

# The Time is at Hand

Revelation 22:1-11

By Scott Huckaby

12/21/2025



## **Review: Rev 21:9-21, The New Jerusalem The blessing to us in the New Jerusalem:**

- There is a city where we can all live in eternal bodies that will never get sick, wear out or grow old.
- We will be spending eternity with our Creator and Savior
- The Eternal State will not have the curse that plagues this fallen world.

## **The River of Life – Revelation 22:1-5**

*And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. <sup>2</sup>In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. <sup>3</sup>And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. <sup>4</sup>They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. <sup>5</sup>There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.*

### **v1 – Who showed the Apostle John the river of life?**

One of the seven angels who had one of the bowls of the final pouring out of God's wrath on the earth, see Revelation 21:9.

### **What is this pure river of the water of life?**

It is a symbol of the cleansing, refreshing ministry of the Holy Spirit...

*John 7:37-39 – If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water. But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.*

### **v2 – What grew by the river of the Holy Spirit?**

The tree of life, first introduced in the Garden of Eden:

*Genesis 2:9 – out of the ground the Lord God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil*

### **How will the tree of life benefit us?**

We will benefit from its fruit & the leaves will heal the nations... not sure what that means but suffice it to say there will not be any racism in heaven.

### **What else can we learn about the Eternal State given the detail that the tree of life will yield a different fruit each month?**

We will measure time. Our new physical domain will still have the 4<sup>th</sup> dimension, time. Our eternal existence will not be outside the confines of time, it'll be closer to what we know in the here & now than we realize.

### **v3 – What will there not be in the New Jerusalem?**

No more curse... painful existence, thorns & thistles

### **Whose throne will be in the New Jerusalem?**

God the Father and God the Son

### **Who are the servants who will serve the Lord?**

Us, the church...

*Revelation 5:9-10 – with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God*

### **v4 – What does it mean that we shall see the face of God?**

We will have a depth of relationship with Him that is not possible in our mortal bodies...

*1 Cor 13:12 – For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.*

### **Will we know everything there is to know in eternity?**

We will know a lot more about God but only He is omniscient. We will continue to learn throughout eternity:

*Ephesians 2:4-7 – God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love... made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.*

### **Whose name will we have on our foreheads?**

The name of the Lord. It will be clear to all that we are His.

### **v5 – Why will there not be any light?**

It doesn't say there will not be any light, but light will not be needed... The Lord will illuminate everything for us and everything will reflect His glory.

### **What does it mean we will reign forever and ever?**

- God's plan has always been for His children to work with Him in managing His creation.
- We will be ruling over animals, plants, and creatures we have not yet seen
- We will be making things that bless others and glorify God

### **What will it be like to rule with Jesus forever?**

The better stewards we are of God's blessings in this world, the greater capacity we'll have to participate in what God is doing in the next world.

Luke 19:17 – *'Well done, my good servant!' his master replied. 'Because you have been trustworthy in a very small matter, take charge of ten cities.'*

...and God is in the creation business!

Isaiah 9:7 – *Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end.*

### **What will our daily lives be like in heaven?**

We will have a pattern of work and rest as God demonstrated in the original creation.

Genesis 2:2 – *By the seventh day God had finished the work He had been doing; so on the seventh day He rested from all His work.*

Indeed, work was God's plan from the beginning...

Genesis 2:15 – *The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.*

...and God works!

John 5:17 – *Jesus answered them, "My Father has been working until now, and I have been working."*

Our work will be significantly more rewarding because there will be no curse.

- Work will be an outlet for our creativity and we will enjoy the full fruits of our labor. (Isaiah 65:21)

### **The Time Is Near – Revelation 22:6-11**

<sup>6</sup> Then he said to me, "These words are faithful and true." And the Lord God of the holy prophets sent His angel to show His servants the things which must shortly take place.<sup>7</sup> "Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."<sup>8</sup> Now I, John, saw and heard these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who showed me these things.<sup>9</sup> Then he said to me, "See that you do not do that. For I am your fellow servant, and of your

brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God."<sup>10</sup> And he said to me, "Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand."<sup>11</sup> He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still."

### **v6 – How do we know the words of the angel speaking to John was faithful and true?**

- It was the Lord God who sent the angel... the one who revealed Himself through the prophets who were authenticated by fulfilled prophecy.
- This shows the importance of prophecy... how do we know that Scripture is really from God?

Isaiah 46:9-10 – *Remember the former things of old, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me,<sup>10</sup> Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things that are not yet done, Saying, 'My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure'*

### **What does it mean that these things revealed *must* shortly take place?**

They will certainly happen. And from the context of eternity, they will happen soon.

### **Why, if the Revelation will happen soon has it been so long since Jesus has walked the earth?**

Because, from our mortal experience, God's eternal perspective is difficult for us to understand...

2 Peter 3:8 – *do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.*

### **v7 – Who is coming quickly?**

Jesus has to be speaking here. His coming is what the Book of Revelation is all about. And He is reinforcing what the angel told John.

### **How may we be blessed?**

By keeping the words of the prophecy of the book of Revelation.

### **What does it mean to keep *the words of the prophecy of this book*?**

To study them, remember them, teach them and look forward to their fulfillment. Because their fulfillment means the beginning of our spending eternity with Him. And this will be the greatest blessing of all.

### **If this is such a blessing, why does the church avoid Revelation like the plague?**

- Because we are in the Age of Scoffers (2 Peter 3:4); the Laodicean phase of the church where the church is populated with a lot of carnal Christians who are compromising with the world.
- Satan hates Revelation because it reveals his fate and he does not want Christians living with an expectation of the soon return for Jesus... hence date setters, sensationalists and profiteers have given prophecy a bad reputation.

### **v8-9 – Does anyone else have a sense of déjà vu in John falling down to worship an angel in heaven?**

The very same thing happened in Revelation 19:10 after the angel revealed to John about the fall of Babylon and the marriage supper of the Lamb.

### **Why do you think John repeated his faux pas?**

The visions he was receiving and sights of what was going on in heaven were so fantastic, he just wanted to worship God. And since the angel was with him as God's representative he got caught up in the moment and worshiped whatever moved.

### **How is it that the angels of God are fellow Servants?**

As we are called to do the will of God, so are the angels.

### **How is it that the angels are of John's brethren the prophets?**

They too speak forth God's Word.

### **How is it that the angels are of those who keep the words of this book?**

They believe, study, teach, and look forward to the fulfillment of the revelation as well.

### **Why might angels look forward to the resolution of all things?**

The angels are part of creation and thus have been impacted by the consequences of mankind's sin...

Romans 8:19-22 – <sup>19</sup>For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. <sup>20</sup>For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; <sup>21</sup>because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. <sup>22</sup>For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.

It is not clear how mankind's sin has impacted the angels other than there being spiritual warfare in which they have been forced to engage.

- So the Eternal State will bring peace to the angels as well.

### **v10 – What would it mean to seal the words of the prophecy of the book of Revelation?**

Close it up, not read or study it, or share it with others... exactly what the church is doing with Revelation today.

### **Why was John told not to seal the Revelation?**

*for the time is at hand* – The return of Christ is coming soon. Thus, people need to be warned about the coming of God's wrath. And they can benefit from the blessings that come from knowing Jesus as their Savior and Lord at the resolution of all things.

### **v11 – What is the point of this verse?**

This mortal life is important... it is a test. Those who are unjust and filthy at the resolution of all things will remain so for eternity. Likewise, those who are righteous and holy because of their relationship with Jesus Christ at the resolution of all things will remain so forever. It really is all about Who you know.

### **What applications come to mind from our discussion?**

- Eternal life is living in the presence of our Creator/Savior in a fantastic city on a new earth
- We will rule with Jesus in eternity... there will be responsibilities where we may express our creativity
- In the context of eternity, the return of Jesus is very near... be ready!