### What Happens When a Church Worships | Part 11

Lesson 6 Revelation chapter 22 May 14, 2023

#### **Reasons to Worship God**

#### INTRODUCTION

Is New Jerusalem "for real?" Ask Abraham! He "look(ed) forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God" (Hebrews 11:10), thereby affirming his certainty 2,100 years before Revelation was written. Now, 4,000 years post-Abraham, the eternal city is established truth, thanks to John's Christ-directed narrative.

After weeks of negotiating Revelation's symbolic obstacle course of "sevens" (i.e., trumpets and bowls) and applauding Satan's demise, discovery of the eternal city is the reward.

New Jerusalem's infrastructure, beauty, and radiance are without equal, reflecting the excellence of her foremost residents, Jesus and His Father who are worshiped by adoring citizens. Unlike other cities, she needs no hospital or power company because pain, evil, and darkness have passed away.

"Getting there" is the challenge. Following directions is critical. Not everyone is admissible. Gates remain open only for those who wear upon their brows the seal of Him who was crucified.

Memory Verse: "Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End."—Revelation 22:12-13

Pray, and read Revelation chapter 22. What questions or observations do you have about this passage?

# **OBSERVATION:** What do the passages say?

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1.	What in the city's description is a reminder of the Garden of Eden? (Revelation 22:1-2)
2.	There are seven Beatitudes in the book of Revelation. What are the sixth and seventh Beatitudes in this week's lesson? (Revelation 22:7, 14)
3.	Why does the angel instruct John <i>not</i> to seal the prophecy of the scroll? (Revelation 22:10-11)
4.	In verse 16, it appears that Jesus has put his authorization on the whole of Revelation. What is His glorious declaration?

# INTERPRETATION: What do the passages mean?

1. Revelation 22:1-5 is a detailed description of Eden. For what reason does God restore this noteworthy garden? (Psalm 36:8-9, 46:4; Isaiah 60:19; Revelation 2:7)

2. After John reverently falls at the feet of Jesus to worship Him in Revelation 1:17, then wrongly begins to worship an angel in 19:9-10, why would he repeat an act of angel worship in 22:8 for which he had been previously rebuked? (Answers may be varied and not necessarily dependent on scriptural reference)

3. What is the meaning of "because the time is near" in verse 10? What is a modern expression for this quote that better describes it, and how does it affect non-believers? (Ezekiel 3:27b; Daniel 12:10b; Revelation 22:11)

4. The tree of life is first mentioned in Genesis 2:9; in Genesis 3:22, God cancels the reward of the tree. Centuries later, Jesus gives "the right to eat from the tree of life" to those faithful to Him (Revelation 2:7, 22:14). What is the reward of the tree?

# APPLICATION: How do the passages apply to your life?

1. Which portions of Revelation have (1) caused you anxiety, (2) given you hope, (3) inspired additional study, and/or (4) left you doubtful? Why?

2. Have you spoken to a non-believer concerning the afterlife and the doom that awaits those who fail to believe? With which aspect of the eternal state as presented in Revelation would you feel adequately comfortable and positive to discuss in the company of a non-believer?

3. Write a prayer of thanks to God for equipping the Apostle John to prepare believers for His ultimate plan in a book that also contains a woeful reminder for those who deny His existence.