

**DATE of MESSAGE:** June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016

**MESSAGE TITLE:** Real Life Begins

**SCRIPTURE:** Revelation 21-22

### **GETTING STARTED**

*The final vision of the Book of Revelation gives us a beauty of the new heaven and earth which God creates for those who have placed their faith in the finished work of the Lamb.*

### **OBSERVATION**

*Who will occupy the new Jerusalem? What or who is missing from this picture?*

*What is the significance of the names ascribed to God in verse 6?*

*What is John's first impression of the new Jerusalem in verse 11?*

*What is the size of the city? Of what is it constructed?*

*Why is there no need for a temple in the New Jerusalem?*

*What is required to become a citizen of this new Jerusalem?*

*What phrasing does Jesus repeat three times in chapter 22?*

*What is the meaning of God's final curse in verses 18-19?*

### **APPLICATION**

*Based on the reading of chapters 21 and 22, how would you advise a fellow believer to prepare for the 2<sup>nd</sup> return of Jesus? How are you personally preparing for His return?*

*Who in your life does not have a personal relationship with Jesus by faith? Take a few minutes to pray that God will do a work in that person so that he or she will enjoy the new heaven and earth for all eternity.*

*How might these final chapters of Revelation have given believers in the 1<sup>st</sup> century hope? What hope do these chapters give you today?*

*Jesus has saved us in three significant ways: He has saved us from the penalty of sin, from the power of sin and one day He will save us from the very*

*presence of sin. Revelation chapters 21 and 22 describe the fulfillment of the third meaning of salvation – salvation from the presence of sin. Think about the other two meanings of salvation. Have you experienced salvation from the penalty of sin by placing your trust in the finished work of Jesus on the cross? To what degree are you experiencing salvation from the power of sin in your life?*

*What point of teaching from Pastor Titus' message do you plan to apply to your life this week?*

## **PRAYER**

*God, we read in Revelation 21:5 that You are making all things new. We read about the new Jerusalem in this passage and marvel at the beauty of the new heaven and earth. And we realize that we don't have to wait until we get to heaven to experience the newness of your creation. You have created new life in us through the indwelling Holy Spirit. And you continue to renew the spirit of our minds to think and act like You (Eph. 4:23). Thank you, Heavenly Father, enough to give us new life by the power of your Spirit and to create a new heaven and earth for us to enjoy for all eternity.*

## **SHARE POINT**

Read Revelation 21-22 and review the application questions. Share with someone in your life how God's Word is changing you into a growing disciple. Encourage that person to do the same. That person could be a family member, a friend, a co-worker or a neighbor.

## **COMMENTARY NOTES**

The destruction of the last enemy, death and the last judgment will finally lead to the renewal of the entire created order, heaven and earth, to be the perfect home in which the Lamb will live forever with his bride, the people whom He has redeemed out of all the nations through his atoning death. Having seen Jesus' enemies destroyed, John finally sees 'a new heaven and a new earth,' the eternal home of the Lamb with his bride. After the new cosmos is described, the bride herself is introduced. Scholars differ as to whether this 'new earth' is entirely new or is the old earth transformed in a way analogous to the transformation of believers' resurrection bodies. As in the disclosure of the prostitute Babylon, an angel with one of the seven bowls helps John see the bride, the wife of the Lamb. She is the holy city Jerusalem. Some take this as a literal description of this new city; others understand it as a complex symbol for the life in heaven of the Lamb's redeemed people. As at the end of the vision of the prostitute in Revelation 19 in concluding the revelation of the bride, the angel affirms that God's words are trustworthy, pronounces one of Revelation's

seven benedictions and rebukes John for starting to worship a creature rather than God alone. This exchange also echoes the prologue: God sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place, The one who keeps the words of the prophecy is blessed, And Jesus affirms, 'I am coming soon.' John must not 'seal' his prophecy as Daniel did his, because the fulfillment of John's visions was temporally 'near' to his first-century readers, as it is to believers 20 centuries later. The assurance that, when Jesus comes soon, he will bring blessing to believers and judgment to rebels, should motivate believers to perseverance and purity. As promised in 1:1, Jesus has conveyed his revelation through his angel and through John to his churches, for their comfort and warning. Jesus bears witness that no mere human may add to or take away from God's words without incurring the plagues described in this book and forfeiting its blessings. Moses had warned against adding to or subtracting from the Lord's commands. A prophet who spoke without God's authorization deserved death. When Jesus testifies once more, 'Surely I am coming soon', his church responds, 'Come Lord Jesus!'

## **SOURCES CONSULTED**

The ESV Study Bible

Serendipity Bible for Personal and Small Group Study