

## Revelation Chapter 22

### 1) Introduction

- a) In Revelation 20:11-15, the fate of the unredeemed is portrayed.
- b) In Revelation 21:1-27, the fate of the redeemed is portrayed.
  - i) Fellowship with God (21:1-8)
  - ii) Protection by God (21:9-27)
- c) In Revelation 22:1-5, the picture begun in Revelation 21 is continued with:
  - i) Provision by God (22:1-5)
- d) In Revelation 22:6-21, the book closes with final instructions, admonitions, and a warning.
- e) Angels have announced and shown to John things that had not occurred, but those things are announced as though they had already occurred. For example:
  - i) Rev. 14:8 - **8** Another angel, a second, followed, saying, “Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, she who made all nations drink the wine of the passion<sup>a</sup> of her sexual immorality.”
  - ii) Rev. 18:2 - **2** And he called out with a mighty voice, “Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! She has become a dwelling place for demons, a haunt for every unclean spirit, a haunt for every unclean bird, a haunt for every unclean and detestable beast.
- f) Notice that there is repetition of some things previously given – perhaps so we will not forget, or perhaps to summarize what has been given.

### 2) Revelation 22:1-5 – *Provision by God*

- a) **1** Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb **2** through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. **3** No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. **4** They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. **5** And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

- b) Man once lived in a condition similar to this, but sin came, brought a curse, and separated man from God.

Food	Genesis 1:29-30	Revelation 22:2
Food, Tree of Life	Genesis 2:8-9	Revelation 22:2
Water, River	Genesis 2:10	Revelation 22:1
Fellowship	Genesis 3:8-9	Revelation 22:4, 21:3
Accursed	Genesis 3:16-19	Revelation 22:3
Healing	Genesis 3:14-15	Revelation 22:2
Separation from God	Genesis 3:22-24	Revelation 22:3-4, 21:3

- i) Genesis 1:29-30 - **29** And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. **30** And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so.
- ii) Genesis 2:8-9 - **8** And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. **9** And out of the ground the Lord God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
- iii) Genesis 2:10 - **10** A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden, and there it divided and became four rivers.
- iv) Genesis 3:8-9 - **8** And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. **9** But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?”
- v) Genesis 3:14-15 - **14** The Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. **15** I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”
- vi) Genesis 3:16-19 - **16** To the woman he said, “I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.” **17** And to Adam he said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days

- of your life; **18** thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. **19** By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”
- vii) Genesis 3:22-24 - **22** Then the Lord God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—” **23** therefore the Lord God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. **24** He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.
- c) The river is the water of life (22:1)
- i) John 4:10-15 - **10** Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.” **11** The woman said to him, “Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? **12** Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock.” **13** Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, **14** but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” **15** The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water.”
- ii) Rev. 7:17 - **17** For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”
- iii) Rev. 21:6 - **6** And he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment.
- d) The river is bright as crystal. (22:1)
- i) Rev. 4:6 - **6** and before the throne there was as it were a sea of glass, like crystal.
- e) It flows from the throne (22:1)
- i) God is the source.
- f) It flows through the middle of the street of the city (22:2)
- i) An image we are not used to seeing.
- ii) Perhaps the idea is that the river is the more prominent feature of the city.
- g) The tree of life is there (22:2)
- i) On either side of the river – perhaps to indicate that it is freely available.

- ii) Twelve kinds of fruit, 12 months of the year – completeness, never stops bearing.
- h) The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations (22:2)
  - i) Rev. 21:4 - **4** He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.
  - ii) Since the former things have passed away, one may wonder about the healing of the nations.
  - iii) Some considerations are:
    - (1) Since sin produced the curse, the abolition of sin will be a healing within itself.
    - (2) Some see an association between healing that began with the cross of Jesus and healing from the tree of life – two trees.
    - (3) Healing of the nations should not be problematic, since the tree of life is available for those who dwell in heaven, and those who dwell in heaven come from every nation.
      - (a) Matthew 25:31-34 – **31** “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. **32** Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. **33** And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. **34** Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.
      - (b) Acts 10:34-35 - **34** So Peter opened his mouth and said: “Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, **35** but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.
      - (c) Rev. 21:24-26 - **24** By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, **25** and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. **26** They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations.
    - (4) Perhaps the best understanding is: The healing of the redeemed will be an all-inclusive and eternal healing.
- i) **3** No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. (22:3)
  - i) The curse brought by sin in Genesis 3 is removed.
  - ii) It is a glorious place, but not necessarily a place of idle leisure.
    - (1) Deut. 6:13 - **13** It is the Lord your God you shall fear. Him you shall **serve** and by his name you shall swear.

- (2) Joshua 24:14 - [14](#) “Now therefore fear the Lord and **serve** him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord.
- (3) Matt. 4:10 - [10](#) Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written, “You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you **serve**.””
- (4) Two words:
- (a) [proskynēseis](#) - go down on my knees to, do obeisance to, worship
  - (b) [latreuseis](#) – serve, worship – especially service by one who is qualified
- (5) A third word
- (a) Doulos – bond-servant; bought with a price as a servant
  - (b) Rev. 19:10 - [10](#) Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, “You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God.” For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.
  - (c) Rev. 22:9 - [9](#) but he said to me, “You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers the prophets, and with those who keep the words of this book. Worship God.”
- j) They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. (22:4)
- i) They will see his face ...
    - (1) Exodus 33:17-23 – [17](#) And the Lord said to Moses, “This very thing that you have spoken I will do, for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name.” [18](#) Moses said, “Please show me your glory.” [19](#) And he said, “I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you my name ‘The Lord.’ And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. [20](#) But,” he said, “you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live.” [21](#) And the Lord said, “Behold, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock, [22](#) and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by. [23](#) Then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back, but my face shall not be seen.”
  - ii) His name will be on their foreheads
    - (1) A seal of ownership, protection
      - (a) Rev. 7:3 - “Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.”
      - (b) Rev. 14:1 - [1](#) Then I looked, and behold, on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father’s name written on their foreheads.

- (c) 1 Cor. 6:19-20 - [19](#) Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, [20](#) for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.
- k) And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever. (22:5)
- i) Night will be no more.
- (1) If pain and fear are intensified in darkness, the heavenly city will have neither pain, nor fear, nor darkness.
- ii) Need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light,
- (1) John 1:4-9 - [4](#) In him was life, and the life was the light of men. [5](#) The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. [6](#) There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. [7](#) He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. [8](#) He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. [9](#) The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.
- (2) John 8:12 - [12](#) Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."
- (3) John 12:35-36 - [35](#) So Jesus said to them, "The light is among you for a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you. The one who walks in the darkness does not know where he is going. [36](#) While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light."
- (4) 1 John 1:5-7 - [5](#) This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. [6](#) If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. [7](#) But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.
- iii) They will reign forever and ever
- (1) The throne of God and the Lamb is there (22:3)
- (2) Rev. 1:5-6 - [5](#) and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood [6](#) and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

- (3) Rev. 11:17 - [17](#) saying, “We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, who is and who was, for you have taken your great power and begun to reign.
- (4) Rev. 19:6 - [6](#) Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out, “Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns.
- (5) Rev. 20:4-6 - [4](#) Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. [5](#) The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended. This is the first resurrection. [6](#) Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years.

### 3) Revelation 22:6-21 – *Jesus is Coming*

- a) [6](#) And he said to me, “These words are trustworthy and true. And the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place.” [7](#) “And behold, I am coming soon. Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.” [8](#) I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed them to me, [9](#) but he said to me, “You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers the prophets, and with those who keep the words of this book. Worship God.” [10](#) And he said to me, “Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near. [11](#) Let the evildoer still do evil, and the filthy still be filthy, and the righteous still do right, and the holy still be holy.” [12](#) “Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done. [13](#) I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.” [14](#) Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates. [15](#) Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood. [16](#) “I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.” [17](#) The Spirit and the Bride say, “Come.” And let the one who hears say, “Come.” And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the

water of life without price. **18** I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, **19** and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book. **20** He who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! **21** The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.

b) And he said to me, “These words are trustworthy and true. And the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place.” (22:6)

i) Jesus has already been called “Faithful and True”.

(1) Rev. 3:14 – **14** “And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: ‘The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God’s creation.

(2) Rev. 19:11 - **11** Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war.

ii) These words are trustworthy and true

(1) Ezekiel 24:14 - **14** I am the Lord. I have spoken; it shall come to pass; I will do it. I will not go back; I will not spare; I will not relent; according to your ways and your deeds you will be judged, declares the Lord God.”

(2) Amos 3:8 - **8** The lion has roared; who will not fear? The Lord God has spoken; who can but prophesy?”

iii) The God of the spirits of the prophets

(1) 2 Peter 1:20-21 - **20** knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone’s own interpretation. **21** For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

(2) 2 Timothy 3:16-17 - **16** All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, **17** that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

iv) has sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place.

(1) Rev. 1:1 - **1** The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John,

(2) “the angel said” – 55 times in Revelation an angel is showing or telling something to John.



- (a) Rev. 22:16a - **16** “I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. ...”
- (3) What must soon take place
- (a) We saw this in Rev. 1:1.
- (b) It will not be a long time – it is at the point of happening.
- c) “And behold, I am coming soon. Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.” (22:7)
- i) And behold, I am coming soon.
- (1) Three times in Rev. 22 Jesus says “I am coming soon”. (22:7,12, 20)
- (a) These words occur as many times in Rev. 22 as in Rev. 1-21 combined.
- (2) It is not easy to distinguish between references to temporal “coming” and the second and final “coming” at the end of this age.
- (a) If a distinction can be made, “soon” may be used of temporal judgment to punish Rome, and that may have been uppermost in the minds of persecuted Christians in the first century.
- (b) For those of us living today, and all who have lived since the first century, there is a reminder that Jesus will come unexpectedly and it could be at any time.
- (c) J. W. Roberts wrote: “temporal events can be described in terms of the final coming because they anticipate that event.”
- (d) Recall the following three super-important points from a previous study of “The End Times”:
- (i) No one knows the exact time when the end will come.**
- Matthew 24:36
  - 1 Thessalonians 5:2
- (ii) It is coming for all men**
- Hebrews 9:27-28
- (iii) The necessity of being ready is essential**
- Matthew 24:42-44
  - 2 Peter 3:11-13
- ii) Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.
- (1) Rev. 1:3 - Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near.
- (2) Keep what is written in it
- (a) In the letters to the seven churches (Rev. 2 & 3), commendations, condemnations, exhortations, and warnings are given.
- (i) The letters contain very clear examples of things to keep.

(b) Additional examples of things to be kept

(i) Rev. 16:15- **15** (“Behold, I am coming like a thief! Blessed is the one who stays awake, keeping his garments on, that he may not go about naked and be seen exposed!”)

(ii) Rev. 21:7 – **7** The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son.

(iii) Rev. 22:17 - **17** The Spirit and the Bride say, “Come.” And let the one who hears say, “Come.” And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.

(c) Add what you have found in your Homework assignment.

d) **8** I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed them to me, **9** but he said to me, “You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers the prophets, and with those who keep the words of this book. (22:8-9)

i) The one who heard and saw – throughout the Revelation

(1) Is John referring to what he heard and saw in Rev. 22, or all that he heard and saw in the Revelation? A list from *all* follows.

Heard	Saw
1:10-11	5:1, 2, 6
1:19	4:1
10:4 (do not write)	6:9
14:13	7:1-2
19:9	8:2
21:5	9:1, 17
	10:1, 5
	13:1, 2, 11
	14:6
	15:1-2
	16:13
	17:3, 6, 8, 12, 15, 16, 18
	18:1
	19:11, 17, 19
	20:1, 4, 11, 12
	21:1, 2, 22

ii) I fell down to worship

- (1) John had done this once before
  - (a) Rev. 19:10 - Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, “You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God.” For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.
- (2) The response of the angel is the same in both cases.
  - (a) Fellow servant
    - (i) With you
    - (ii) With your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus (the prophets)
    - (iii) With those who keep the words of this book
  - (b) Worship God!
    - (i) Worship *only* God.
    - (ii) There is to be no galaxy of angels and “saints” among the objects of man’s veneration.
- e) **10** And he said to me, “Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near. **11** Let the evildoer still do evil, and the filthy still be filthy, and the righteous still do right, and the holy still be holy.” (22:10-11)
  - i) Don’t seal up the words of the prophecy of this book
    - (1) Isaiah and Daniel had once received similar instructions
      - (a) Isaiah 8:16 – **16** Bind up the testimony; seal the teaching among my disciples.
      - (b) Isaiah 30:8 - **8** And now, go, write it before them on a tablet and inscribe it in a book, that it may be for the time to come as a witness forever.
      - (c) Daniel 8:26 - **26** The vision of the evenings and the mornings that has been told is true, but seal up the vision, for it refers to many days from now.”
      - (d) Daniel 12:4 – **4** But you, Daniel, shut up the words and seal the book, until the time of the end. Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase.”
      - (e) Daniel 12:9 - **9** He said, “Go your way, Daniel, for the words are shut up and sealed until the time of the end.
    - (2) John is told “Do not seal”, “for the time is near.”
  - ii) Let the evildoer still do evil, and the filthy still be filthy, and the righteous still do right, and the holy still be holy.
    - (1) It is easy to understand that the Lord wants the righteous and holy to remain so.
    - (2) What is intended for the evil and filthy?

- (a) This verse does not teach that, regardless of how a man lives, he will still go to heaven.
- (b) It is not an encouragement to do evil.
- (c) It does not teach that all who sin are hopeless cases, and that it is unnecessary to bother with them.
- (3) One message is “Go ahead and live the way you want, but be prepared for the consequences”.
- (4) Another message is “Time is running out. Hear the invitation.”
  - (a) Rev. 22:12 - **12** “Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done.
  - (b) Rev. 22:14-15 - **14** Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates. **15** Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.
  - (c) Rev. 22:17 - **17** The Spirit and the Bride say, “Come.” And let the one who hears say, “Come.” And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.
- (5) Another message is “Today is the day of salvation!”
  - (a) Heb. 3:13 - **13** But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.
  - (b) Heb. 4:6-7 - **6** Since therefore it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly received the good news failed to enter because of disobedience, **7** again he appoints a certain day, “Today,” saying through David so long afterward, in the words already quoted, “Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts.”
- (6) There have been times when the preacher would interrupt the invitation song to make one more passionate plea – “Come!”. Today there is haste to get to the feeding trough.
- f) **12** “Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done. **13** I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.” (22:12-13)
  - i) Bringing my recompense with me ...
    - (1) A strategically-placed appeal for the evildoers and the filthy.
    - (2) Time is short!
  - ii) The Alpha and Omega ...
    - (1) He was there in the beginning
      - (a) John 1:1-3 - **1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with

- God. **3** All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.
- (2) He reigns in heaven.
- (a) Luke 22:69 – **69** But from now on the Son of Man shall be seated at the right hand of the power of God.”
- (b) Eph. 1:19-23 – **19** and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might **20** that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, **21** far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. **22** And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, **23** which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.
- (c) Col. 3:1 – **1** If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.
- (d) Heb. 8:1-2 – **1** Now the point in what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, **2** a minister in the holy places, in the true tent that the Lord set up, not man.
- (e) Heb. 12:1-2 - **1** Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, **2** looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.
- (f) Rev. 11:15-18 – **15** Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever.” **16** And the twenty-four elders who sit on their thrones before God fell on their faces and worshiped God, **17** saying, “We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, who is and who was, for you have taken your great power and begun to reign. **18** The nations raged, but your wrath came, and the time for the dead to be judged, and for rewarding your servants, the prophets and saints, and those who fear your name, both small and great, and for destroying the destroyers of the earth.”
- (3) He is coming soon, at the end of all things.
- (a) 1 Pet. 4:7 – **7** The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers.

- (4) There is no other to accomplish what He can do.
- (a) Matt. 11:2-6 - **2** Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples **3** and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” **4** And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: **5** the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. **6** And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”
- (b) Acts 4:11-12 - **11** This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. **12** And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”
- g) **14** Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates. **15** Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood. (22:14-15)
- i) Robes
- (1) Rev. 3:4-5 - **4** Yet you have still a few names in Sardis, people who have not soiled their garments, and they will walk with me in white, for they are worthy. **5** The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life. I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels.
- (2) Rev. 7:9-10 – **9** After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, **10** and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!”
- (3) Rev. 7:13-17 - **13** Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?” **14** I said to him, “Sir, you know.” And he said to me, “These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. **15** “Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. **16** They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. **17** For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

ii) Outside ...

(1) Not to imply that they will be prowling around the jasper walls and gates of pearl – there will be no place for them inside.

(2) Rev. 20:11-15 - [11](#) Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. [12](#) And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. [13](#) And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. [14](#) Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. [15](#) And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

(3) Rev. 21:8, 27 – [8](#) But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.” ... [27](#) But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

h) [16](#) “I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.” (22:16)

i) Rev. 1:1-2 - [1](#) The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, [2](#) who bore witness to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw.

ii) Acts 2:25-36 - [25](#) For David says concerning him, “I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken; [26](#) therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; my flesh also will dwell in hope. [27](#) For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One see corruption. [28](#) You have made known to me the paths of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’ [29](#) “Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. [30](#) Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, [31](#) he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. [32](#) This Jesus God raised up, and of that

- we all are witnesses. **33** Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing. **34** For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says, “The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at my right hand, **35** until I make your enemies your footstool.” **36** Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”
- iii) Rev. 5:5 - **5** And one of the elders said to me, “Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.”
- iv) Rev. 2:28 - **28** And I will give him the morning star.
- v) The light that dispels darkness.
- i) **17** The Spirit and the Bride say, “Come.” And let the one who hears say, “Come.” And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price. (22:17)
- i) Spirit – The Holy Spirit who inspired all of scripture.
- (1) 1 Pet. 1:21 - **21** For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.
- ii) Bride – the church, those saved by the blood of Jesus
- (1) Matt. 28:19-20 – **19** Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”
- (2) 1 Pet. 2:9-10 – **9** But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. **10** Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.
- (3) 1 John 1:1-3 - **1** That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— **2** the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— **3** that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.
- iii) The thirsty
- (1) Matt. 5:6 - **6** “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.



- (2) John 6:35 - [35](#) Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.
- (3) John 7:37 - [37](#) On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink.
- j) [18](#) I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, [19](#) and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book. (22:18-19)
- i) “I warn” has been ascribed by different men to John, to the angel sent to John, or to Jesus. Notice that whoever “I” is, the message is the same:
- (1) God will add ...
- (2) God will take away ...
- ii) One commentator had this statement:
- (1) *Verse 18 is a warning for protection of the book. Apocalyptic books were treated with great freedom in John’s day. Men cut out the part they wanted and discarded the rest. But this is no ordinary apocalypse. To add to it or to take from it is to incur the displeasure of God with its consequences – strong language to assure the preservation of the book as John set it to the churches.*
- iii) I did not find an actual, historical example of such alterations, but I found something of interest on a genre called Apocalyptic Fiction.
- (1) Chanda Phelan surveyed the genre of Apocalyptic Fiction from 1826 to 2007 for a doctoral dissertation. Such fiction is popular in books, stories, movies, and video games. (I would have included “super-heroes” in the research because an often-used theme is that there is a threat to humanity, even to the planet, that is remedied by the emergence of one who has imaginary powers to right imaginary wrongs and even to overcome the powers of evil.) The major point of the survey is that the imagined means of the end of the world change in reflection of the current crisis. For example, nuclear war was the culprit beginning after 1945 and continuing until about 1991, then fading in comparison to pollution, climate change, and terrorist activity. Prior to WW2, it was industrialization or human-driven catastrophe.
- (2) *Notice that Roy Rogers would not fit into such a genre – his mission was to save the fair maiden and her father’s ranch from injustice, aided by a palomino stallion who would come at a single whistle and rescue*

*the hero from peril. In the end, there was always peace, happiness, and a song.*

iv) Warnings from the Old Testament

- (1) Deut. 4:2 - [2](#) You shall not add to the word that I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God that I command you.
- (2) Deut. 12:32 - [32](#) “Everything that I command you, you shall be careful to do. You shall not add to it or take from it.
- (3) The blue cord
  - (a) Numbers 15:37-41 - [37](#) The Lord said to Moses, [38](#) “Speak to the people of Israel, and tell them to make tassels on the corners of their garments throughout their generations, and to put a cord of blue on the tassel of each corner. [39](#) And it shall be a tassel for you to look at and remember all the commandments of the Lord, to do them, not to follow after your own heart and your own eyes, which you are inclined to where after. [40](#) So you shall remember and do all my commandments, and be holy to your God. [41](#) I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt to be your God: I am the Lord your God.”

v) Warnings from the New Testament

- (1) No other book of the N. T. contains such a serious warning.
- (2) It may be claimed that the strategic placement of this warning at the close of the Bible asserts the intention of the Holy Spirit for the warning to apply to the entire Bible – a very good claim!
  - (a) Then you must consider whether the phrase “in this book” pertains only to Revelation or the entire Bible.
  - (b) John 16:13-15 - [13](#) When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, **for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.** [14](#) He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. [15](#) All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.
    - (i) For a man, or men, to alter the promise of Jesus to the apostles exceeds the limits of what we may call serious.
- (3) The apostle Paul gives a warning in Galatians 1:6-9
  - (a) [6](#) I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— [7](#) not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. [8](#) But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we

preached to you, let him be accursed. [9](#) As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.

vi) The seriousness of the warning

(1) God will add to him the plagues described in this book.

(2) God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.

(3) It is as though the alteration of God's message is as serious as all that God brought upon the enemies of His people in Revelation, even to forfeiture of the tree of life and the holy city.

k) [20](#) He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! (22:20)

i) He who testifies is Jesus.

(1) Rev. 1:1-2 - [1](#) The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, [2](#) who bore witness to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw.

ii) John adds agreement with "Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!"

l) [21](#) The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen. (22:21)