold clearly as we go through this prophecy. To keep you from getting confused, here are two important points I want you to keep in mind as we proceed:

1. Jesus continues to rule on the throne as the "active" God until everything is made new. After everything is made new, then Jesus will return "the throne" to the Father:

1 Cor 15:24 "Then the end [of sin's drama] will come, when he [Jesus] hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power."

2. The Father, although present on Earth, will not be seen by anyone except Jesus because He dwells in unapproachable light. Jesus said:

John 6:46 "No one has seen the Father except the one who is from God; **only he** has seen the Father."

1 Tim 6:15 "...God [the Father], the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords,

1 Tim 6:16 who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, **whom no one has seen or can see.** To him be honor and might forever. Amen."

So, when the term God is used in this last prophecy, keep in mind that Jesus is a God and He is a visible representative of the Father.

Col 2:9 "For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form..."

So....

Rev 21:4 He [Jesus] will **wipe every tear from their eyes.** There will be no more death or mourning or crying or **pain,** for the old order of things has **passed away."**

Rev 21:5 He who was seated on the throne [Jesus, The Creative Agent of the Godhead] said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

Rev 21:6 He said to me: "It is done. I [Jesus] am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink **without cost** from the spring of the water of life.

Rev 21:7 He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son.

Rev 21:8 But the **cowardly,** the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars - - their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death."

Rev 21:9 One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the **bride, the wife** of the Lamb."

[Note: The wife of the Lamb is not the city, the wife represents "the redeemed."]

Rev 21:10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high,

and showed me the Holy City, [New] Jerusalem [full of saints], coming down out of heaven from God.

Rev 21:11 It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal.

Rev 21:12 It had a great, high wall with twelve gates, and with twelve angels at the gates. On the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel.

Rev 21:13 There were three gates on the east, three on the north, three on the south and three on the west.

Rev 21:14 The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

Rev 21:15 The angel who talked with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city, its gates and its walls.

Rev 21:16 The city was laid out like a square, as long as it was wide. He measured the city with the rod and found it to be 12,000 stadia in length, and as wide and high as it is long. [Note: 12,000 by 12,000 stadia = 144,000,000 square stadia. In other words, each side of the Holy City appears to be about 1,500 miles in length. Is it also 1,500 miles in height? Of course, with God, anything is possible. However, I am guessing that the height of 1,500 miles is a brilliant shaft of light rising from the city. I suspect this huge shaft of light is a type of beacon, an entry and exit port through which the saints and angels will travel as they visit distant worlds. Of course, time will tell!]

Rev 21:17 He measured its wall and it was 144 cubits [~216 feet] thick, by man's measurement, which the angel was using.

Rev 21:18 The wall was made of jasper, and the city of pure gold, as pure as glass.

Rev 21:19 The foundations of the city walls were decorated with every kind of precious stone.... The first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald,

Rev 21:20 the fifth sardonyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst.

Rev 21:21 The twelve gates were twelve pearls, each gate made of a single pearl. The great street of the city was of pure gold, like transparent glass.

Rev 21:22 I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.

Rev 21:23 The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp.

Rev 21:24 The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the [new] earth [the 144,000] will bring their splendor into it.

Rev 21:25 On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there.

Rev 21:26 The glory and honor of the [redeemed from all] nations will be brought into it.

Rev 21:27 Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Rev 22:1 Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb

Rev 22:2 down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

[Note: The leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.... This is not an herbal drink made from leaves. Rather, this language indicates the saints will gather each month at the Tree of Life and they will sit together under the leaves of the Tree, in its pleasant shade and get acquainted with each other. Eventually, the diverse family of Adam and Eve will become unified as one very happy family.]

Rev 22:3 No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him.

Rev 22:4 They will see his face [of the Lamb], and his name will be on their foreheads.

Rev 22:5 There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.

Epilogue:

Rev 22:6 The angel said to me, "These words are trustworthy and true. The Lord [Jesus], the God of the spirits of the prophets, sent his angel to show his servants the things that must soon take place."

Rev 22:7 "Behold, I [Jesus] am coming soon! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy in this book."

Rev 22:8 I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I had heard and seen them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who had been showing them to me.

Rev 22:9 But he said to me, "Do not do it! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers the prophets and of all who keep the words of this book. Worship God!"

Rev 22:10 Then he told me, "Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, because the time is near.

[Note: This language becomes applicable when the time is near. Unlike Daniel, it was not necessary to seal up the book of Revelation because it could not be "unlocked" until Daniel was unsealed. So, the point here is that when Daniel is unlocked -- at the time of the end -- Revelation will also be unlocked and the return of Jesus will be near!]

Rev 22:11 Let him who does wrong continue to do wrong; let him who is vile continue to be vile; let him who does right continue to do right; and let him who is holy continue to be holy."

[At first, these words may seem totally out of context until we understand that they specifically apply during the time of the end when this book is correctly interpreted.

During the Great Tribulation, the human race will be forced by circumstances to make some tough choices as the Revelation of Jesus takes place. Everyone on Earth will be forced to take a position on Jesus Christ and His gospel. Either He is God or He is not. Our choice will reflect our love for truth and our willingness to submit to Jesus as God will be tested with persecution. On the other hand there is rebellion and defiance and the mark of the beast.

So, the test that is coming will push each person on Earth into one of two categories. Each category has a progression:

Let him who does wrong continue to do wrong -- and after he commits the unpardonable sin, let him who is vile continue to be vile;

Let him who does right continue to do right; and after he is sealed -- let him who is holy continue to be holy."

Rev 22:12 "Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done. [The living will be judged according to their deeds.]

Rev 22:13 I [Jesus] am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. [I am that I am. I was here since the dawn of eternity, and I will be here if eternity ever ends.]

Rev 22:14 "Blessed are those who wash their robes [in my blood, the blood of the Lamb], that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city.

Rev 22:15 Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

Rev 22:16 "I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root [Adam, the grandfather of David came from my hands] and [I am] the Offspring of David [that is, I am the Grandson that sits on David's throne forever - Jer 33:17], and [I am] the bright Morning Star." [that is, the brightest star in the Heavens, the star used for navigation -- you can trust me to safely direct you throughout the endless ages of eternity]

Rev 22:17 The [Holy] Spirit and the bride [my people] say, "Come!" And let him who hears [pass the gospel along and] say, "Come!" Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes [it's your choice!], let him take the free gift of the water of life.

Rev 22:18 I [Jesus] warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds anything to them [during the Great Tribulation -- when this book will be easy to understand but difficult to obey], God [the Father] will add to him the plagues described in this book.

Rev 22:19 And if anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy [during the Great Tribulation], God [the Father] will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.

Rev 22:20 He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. [And John said,] Come, Lord Jesus.

Rev 22:21 The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen."

Summary:

We have carefully examined every verse in the book of Revelation in this series. We have investigated the:

1. The Seven Churches
2. The Seven Seals
3. The 144,000
4. The Seven Trumpets
5. The Two Witnesses
6. The Four Beasts
7. The Three Angel's Messages
8. The Seven Bowls
9. The Great Prostitute
10. The Fourth Angel's Message
11. The Appearing of Jesus and the destruction of the beast and false prophet
12. The destruction of sin and sinners and the renewal of Earth

Of course, there is much more that could be said about the revelation of Jesus, but my hope is that now --- the whole book of Revelation makes sense to you just as it reads.

Most of all, you know why the last book in the Bible is called "The Revelation of Jesus Christ."

I think it is so neat how the Bible presents a progressive revelation of Jesus. For example, Genesis 1:1 says, "In the beginning, God created the Heavens and the Earth."

As we proceed through the Bible we learn later that Jesus is the Creative Agent of the Godhead. It was Jesus who created the Heavens and the Earth.

It was Jesus who came to Earth and died for our sins.

Then, when we get to the last book in the Bible, we discover that Jesus was found worthy to take over the Father's throne. Jesus is in charge of the Great Tribulation and the termination of the sin problem. And Jesus Himself will come back to Earth and rescue His children from the curse of sin and take us to His Father's house.

During the past three years, I have tried to share Revelation's story with you, but my words cannot do it justice. I hope this study has caused you to better admire and love our Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

So, to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit --- three separate and distinct co-eternal Gods of eternal love and endless compassion, this series is dedicated.

End Text