

Insights In Prophecy

Unlock The Ancient Mysteries Of Daniel & Revelation

BIBLE DISCOVERY SERIES

30 LESSON

Lesson 30

NEW JERUSALEM: GOD'S ETERNAL JUBILEE HOME

Read Revelation 21 & 22

- **Admire The Beautiful City & God's Completed Plan Of Redemption**
- **Celebrate That Planet Earth Becomes The Throne Of The Universe**

The apostle Peter writes that the present skies above and earth beneath are "reserved for fire, being kept for the Day of Judgment and destruction of ungodly men." The *lake of fire*, referred to in Revelation 20, will burn until all sin and sinners are destroyed. In that inexpressible period of global fire, all of God's children will be safe within the fortified City of God. The heavens will "disappear with a roar, the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare... that Day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with His promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness," (2 Peter 3:7, 10-13).

Once the fire burns out, the Spirit of God will move. The earth and atmosphere will be changed into a lovely habitation of Eden's beauty. No sea will separate peoples and races. Fascinating creatures of various designs and species will be brought into existence at the voice of God, each with a pleasant temperament.



Luscious green grass, trees and foliage will blossom fresh and will remain so throughout the generations. All the redeemed will gladly live by God's commandments, for He has written His Law in their hearts (Jeremiah 31:33; Hebrews 8:10; 10:16)—to love God first and foremost, and others as themselves. Mankind's natural tendency will then

always be to do what is right, and the temptation to sin will disappear.

The prophet saw in vision a total restructure of the skies above and Planet Earth renewed, for the first heaven and earth had passed away before his eyes (Revelation 21:1-2).

1. What does John next see coming down to earth? _____

2. She is identified as "a Bride beautifully dressed for her Husband," Yeshua. When will the wedding, the union of Bride and Groom, take place in Heaven prior to this point in time (Revelation 19:1-8)? _____

Just after the "prostitute"—the great city that symbolizes Messiah's wayward wife (Jeremiah 3:14, 20)—is destroyed during the Great Tribulation just after the world's end-time leader sets up his abomination on the Temple Mount.

As with men who indulge in illicit sex with prostitutes, the nations will ultimately *despise* the woman, Jerusalem, after having used her. Once they get what they want—Antichrist's access to the Temple Mount—the nations will turn on her. First, the two witnesses are killed and the "anointed one is cut off

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and will have no one" (f26, NIV) left to warn of the coming destruction, the nations will attack Jerusalem and leave her desolate and naked (Daniel 9:26; Revelation 17:16-18).

Soon after the prostitute is destroyed, the wedding will take place in Heaven at the Feast of Tabernacles, before Messiah returns visibly in the clouds to destroy all sinners at the Armageddon battle. The gates of the City of God—the New Jerusalem will be opened up for the first time, and Yeshua Messiah will walk in with the redeemed who have just been raised to life at the trumpet blast and the loud voice of the Archangel. In the symbolism of marriage, this intimate connection will last for the ages to come between the New Jerusalem—the Bride inhabited by star-bright citizens who adorn her dressed in white linen (Revelation 19:7-8; Daniel 12:3; Matthew 13:43) and her Groom—Messiah in His radiant glory (Matthew 17:2; Revelation 1:16). At the end of the millennium, the City will descend to earth and God and His Son will abide forever on the earth made new; and for this reason, this planet and the saints purchased by the blood of the Most Holy One will always maintain a special relationship, no matter how many other worlds are created in the vast universe throughout the ceaseless ages.

3. What is the proclamation given in Revelation 21:3-4? _____

God's dwelling is going to be with mankind. He will transfer His throne from Heaven to this location. Elohim will also wipe away all sadness and tears. There will be no more death, mourning, crying or pain, for the old order of things will pass away. Once sin and sinners are destroyed from existence along with all traces of sin, the former will not be remembered again. By God's grace He will wipe the pain and loss from our hearts, and replace it with joy.

In Revelation 21:5-8 God proclaims He is making all things new! You can count on it, God declares, so "write this down" as an everlasting record. The "Alpha and the Omega"—from the first to the last alphabet of all speech and communication, the "Beginning and the End"—the One who has always existed and will always exist, is in complete control.

4. God proclaims—"It is done," then peace and rest fills the soul. What four times in the Scriptures (see below) does God's *finished work* bring rest? _____

~ Genesis 2:1-3: *After His creative work, so He added an extra day—the seventh day Sabbath—that mankind might join in the weekly rest.*

~ John 19:30-31: *After His redemptive work, so He rested in the grave during the Sabbath hours in honor of His creative labor.*

~ Revelation 16:17: *After His investigative judgment work and blotting out of sin from the courts of Heaven, so He will add on the seventh millennial (1,000 year) Sabbath day before final judgment.*

~ Revelation 21:6: *After His judgment and re-creation, so that mankind might rest in an Eternal Jubilee of peace and joy.*

5. What three promises are given to the saints in Revelation 19:6-7? _____

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The three promises are: 1) access to the springs of living water at no cost (eternal life); 2) inheritance (although undeserved) of all that God will create for our enjoyment; and, 3) the official adoption as sons and daughters of God (to live in intimate companionship in God's home).

Believers are first chosen, predestined and then adopted as the very sons and daughters of God (Ephesians 1:4-5). For this reason, they will receive the privileges of protection, provision of daily needs, guidance, and audience with God the Father and the Son, and the heavenly inheritance—a place to call home, which no one can take away.

In contrast, Revelation 21:8 identifies eight types of people who will be destroyed in the lake of fire—the second death. They represent some of the sins that God hates, and behavior which cannot be tolerated. They are 1) cowardly individuals who deny Christ before others; 2) those who waver in their faith; 3) the vile person who practices known sins; 4) individuals who destroy without just cause; 5) the sexually immoral; 6) those who practice astrology and magic arts; 7) those who worship stone images and man-made creations 8) and, the deliberately deceptive.

The Seventh Angel Introduces The Bride Wife

Revelation 21:9-10 reveals how One of the seven angels—Michael, the Seventh Angel, for later in the vision He declares, "Behold I am coming soon," 22:7—invites John to "Come, I will show you the Bride, the Wife of the Lamb." He picks up John and carries him away to a great and high mountain. There he sees "the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of Heaven from God."

Under similar circumstances, One of the seven angels earlier showed John another woman in Revelation 17:1. He said, "Come, I will show you the punishment of the great prostitute; the woman you saw is the great city that rules over the kings of the earth," (18). He picks up John and carries him away to the parched and desolate "wilderness". There he sees the "woman sitting on the scarlet beast that was covered with blasphemous names and had seven heads and ten horns"—MYSTERY BABYLON THE GREAT THE MOTHER OF PROSTITUTES AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. Although we have often prayed for the peace of Jerusalem, because she is loved for her connection to Messiah and God's plan of redemption, the modern-day city has fallen from grace. How sad a commentary about a city teeming with religious and political leaders who should know the Scriptures, who should stand firm against Antichrist, and proclaim God's Commandments against idolatry and sin, but they will not.

Both women are decked in gold, precious stones and pearls (Revelation 17:4; Revelation 21:11)—one from the wealth of the nations who prostitute with her, the other from the wealth of Messiah—her Groom. Both are measured by the prophet John (Revelation 11:1; Revelation 21:15)—one for temporary man-made construction and judgment, the other for eternal God-designed splendor. The old city's residents long ago rejoiced at the death of the King of the Jews and again at the end when His two witnesses are killed (Revelation 11:8-10), but the New City will delight in her King and the salvation of His children! The old city will invite Antichrist, demons and abominations into the heart of the city (2 Thessalonians 2:4; Revelation 18:2), while the New City will take in only those with pure hearts and lives (Revelation 21:27). The earth-bound woman is "clothed with the sun [and] with the moon (Revelation 12:1), the heavenly woman "has no need of the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp," Revelation 21:23.

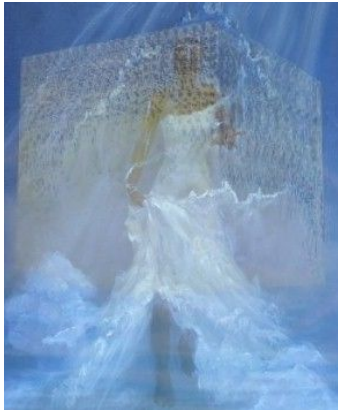
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The Beautiful Bride-Wife Described

Revelation 21:11-20 is a detailed description of the New Jerusalem, starting with her brilliance. She will shine with God's glory, brighter than the sun. Messiah's wife will be like a magnificent shining jewel on top of a great mountain. She will be enormous in size and will be seen from great distances. The City will be closely connected to her roots, for her foundations will have on them the names of the twelve apostles of Christ, and the twelve gates the twelve tribes of the nation of Israel.



By all accounts, her walls will be about 200 feet in thickness; and yet, her magnificent gates, not made of steel or wood but of single pearls, will always be open for one and all to enter. The walls will be built not of base materials, but from colorful precious stones of every kind—jasper, sapphire, chalcedony, emerald, sardonyx, carnelian, chrysolite, beryl, topaz, chrysoprase, jacinth and amethyst. The street will be laid with "pure gold" like transparent glass.

6. What is the New Jerusalem no longer in need of, according to Revelation 21:21-24? _____

No Temple—for God the Father and the Lamb are to be openly worshipped, with no separation from the citizens of Heaven. Both sun and moon will be gone, for the glory of God the Father gives it light and the Lamb is its lamp. The skies above and the structure of the universe will be altered and enhanced by our Creator, once the final order is completed.

By all accounts, the City is laid out in a perfect cubicle square (1,400 miles four-square)—as long as it is wide—like the Holy of Holies compartment of the Temple. The City itself will replace the walled Sanctuary, for she will have no Temple with veil, doors or barriers to separate worshipers from Almighty God.

Revelation 21:25-27 teaches the gates will never be shut at the end of the day, for the great day of the LORD will never close. The sun will no longer drop in the western skies where shadows of sin once found dark corners to thrive in. The glory and honor of all races and nationalities will traverse inside of Jerusalem. Nothing impure, such as deceivers and shameful characters, will ever step through her gates; only those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life—the recorded and documented children of the New City.

7. What important river flows from the throne of God and the Lamb (Revelation 22:1-5)? _____

The River of the Water of Life will flow from the source of life itself. The saints will never thirst again; the fountain of youth will remain as our eternal drink.

8. What life-giving tree adorns each side of the river? _____

The Tree of Life will yield twelve crops of fruit.

The saints will never hunger for want of food again. The life-giving water and fruit will always remind the children of God of their eternal dependence of God's grace; meaning, eternal life will never be self-

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determining, independent of the water and food available in the City and from God's throne. Dependence on God will always remain, as a Father lovingly provides and cares for his sons and daughters.

9. The curse of separation between God and man, which includes the inability to serve God in open face to face communication, will be gone. When did the curse of verse 3 first begin, and what did the entire affliction consist of (Genesis 3:14-24)? _____

~ The serpent's curse to run on its belly and eat dust—Lucifer would be lowered from his position of heavenly power, and eventually destroyed.

~ The woman's curse of increased pains in child birth, and her subordinate role of submission to males.

~ The man's curse of sweat-filled labor to produce food in sometimes selfish soil, thorns and thistles.

~ Mankind's curse of death, of returning to dust from where we were first taken. Of mankind's banishment from the thriving Garden of Eden, and from the Tree of Life with its life-giving properties.

Verse 6 states that overcomers will rule forever. So true are these words spoken by the Angel that He affirmed, "these words are trustworthy and true," for it was the LORD, the God of the prophets, who has sent His Angel to show His servants the things which will soon take place.

10. What promise does the Angel proclaim in Revelation 22:7? _____

"Behold, I am coming soon! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy in this book."

11. How does this compare to the Mighty Angel—the Seventh Angel in Revelation 10:1-7? _____

The Seventh Angel is said to "come down" from Heaven to earth. He has been identified as none other than Yeshua, our Messiah, because His splendid characteristics could only apply to the Son of God. He also swears His promise is trustworthy that "there will be no more delay" in the final unfolding of God's mysterious plan.

12. What is John's response once he hears the Messenger's promised return (22:8)? _____

The prophet falls at His feet in worship for the second time, as recorded in the book of Revelation. John was a personal companion and a part of the inner circle with Jesus while He was on the earth. Only in honor and worship of His Savior would he prostrate himself—this was no ordinary angelic messenger.

13. Why did Michael stop John from further worship at that time (22:9)? _____

After having declared, "I am coming soon!" Yeshua identified with John as a "fellow servant with you and with your brothers the prophets and of all who keep the words of this book." Jesus would not accept worship above those who will also suffer for keeping the words of the book of Revelation. He said "Worship God!" The honor would be His Father's, not His own at that moment in John's vision.

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14. John had once before fallen down at the Messenger's feet (Revelation 19:9-10). What had the Angel stated just before John's reaction of worship? _____
_____ **Does Michael once again turn the attention to the Father in 22:9? _____**

Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb! These are the true words of God." John responds in humble honor of the Messenger, for he wants desperately to be found worthy to be invited to the supper at Messiah's return. Michael, as is found later in the book, adds that He is a "fellow servant" with John who holds to the testimony of Jesus—the book of Revelation.

When the prophet first saw Messiah with all His brilliance and shining glory in his first vision, John "fell at His feet as though dead" in trepidation and fear (Revelation 1:16-17). Obviously, John knew the Savior's face and would prostrate to worship Christ the King and Him only. Here John again "fell to worship" the One who had just proclaimed salvation. The prophet would not have bowed in worship to anyone other than his Master and LORD. Therefore, the Messenger could be none other than Yeshua, one of the seven messengers, who had come to John in Revelation 17:1 to give him some of the final revelations about Babylon's destruction, and the promised wedding in Heaven.

Although deserved, Michael would not allow John to worship Him while fulfilling His duty as a prophet messenger. Rather, He wanted John to stand eye to eye and to identify with Him as an equal in service for God. Therefore, He said He was "a fellow servant" and "brother" with John, and with all those who would hold to the testimony of Jesus. This message is identified as coming from the Spirit, the divine source of prophecy—the revealer of future events, given in minute detail, thousands of years before events occur (1:2).

15. Philippians 2:5-8, Deuteronomy 18:15-18 and Acts 3:20-22 help us identify this Angel Messenger, whom John worships as the "fellow servant" and "brother" the prophet. How? _____

It is written, "Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but *made Himself nothing*, taking the very nature of a *servant, being made in human likeness*. And being found *in appearance as a man*." In other words, God's only Son humbled Himself, leaving behind the worship due Him in Heaven, to come to earth in the "appearance as" a human being. Although Divine, He appeared to be a mere man—as a "brother". In this way, He identified with us and with our struggles against evil, and ultimately provided the way of escape. What other angelic messenger could identify with the prophet as a "brother"? What other angel could so move John with words of salvation that he would fall prostrate in worship before him? Only Yeshua.

As mankind can now identify with Jesus, so too can Heaven's countless millions of angelic citizens. Christ fulfills His role in the appearance and duties of Michael, so that none of His created beings will feel exempt from His devoted association. This does not make Him any less divine, for He was with the Father from the beginning of time. On the contrary, this makes Him Supremely God, the originator and proponent of love through His continuous acts of humility.

Jesus had acted in similar meekness during an episode recorded in Matthew 19:16-17 (KJV). A man approached and addressed Him as "Good Master" and asked a question about eternal life. Instead of taking the glory to Himself, Messiah instead replied, "why callest thou Me good? there is none good but One, that is, God [the Father]." Again, this was showing humility, when the individual had attempted to shown Him honor. In this way the glory would be transferred to His Father. This very act of humility would never be found in the Evil One, who always seeks the glory for himself.

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The Messenger of the Covenant visited Moses on Mount Sinai to deliver the Law of God (Acts 7:30-31, 35, 38). Now, He will come again and His voice will be heard in thunderous echo when all mystery will be completed (10:7). "But who can abide the Day of His coming?" Malachi 3:1-2.

16. What did the Angel tell John not to do with the scroll of information he would be writing (Revelation 22:10)? _____

"Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, because the time is near." God does not do anything significant that involves mankind, unless He first reveals it to His servants the prophets (Amos 3:7).

17. How does John's unsealed book contrast the message Michael earlier delivered to the prophet Daniel about his book of prophecy in Daniel 12:4, 9? _____

Daniel's book would not be understood until the end of time is upon us, while John's book must remain an opened explanation of Daniel's obscure predictions. Revelation would open to the readers their understanding of Daniel's mysterious writings. Both books merge together; Revelation is the book of Daniel's visions, unsealed.

18. The declaration of Revelation 22:11-12 occurs when? _____



These words are spoken at the close of the Courtroom Judgment Daniel 7:9-10, just before Jesus returns. How do we know? He says, "Behold I am coming soon ["quickly," KJV]!" The time will arrive when probation closes, and destinies will be sealed forever. Hence, the words are spoken from on high, "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." Only two groups of people will remain—the unrighteous and righteous. These are words associated with the approaching Day of Atonement

when all those written in the book are delivered, and the unrepentant are forever cut off from the camp of the saints (Leviticus 23:27-29; Daniel 12:1). John writes (22:14), "Blessed are those who wash their robes ["do His commandments," KJV], that they may have the right to the Tree of Life and may go through the gate into the City" of God.

19. 1 John 2:3-4 reinforces this idea. How? _____

Those who obey God show they have a genuine faith, while the disobedient reveal they lack faith and love for Jesus. The saints are washing their robes in the blood of the Lamb, who gave Himself for them. They follow in His footsteps of service and obedience to the Father's will.

20. What specific types of sinners will find themselves outside of the City (22:15)? _____

*~ dogs—prostitutes involved in immoral activities both sexually and religiously
~ magic arts—involvement in the occult
~ sexually immoral—homosexuals, adulterers and fornicators*

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~ *murderers—those who destroy without just cause*
~ *idolaters—worshippers of images*
~ *liars—those who love and practice falsehood*

Jesus personally identifies Himself as the Messenger whom John has been communicating with. He states that He has sent His angel, likely Gabriel (Daniel 8:16; Luke 1:19), as a medium for the various visions John received.

Messiah confirms, "I am the Root and the Offspring of David (Revelation 5:5), the bright and Morning Star." The morning star appears near dawn, in the hours of darkness as the night is ending. Jesus is the light of the world—the glimmer of hope in the shadows of night. His loosening of the sealed book of prophecy has made the testimony of Jesus possible for all who will take note and listen to its warnings. It is the great light shining at this midnight hour of earth's history.

The generous invitation is given, "The Spirit and the Bride [New Jerusalem] say, Come! And let him who hears say Come! Whoever is thirsty, let him come, and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life" found in the City, flowing from the throne of God. The invitation to the City of God is open to all; however, many are called but few are chosen (Matthew 20:16).

21. The warning is given not to tamper with the book of prophecy (22:18-19). Why? _____

The book must remain unchanged, as penned by John. So vital is every word of the book that, just as the Law of God, no scribe dare add or take away even the "smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen," (Matthew 5:18).

Supplementary to the warning is the threat of plagues described in the book of Revelation, even the taking away the transgressor's share in the Tree of Life and the Holy City; or, as the King James Version more threatening reads: "God shall take away his part out of the Book of Life."

22. How does Yeshua conclude the prophetic book (Revelation 22:20-21)? _____

With a promise. He reiterates once again that He is coming soon, or quickly. This has two meanings. First, to God a thousand years is as one day (2 Peter 3:8), and so, from Heaven's perspective His coming was only a day or two away. Second, when Christ leaves the gates of Heaven, His return will be as quick as stepping through an opened door at the parting of the sky. His arrival will be swift.



John expresses that blessed hope of every overcomer who has anxiously awaited the King, since the fall of mankind... "Come, LORD Jesus"; then, he finishes his apocalyptic scroll with a prayer, "The grace of the LORD Jesus be with God's people. Amen."