

## Things to Come

### #26 New Heaven and New Earth Part 2

#### Rev. 22:1-21

## I. Introduction

Isaiah 46:9-11 *"Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say, 'My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.' From the east I summon a bird of prey; from a far-off land, a man to fulfill my purpose. What I have said, that I will bring about; what I have planned, that I will do."*

"He predicted Israel would go into captivity and the nation did (Lev. 26:33-39). He predicted the destruction of Babylon (Isa. 13:1-14:27). He predicted that Messiah would be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2), to a virgin (Isa. 7:14), and be killed by sinners (Isa. 53:7-10) and He was. Thus, when God predicts future events such as the rapture of the church, the rise of Antichrist, the seal, trumpet and bowl judgments, the Battle of Armageddon, the return of Jesus Christ and His thousand year earthly kingdom, those events will just as certainly come to pass. God will do exactly what He says He will do..." (MacArthur, pg. 293)

## II. Remember, the New Jerusalem is a literal city

- A. The gates will never close
- B. The existence of nations (Rev. 21:24-26).
- C. The river of life (without a sea, there cannot be the usual hydrologic cycle-no rain)
- D. The tree of life-the counterpart to the tree in the garden of Eden (Gen.2:9, 3:22-24) with twelve kinds of fruit
- E. "Healing for the nations"-healing might better be translated, "life-giving" or "health giving"
- F. There will be no curse
- G. The saints will see God face to face (Matt. 5:8) and have His name on their foreheads as an indicator of whom they belong to
- H. There will be no night or light source. The Lord will illumine everyone
- I. We will reign forever and ever

### **III. Notice the Invitations**

A. The Spirit and the bride say "Come"

In response to Jesus' promise to return (vs. 7, 12, 20), the Holy Spirit and the church say: COME!

B. The second invitation is to sinners: COME!

Note that "hearing" often implies obedience: Matt. 7:24, Luke 6:47, John 5:24

C. Sinners are urged to accept this invitation:

1. Because of who Christ is: the Alpha and the Omega (the beginning and the end) vs. 13, 16
2. Because heaven is exclusively for those who have "washed their robes" in the shed blood of Jesus Christ. (vs. 14-15) Without the shedding of blood, there is no remission of sins (Heb. 9:22)
3. Because scripture tells the truth and should be heeded (vs. 18-19)
4. Because of the certainty of His return (vs. 20-21)

### **IV. The warning (vs. 18-19) Be careful to not "add" to this revelation**

### **V. So What?**

The purpose of Revelation is to reveal the glory of His son and call believers to live godly, obedient lives in light of His soon return. (MacArthur, p. 295)