

CHAPTER 22:

LIFE IN THE NEW
CREATION

Revelation 22:1-5 tell us more about life in the New Creation. The material nature of much of this description makes us careful not to relegate this entire description to the symbolic. When one ties each point of description together and looks for the unifying theme, these verses are clearly describing the basic themes of material life. Yet, notice the point that is made at every opportunity: this life being described here is perfect (expressed in every verse and explicitly in v.3); this perfect life IS eternal!

Perfect life, perfectly lived, with NO curse of sin, without temptation, all good and joyful in perfect fellowship with God in His very presence!

V4: tells us that we will see God's face. In ancient times criminals were banished from the presence of the King so that they could not see his face.

We learn from Scripture that because we are sinners, we cannot see His face and live. Yet, in the New Heaven and New Earth, we will see God's face; which further emphasizes the physical and spiritual perfection we shall enjoy in our very beings.

V5: The point being made in this verse is vitally important: the saved (who are the only ones from this earth in the New Creation), shall "reign eternally."

What shall we rule over? There are plans of God which we have no knowledge of (in theology, these are called "open questions"). Yet, one aspect of eternal life is very clear, we are not going to spend eternity floating on clouds while strumming a harp. We do know, however, that we will WORSHIP! It will be a perfect, blessed existence!

THE EPILOGUE OF REVELATION

Vv 6-7: remind us, with a warning from the Lord that His return to bring about these “events” shall be sooner than expected. We may feel ready for His coming now, but when we have full knowledge, which includes knowledge of those issues already revealed in Scripture, then we shall realize more fully than ever the shortcomings of our personal efforts. We realize that even as His saints, all we can do is commend ourselves to God’s forgiving grace in Jesus Christ!

THE EPILOGUE OF REVELATION

Vv 8-9: John is again overcome by what he has seen and the presence of the angel. But again he is reminded that the angel is a fellow creature and fellow servant of God. It is comforting for us to know that these powerful creatures are “fellow servants” along with us in service and worship of God!

THE EPILOGUE OF REVELATION

V10: John finds himself in the same position as Daniel (cf. Dan. 8:26). But Daniel was told to seal up the book because the time was not yet at hand. Now John is told not to seal up the book since the time is at hand. This, again, should add to our sense of urgency about preparing ourselves for Christ's return and the continued proclamation of the Holy Gospel.

THE EPILOGUE OF REVELATION

Vv 11-14: These verses may be understood as underlining the meaning of: *“the time is at hand.”* Once the judgment comes at the surprise (sudden) appearing of our Lord, the time of grace and forgiveness is ended and there will be NO chance of repentance.

So, “now is the time” which signals for us the extreme urgency of the Church’s mission of proclaiming the pure Gospel of our Lord Jesus!

THE EPILOGUE OF REVELATION

Vv 11-14: The imperatives of v. 11 (*let him be unrighteous, let him be filthy, let him practice, and let him be holy*) are best understood as denoting what God will allow and tolerate for now; before our Lord's glorious return, as in His mercy He delays the judgment and truly desires all to repent and be saved.

So, "now is the time" for a change of status before God...from being unrighteous and filthy to being righteous and holy...by hearing the warnings of God and the gracious invitation of His mercy in Christ Jesus!

THE EPILOGUE OF REVELATION

Vv 12-13: Once, again, these verses may be understood as underlining the meaning of: *“the time is at hand.”*

He, the Lord, is bringing HIS reward!
Please note that works DO NOT earn HIS reward! Rather, it is works demonstrated that by HIS grace and the power of the Holy Spirit they keep “the words of the prophecy” (cf. 22:7) and exhibit faithfulness to their Lord (Matt. 25:31-40).

THE EPILOGUE OF REVELATION

The “reward” which the Lord is talking about refers only to the faithful. So what is His reward?

It is the reward that Christ earned, and which He freely gives to all the faithful by grace! The reward is eternal life in God’s holy presence, earned for each of you by the death and resurrection of the Lamb of God. His reward is represented by the “tree of life” (22:2, 14).

THE EPILOGUE OF REVELATION

V.13: The Divine Titles God

The Alpha ----- **(The Father and The Son)** ----- *The Omega*
Beyond all Creation
This Title refers to the Magnitude of the Eternal Presence of God. **God is apart from & independent of His creative activity.**

The Beginning ----- **(The Father and The Son)** ----- *The End*
Of Creation

The First ----- **(The Lord Christ)** ----- *The Last*
Of The Church

Fallen Humanity

THE EPILOGUE OF REVELATION

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The Beginning ----- **(The Father and The Son)** ----- *The End*
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The Father and Son are the beginning and end of all creation. **Therefore, The Father and Son will make all things new!**

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The First ----- **(The Lord Christ)** ----- *The Last*
Of The Church
This Title is applied only to Jesus, since He is the One who died and came back to Life! **Jesus is the founder of the Church and her end goal! He is the Lord of the Church.**
Fallen Humanity

Therefore, these three titles represent the compilation of the Christology of Revelation, even the entire Holy Writ.

THE EPILOGUE OF REVELATION

V.13: The Divine Titles



The Three Titles represent a pyramid-like structure, but with the point facing downward. The point is the title, *“the First and the Last.”* It is the smallest of the three in its scope, but not in importance,

since its scope and focus is the Church due to the incarnation, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ! It is only through this title and what it represents that God comes down to reveal Himself to the human race (cf. Jn 14:6-9; Heb 4:14-16; 10:19-25).

THE EPILOGUE OF REVELATION

V 14: is the last Beatitude of Revelation. And it's evident that this blessing is being spoken by the Lord of the Church, Jesus! This is a great blessing, since in their righteousness before God, because of the blood of the Lamb, they have "...authority... over the tree of life."

V 15: should make us think very soberly about the conduct of our life on this earth. It is very clear that these things can have no fellowship with God. The term "dogs" was a Jewish term that referred to anyone ceremonially unclean.

Literally, scavenging canine; (figuratively) a spiritual predator who feeds off others. [A loose dog was disdained in ancient times - viewed as a "*mooch pooch*" that ran about as a *scavenger*.]

THE EPILOGUE OF REVELATION

Vv 16-21: for a final time, identifies Jesus Christ as the one giving this Revelation to John and to the Church, true God and true man.

Verse 16 begins with the words, *“I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you”* It should be noted that the word “you” here is plural; so, in Texan it would be... all ya’ll. The Revelation of Jesus is not just for John, but for the entire Church; its for His dear Bride!

THE EPILOGUE OF REVELATION

V 17: repeats the Gospel message that the Church has been charged to take into the entire world. The Holy Spirit seeks to work faith in this message and invitation from God in all who hear it. With Christ Second Advent imminent, the urgency to get the message out is all the greater.

THE EPILOGUE OF REVELATION

Vv 18-19: He then warns against those who would add to or subtract from this Word of God. The consequences of doing so are dire! Compare this language with Deuteronomy 4:2 and 12:32.

After our Lord once again reminds us that He is coming soon, John adds the highest blessing of all:

*“The grace of the Lord
Jesus Christ be with all
the saints. Amen.”*