

The formidable forces of evil in the world, and their relentless attacks upon God's people and truth, are dramatically portrayed in Revelation. The true church has been battered and decimated. Revelation exposes the demented anger of the dragon Satan which is directed against "those who obey God's commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus" (Revelation 12:17) in the last days. The beast and the false prophet are exposed. The collapses of the apostate religious systems of Babylon are portrayed. Then, in Revelation 19 and 20, in the midst of peals of thunder, fire and glory, Satan, sinners, and sin are destroyed. In a few short verses John has sketched for us the end of this world of oppression and sin, and the beginnings of the new heavens and new earth for God's people.

THE NEW HEAVEN AND NEW EARTH



Q1 **What does John see after the consuming lake of fire?** Revelation 21:1

A

After describing the fiery end of the world, (2 Peter 3:10-12) Peter wrote, "But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness." 2 Peter 3:13.



Q2 **What indicates that sin, and the separation it causes, will end?** Revelation 21:1

A

The SEA represents the evil multitudes of Babylon. (Revelation 17:15.) To John, the literal sea, was that which separated him from those to whom he had ministered.



Q3 **What names are given to the capital of the new earth?** Revelation 21:2

A 1.

2.

Q4 **What glorious assurance is given from the throne of heaven?** Revelation 21:3

A

We will be with Jesus Christ our Saviour and the Father. When on this earth, Jesus said, "Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms... I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am." John 14:1-3. The presence of God makes the city holy. God dwells with His people.



Q5 **What present human experiences will cease to be?** Revelation 21:4

A

Q6 **What statement indicates that God is going to do more than merely repair the world?** Revelation 21:5

A

Satan, temptations, sin, sorrow, tears and the curse of death will be finished with forever. All will be new. The thirst for righteousness will be fully satisfied by Jesus "the water of life." Revelation 21:6. Jerusalem means "city of peace," and in the New Jerusalem that will be a reality.



Q7 Who will inherit a home in the new heaven and new earth? Revelation 21:6,7

A

Q8 Who will be excluded from the new earth and the Holy City? Revelation 21:8

A

Obedient believers from all ages will be with the Lord and with each other. However, wicked unbelievers and sin will be no more. "Nothing impure will ever enter it (the Holy City), nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life." Revelation 21:27. "Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city. Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood." Revelation 22:14,15.

The Scriptures open with the words, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." Genesis 1:1. God then performed a marriage. (Genesis 2:4-25.) Satan then attacked the objects of God's love and deceived them. (Genesis 3:1-7.) In the last three chapters of Revelation we learn of the day when Satan the deceiver and accuser will be silenced, the marriage of the Lamb to His people, and the creation of a new heaven and new earth.

THE NEW JERUSALEM

The primary purpose of the description of the New Jerusalem is to draw our attention to the people who make up the city of God. The superlative language that is used is intended to convey the immeasurable joy of being with God. The description is far more than a street directory or an architectural plan.



Q9 What is the Holy City, the New Jerusalem, also called? Revelation 21:2,9,10

A

Q10 How is the beauty of "the bride, the wife of the Lamb," described? Revelation 21:11

A

The New Jerusalem is the BRIDE of Jesus Christ. However, the relationship is not primarily between the Saviour and a literal city, but between the Saviour and His people. (Revelation 12:1; 19:7.) Our Lord often spoke of the people of the kingdom of God in the terms of the marriage relationship. (See Matthew 22:1-14; 25:1-13.) Revelation 21 and 22 stand in contrast with Revelation 17 and 18. Here is a striking contrast between the people of God and the multitudes of Babylon.



Q11 How does John describe the bride? Revelation 21:12-14

A 1. **It had**

2. **With**

3. **The wall had**

The WALL, the TWELVE GATES, and the TWELVE FOUNDATIONS emphasize the security for believers in Jesus Christ. The great high wall is not for keeping wild beasts or enemies out. Rather, the walls symbolise salvation, (Isaiah 26:1,2; 49:16; Lamentations 2:8,18), the gates represent access to the King, (Psalm 24:7; Isaiah 60:11,18) and the sure foundations represents the Christian Church standing upon the foundation Jesus Christ. (1

Peter 2:4-9; Ephesians 2:19,20.) The angels at the gates represent heaven's care for the people of God. (Hebrews 1:14.) The number 12 is a symbol of God's kingdom and His kingdom people. The "names of the twelve tribes of Israel" and the "names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb" are the names of overcomers who are believers.



Q12 **What measurements are given for the city or bride?** Revelation 21:15-17

A

Q13 **What point is made by the detailed description of the city?** Revelation 21:18-21

A

The TREASURE of heaven is not material wealth, but the character, love and righteousness of God reflected in His people. (Matthew 6:19-21; 1 Timothy 6:17-19.) The cubic dimension of the Holy City reminds us of the dimensions and the glorious Shekinah presence of God in the Holy of Holies in the earthly temple. The 12,000 stadia and the 144 cubits remind us of the sealed kingdom people of God and their security in His presence. (Compare Revelation 7:1-4; 14:1.)



Q14 **Why does John say that he saw no temple in the heavenly city?** Revelation 21:22

A

The sanctuary on earth was a portrayal of the character and ministry of the Father and Jesus Christ. The sanctuary symbolism was intended to teach us about the plan of salvation. In the new earth the symbols are no longer necessary because God dwells with His people. What the sanctuary represented is a reality in the presence of God.

Q15 **What else does the city not need?** Revelation 21:23



A



Q16 **Who has access to the city of God or to being the bride?** Revelation 21:24-27

A

The gates are never shut for those who have been "made... a kingdom and priests to serve... God." Revelation 1:4,5. There will be no evil nations there, "but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life." Revelation 21:27. The city, or bride, finds its glory in the presence of God. Believers are with their God.

THE ABUNDANT LIFE

Every need of the believer will be supplied by God. Provisions that are now ours by faith will become a reality in the kingdom of glory.



Q17 **What flows from the throne of God through the heart of the city and believers?** Revelation 22:1,2

A

Jesus Christ is the WATER OF LIFE. (John 4:10,14.) He cleanses and refreshes. Blessings come from His throne.

Q18 **What stands in the midst of the city and believers?** Revelation 22:2,3

A

The TREE OF LIFE is also a symbol of Jesus Christ. (Compare Revelation 2:7.) The blessings of the Garden of Eden will be restored and there will be no more famine, sickness or curse.

Q19 **What other promises will become a reality for the city and believers?** Revelation 22:4-6

A

1. They will see

2. There will be

Jesus Christ is the LIGHT, the "sun of righteousness." Malachi 4:2. In Him there is no darkness. He will envelope His city and His people in love, truth, glory, harmony, joy, health and the warmth of His light. His sealed people will see Him. (Compare Revelation 22:4; 7:1-4; 14:1.) Christ said, "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." John 10:10. (Compare Romans 5:17.)

THE FINAL APPEAL

Jesus Christ issues a final promise, word of admonition, appeal, invitation and warning as He draws attention to His second coming in the conclusion of the testimony of Revelation.

Q20 **What PROMISE, made at the beginning of Revelation, is repeated in the conclusion?** Revelation 22:7

A

Q21 **What ADMONITION, given to John in this conclusion, is central to the message of Revelation?** Revelation 22:8,9

A

Q22 **What APPEAL is inherent in the promise that Jesus is soon coming to reward everyone?** Revelation 22:10-16

A

Twice, in these verses, warnings are given concerning the soon coming of Jesus Christ.

(Revelation 22:10,12) Revelation 22:11 is both a call to accountability while time and opportunity exist, and an indication that human probation will close just before the time of Christ's coming. Only those who have been washed, clothed and sealed by Jesus Christ will be ready for His coming. (See Revelation 7:14.) "Everyone who loves and practices falsehood" (Revelation 22:15) with the dragon, beast or false prophet will be damned. We must stand for truth and speak out against evil.

Q23 **What INVITATION is extended by the Spirit and the bride?** Revelation 22:17

A

Jesus Christ said, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28.

Q24 **What WARNING is given concerning the testimony of Revelation?** Revelation 22:18,19

A

The words of the prophecy of Revelation are vital to all. Revelation is a part of scripture. It is part of the testimony of Jesus Christ or the gift of prophecy. Revelation points us to our Saviour Jesus Christ, the Lamb. The words of this prophecy point us to the eternal standard of Christian living and the judgement, the ten commandments. The seventh

my response...



Are you ready for Jesus Christ to come? Are you ready to declare, "Amen. Come, Lord Jesus?" (Revelation 22:20,21.) You have begun a journey - of following scripture, trusting your Saviour, obeying the standard of the commandments, enjoying the holy Sabbath day, and living ready for Jesus to come. What has this journey come to mean to you?