

## 2-15-26 He Reigns: “Living Now for the City That’s Coming”

### Week 14

**Text: Revelation 21-22.**

**Big Idea: Revelation 21–22** is the climax of God’s redemptive story—when all things are made new, all wrongs are made right, and all of creation is reordered under the rule of Christ. It’s not just where we’re going, it’s how we live now.

**Intro:** Let’s be honest... most people have a very boring view of heaven.

We imagine floating on clouds, wearing white robes two sizes too big, and playing harps with a bunch of fat baby angels named Clarence.

No wonder people aren’t excited about eternity!

But **Revelation 21** and **22** shows us something totally different.

A city that shines like a jewel. A world with no death, no tears, no curse. A garden better than Eden, a King better than David, and a Bride finally home with her Groom.

This isn’t fiction. It’s not poetry. It’s your future.... IF you belong to Jesus.

The world is burning...But something better is coming.

So, the question is: Are you living like this world, is your home - or like you’re just passing through? (taking as many with you as possible)

### I. The New Heaven and New Earth - Restoration Has the Final Word

**Revelation 21:1–8.**

#### A. New Creation - Not Repaired, But Replaced

- “Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth...” (v. 1)
- “New” = kainos (Greek) – new in quality, not just in time
- The old world passes away because it was cursed by sin (cf. **Romans 8:21**)

#### B. A New City - Where God Dwells with His People

- Read verses 2-3.
- New Jerusalem = the eternal home of the redeemed.
- “The dwelling place of God is with man” — perfect Immanuel reality.

#### C. A New Condition - No More Curse, Pain, or Death

- Read verses 4-5.

- God personally wipes away every tear.
- Death, mourning, crying, and pain — gone forever.
- **“Behold, I am making all things new”.**

Warren Wiersbe: *“God wipes tears, not just to stop the sorrow, but to show His tender care in every pain we ever carried.”*

### **Application:**

What "temporary tent" are you clinging to in this life?

Are you living like this world is your forever home—or are you longing for the city whose architect is God? (**Hebrews 11:10**)

## **II. The New Jerusalem - The Beauty of God’s Eternal Design**

### **Revelation 21:9-27.**

#### **A. The Radiance of the City**

- **Read verses 9-11.**
- **“Prepared as a bride... having the glory of God”**
- This isn’t just a place; it’s the eternal community of the redeemed.

#### **B. The Structure of Glory (vv. 12–21)**

- 12 gates = 12 tribes; 12 foundations = 12 apostles
- The city is 1,500 miles cubed (**v. 16**) room for billions of saints
- Street of gold, gates of pearls not for luxury, but glory

John Walvoord: *“The New Jerusalem represents both the fulfillment of God’s promises to Israel and the Bride of Christ.”*

#### **C. The Absence of Evil and Night (vv. 22–27)**

- **Read verses 22-27.**
- No temple... because the Lord is there
- No night... because glory shines forever
- Nothing unclean enters

G.K. Beale: *“This city is Eden restored, but greater—because now sin is not just removed but unthinkable.”*

### **Application**

If we’re citizens of that city, why are we building our kingdoms here?

Are we reflecting the glory of that future city now—in purity, holiness, and witness?

### **III. The River and the Throne - Paradise Restored**

- **Read Revelation 22:1-5.**

#### **A. The River of Life and Tree of Life**

- Echoes Eden—but now unrestricted, uncursed
- **“The leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations”**

Wiersbe: *“In Eden, man lost the Tree of Life. In Christ, it is restored forever.”*

#### **B. The Throne of God and the Lamb**

- God’s throne is central - the Lamb is still glorified
- **“They will see His face...”** - full communion with God forever

Spurgeon: *“The greatest joy of heaven will be to gaze upon the face of Jesus.”*

### **Application:**

Is your Christianity about seeing His face, or just escaping His judgment?

Are you longing for the blessings of heaven... or the presence of God?

### **IV. The Final Invitation - Come While There’s Still Time**

- **Read Revelation 22:6–21.**

#### **A. The Testimony of Jesus is Trustworthy**

- **Read verses 6-10.**
- **“These words are trustworthy and true”** — this is not fiction.
- This book closes the canon and demands urgency.

MacArthur: *“Revelation doesn’t scare us. It sends us out. It’s not a riddle—it’s a rescue plan.”*

#### **B. The Warning and the Invitation**

- **Read verses 11-17.**
- **“Let the evildoer do evil still...”** — judgment is final and irreversible.
- But **“Come!”** — the Spirit and Bride still cry out for the lost

#### **C. The Promise of His Coming**

- **Read verses 18-21.**
- **“Surely I am coming soon.”**

- **“Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.”**

A.W. Tozer: *“The longing heart of every true believer cries out, ‘Even so, come, Lord Jesus.’”*

### **Everyday application:**

#### **1. If Heaven Is Your Home, Stop Decorating the Tent**

- Revelation 21 says this world is passing away—and something entirely new is coming.
- Many of us are pouring all our energy into careers that won’t last, possessions that won’t transfer, and platforms that won’t matter.
- Ask yourself honestly: “Am I investing more in what’s temporary, or in what’s eternal?”
- Living for heaven doesn’t mean neglecting earth, it means refusing to confuse the two.

#### **2. Let Future Hope Shape Present Choices**

- Revelation doesn’t just tell us where we’re going, it reshapes how we live now.
- Hope changes behavior: engaged couples prepare differently, travelers pack differently, and citizens live differently.
- If you truly believe a world with no sin, no death, and no pain is coming, it should change what you tolerate, what you pursue, and what you refuse.
- Eternity-aware people live with clarity, not complacency.

#### **3. If God Will One Day Wipe Away Every Tear, Stop Hoarding Your Comfort Now**

- **Revelation 21** shows a God who personally heals every wound.
- We often live obsessed with comfort: avoiding sacrifice, avoiding inconvenience and avoiding emotional or spiritual risk.
- If God promises eternal comfort later, we can afford holy discomfort now.
- Get comfortable with being uncomfortable.
- Don’t waste your life protecting yourself from pain when God is using this life to prepare you for glory.

#### **4. If You’re a Citizen of the New Jerusalem, Live Like It**

- **Revelation 21** describes a city marked by purity, light, and holiness.
- Citizens reflect their homeland.
- Ask: “Does my lifestyle look more like Babylon, or like the city of God?”
- If heaven has no place for impurity, deception, or darkness, why are we making room for them now?

- Grace doesn't lower the standard—it changes the heart.

## **5. Don't Love the Gifts of Heaven More Than the God of Heaven**

- **Revelation 22** centers heaven around God Himself, not just His blessings.
- It's possible to want heaven: to escape hell, to avoid pain and to receive rewards...without really wanting God.
- Is your Christianity about seeing His face or using Him to fix your life?
- Heaven's greatest joy isn't streets of gold; it's the presence of Jesus.

## **6. If the Gates Are Still Open, Stop Being Silent**

- **Revelation 22** ends with an invitation: "Come!"
- Silence often masquerades as politeness or tolerance.
- If the invitation is real and judgment is final, silence is not kind, it's neglect.
- Who in your life needs to hear the hope of the city that's coming?
- Eternity makes urgency an act of love.

## **7. Live Ready!**

- Jesus says, "Surely I am coming soon."
- Most people don't reject Christ, they assume there's more time.
- Living ready doesn't mean living afraid. It means living aligned.
- "If Jesus returned today, would my life reflect anticipation, or attachment to this world?"

## **8. Don't Let Longing for Heaven Turn into Escapism**

- Revelation fuels hope—but it also fuels mission.
- We're tempted to say: "Just get me out of here" instead of: "Send me while there's still time"
- Heaven-bound people should be earth-engaged people.
- Hope doesn't make us passive; it makes us purposeful.

"If heaven is real, this world can't be ultimate."

"Citizens of eternity live differently in time."

"Don't cling to what God promises to replace."

"The gates are open—but they won't stay that way forever."

"Heaven isn't just where we're going—it's how we're supposed to live now."

Are you warning others while the invitation still stands?

Are you longing for His return, or clinging to temporary treasures?

**Challenge:**

Revelation began with seven churches trying to stay faithful in a hostile world.

It ends with a glorious city, a reigning Savior, and a final cry from heaven:

**“Come!”**

This isn't the end of the story. It's the beginning of forever.

But it's only yours if your name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

**Alter call:**

**To the not yet believer:** You're not too late, the gates are still open. Come to the Lamb now.

**To the lukewarm Christian:** Stop acting like Babylon is your home. Start living like the bride.

**To the Church:** We don't live in fear. We live in hope, holiness, and urgency. Because Jesus is coming.

**Prayer:**