

Title of Study: “The Revelation of Jesus Christ”

Theme of Revelation: The majesty and glory of the warrior lamb, King Jesus, who is coming again to rule and reign forever.

Purpose: To encourage and give hope to the persecuted church and call the church to faithful obedience.

Title: “Back to the Beginning”

Main idea: God will restore things to the way they were in the beginning!

### 6 Features

#### 1. We will regain access to the tree of life!

- vs (22:1) “pure river of water of life”
  - It is described as “clear as crystal”
  - This again is so that the glory of God radiates all of heaven.
  - This reminds us of Ezekiel’s description of the millennial temple.
  - Ezekiel 47:1-12
  - vs (9) especially points to the healing and life from it that we see in Revelation 22.
  - The similarities of the fruit and trees are striking as well.
  - This pictures eternal life.
- vs (2) “middle” can be pathway.
- vs (2) “tree of life”
  - The emphasis is not on a singular tree but the kind of tree.
  - In other words there could be a line of trees that are the tree of life.
  - vs (2) “each yielding its own fruit”
  - A variety of fruits
- vs (2) “leaves” “healing of the nations”
  - As in our last study, nations can simply mean peoples.
  - But why healing? Healing from what?
  - John MacArthur points out that the word “healing” (therapeia) can simply mean health-giving not healing a disease.
  - Our continued good health comes from the leaves. We are not told if we eat them or what.
  - If we eat this fruit and these leaves it will not be because of necessity but more for enjoyment.

### Application

- Genesis 2:9
- Genesis 3:22-24
- Man lost access to the tree of life but God will restore access in the New Jerusalem.

- We will have both eternal and abundant life.
2. We will live in an un-cursed world!
- vs (3) “no more curse”
  - Genesis 2:16-17
  - Genesis 3:14-24
  - Spiritually we have already had the curse removed as believers.
  - Galatians 3:10-14
  - Physically, our bodies and all creation groans and waits.
  - Romans 8:18-25
  - Revelation 22:3 “curse” is gone!
  - Revelation 21:4

#### Application

- Persevere now with hope!
  - We can endure with an eye on heaven!
3. We will worship our God perfectly!
- vs (3) “throne of God and of the Lamb”
    - Instead of the curse, we have the throne.
  - vs (3) “serve Him”
    - “serve” (latreuo) which means to serve through worship or worship through service.
    - We will serve God in all kinds of ways in heaven.
  - John 4:24
    - We are incapable of perfectly doing this now.
    - When we walk in the Spirit we worship in spirit and in truth.
    - But sometimes our flesh takes over and we don’t worship Him perfectly.
    - Ezekiel 40:3 he measures the temple of the millennial kingdom.
    - In some sense God has always measured off what belongs to Him (even though it all belongs to Him).

#### Application

- When we get to heaven we will worship perfectly with our singing, but also with everything we do.
  - Our heavenly body will live as a living sacrifice.
4. We will see God face to face!
- vs (4) “face to face”
    - After the fall no one could see Him face to face.
    - Exodus 33:12-20
    - Man longs to see Him face to face!
    - That will be the great highlight of heaven.

- vs (4) “name on foreheads”
  - This speaks of ownership.
  - But it also speaks of protection and security.
  - Combined with “face to face” this all points to a new level of intimacy in our relationship to God that we have never experienced.

#### Application

- Don’t you look forward to seeing God? To seeing Jesus? Face to Face?
- It is beyond imagination.

#### 5. We will never see nor desire darkness!

- vs (5) “no more night”
  - Were you ever scared of the dark as a kid?
  - Have you ever been in a cavern and they cut the lights out?
  - No more fear of literal darkness.
  - John 3:19
  - There will not be anymore darkness physically or spiritually in heaven.

#### Application

- All we will see is the radiance of the light from the glory of God.
- It will be constantly beautiful!
- No more daylight savings time needed.
- No more dark rooms to sleep in needed.
- No more lamps to read by or flashlights for a walk.

#### 6. We will reign with God forever!

- vs (5) “reign forever and ever”
  - Even in the eternal state we will have some kind of responsibilities as we exercise dominion over the new heaven and earth under His rule!

#### Application

- Even though we don’t know specifics this will be a part of our activity.
- Revelation 21:3
- Revelation 22:4
- This is the climax of Revelation! Of the Bible! Of redemption!