

# The Christian Arsenal

[www.christianarsenal.com](http://www.christianarsenal.com)

## REVELATION 21:1-22:21

Today, we come to the end of our study of the **Book of Revelation**. I hope you've enjoyed our journey through this book as much as I have.

My prayer is that God will seal the truths that we've seen in this book to our hearts so that we can draw strength from them in the days ahead.

Today, we come to the best part!! Today, we see a picture of our home...our real home! Joni Eirikson Tada wrote a book several years ago entitled, **Heaven, Your Real Home**. I highly recommend it...it is really a book of sound teaching about heaven.

Revelation 21:1...

Heaven and earth as we know them will pass away. Not only will the heaven and the earth pass away...but time as we know it will also pass away.

What we're looking at today is eternity. Let's try to put our minds in gear to focus on our **eternal heavenly home**.

So far, in the **Book of Revelation**, we've confined by time, haven't we?

First, we saw the **Church Age**...that's where we are now. There was a beginning to it and there will be an end to it, as well. It will end at the Rapture.

Then, there will come the **Tribulation Period**. There will be a beginning to it and it will end seven years later.

Then, there will come a **1,000 year period**, known as the **Millennial Reign of the Lord Jesus Christ**, and we saw that in detail last week.

What we see today has a beginning, but it has no end. Our minds have difficulty with that, don't they? So, let's try **real hard** to focus on eternity today!

Why do you think God will cause the heavens and the earth to pass away?

I believe God will do this for the purpose of purging this old world of the evil influence of Satan. Satan has had access to the heavens and the earth for so long!

**Also, this old earth has been under a curse ever since man fell, hasn't it?**

How will the heavens and the earth pass away?

**2 Peter 3:10...** "the day of the Lord will come like a thief in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up."

**21:1** also says there will be no more sea...I take this to be a **literal** statement.

What separates people groups today? The oceans...the seas...

Not only oceans and seas, but language and culture and age and class separate people. Well, one day there will be new heaven and a new earth with no separation of people.

**Verses 2-8...**

# The Christian Arsenal

[www.christianarsenal.com](http://www.christianarsenal.com)

Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people! If you'll remember a couple of Sundays ago we saw the church...the Bride of Christ...will be prepared.

And here, we see the holy city, the New Jerusalem, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband.

And, we see the *tabernacle*. What does the word *tabernacle* mean? Well, the word, *tabernacle*, is a verb and it is also a noun. As a verb, it means "to dwell," and as a noun, it means "dwelling place."

***The dwelling place of God is among men...God will "tabernacle" among us!***

**The Godhead is a Trinity...the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. All three Persons of the Godhead will be in the New Jerusalem...but I believe the only One we will see will be Jesus. Christ alone will have a physical body!**

When Jesus was resurrected He was recognizable. Folks knew who He was. He was not an apparition. He could be touched and handled. Folks could see the nail prints in His hands.

He looked human in every regard...He talked a long time with the disciples on the road to Emmaus and they never once questioned His humanity. Remember when Thomas doubted? What did Jesus do? He invited Thomas to touch his scars.

He ate real earthly food with His friends...but His body was also glorified. He could pass through solid walls. He could suddenly appear out of nowhere...

And I believe this same Jesus whom the disciples saw ascending into heaven...

and who will have come for His saints at the Rapture...

and who will have won the Battle of Armageddon with the sword that proceeded from His mouth...

will be the One we will see in physical form in heaven...(By the way, He is the One we will see during the Millennial Reign ruling with His rod of iron.)

I believe we will behold the glory of the presence of God the Father, and of God the Holy Spirit...but I believe we will behold the physical presence of the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Do we fully understand this? No, not now...but then, we will!**

**"Now we see through a glass darkly"...but one day, we will know...one day, we'll have perfect knowledge!**

There will be no more **tears**, no more **death**, no more **mourning**, no more **crying**, no more **pain...all these will pass away.**

I believe one question that always comes to mind is "Will we remember those loved ones who didn't accept Jesus?"

I don't know....but let me read you what **Isaiah 65:17** says:

"For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; and the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind."

Some theologians believe that because we will have perfect knowledge, we will also have a perfect sense of justice and a perfect sense of righteousness and we will understand all things exactly as God does.

Let me just remind you of something we've said in the past:

# The Christian Arsenal

[www.christianarsenal.com](http://www.christianarsenal.com)

When we are puzzled by questions like this, we must trust in the character of our sovereign God. Heaven will be a perfect place...a place of happiness and joy. God does all things well...

## **Verses 9-21...**

If we were to describe the most beautiful sight we've ever seen on this earth, we would all have our own opinion, wouldn't we?

Some would say the snow capped Rockies...

Some would say the waves splashing on the seashore...

Some would say Niagara Falls...

Some would say the Grand Canyon...

Some would say the glaciers and the fjords of Alaska or the icebergs of Greenland...

**Beauty really is in the eye of the beholder, isn't it?**

But no matter what magnificent sights God has allowed us to see...nothing will compare with this city that comes down...

***"Eye hath not seen and ear hath not heard, nor has it entered into the heart of man the things God has prepared for those who love Him..."***

We can't imagine the color and the brilliance of these precious stones. Now, these aren't one, two, three, four or even five carat stones, folks...These are "foundation stones"...and gates of pearl (each gate a single pearl!!!) and streets of gold!

**Well, I guess our Heavenly Father can make His city out of anything He wants to, can't He?**

**After all, who made the jasper and the sapphires, and chalcedony and the emerald and the pearl and the gold in the first place?**

By the way, according to these measurements...the New Jerusalem covers a surface of 2.25 million square miles and that's just the base of this cubed city. This city is 1500 miles in length, 1500 miles in width, 1500 miles in height.

To put this into perspective, this measurement is about the distance from the West Coast to the Mississippi River and from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico.

Well, with all that, we would assume that Heaven will have everything, but there will be a few things that Heaven won't have...

## **Verses 22-27...**

John saw no temple. WHY? Because the Lord God and the Lamb are its Temple.

What do folks do in a temple? They worship. Sometimes

today our worship isn't what it ought to be...

but in Heaven, worship will be all that God ever intended it to be. It will be pure. It will be holy. It will be free from all inhibitions.

**Worship in Heaven won't be a chore. Worship will be sheer delight. I believe everything we do...every service we perform...will be an act of worship!!**

**Paul said, "Whatsoever you do, do all to the glory of God."**

# The Christian Arsenal

[www.christianarsenal.com](http://www.christianarsenal.com)

Wouldn't it be nice if we practiced doing that down here, so that when we get to Heaven, we'd be real good at it? ☺ ☺

Well, a Temple building is not the only thing that will be missing in Heaven.

There will be no sun to light Heaven by day and no moon to light Heaven by night! Compared to the shining glory of God and the lamp of the Lamb...the sun and the moon and the stars would be like little flickering candles.

Isaiah says in **Isaiah 24:23...**

“the moon will be abashed and the sun ashamed,  
for the LORD of hosts will reign on Mount Zion  
and in Jerusalem...”

No Temple building, no sun, no moon,

There will also be no need for security in Heaven...

How many of you locked your house before you left this morning...or your car? Why did you do it?

**Verse 27 and 22:15...**

Only those who are blood bought children of God will be in Heaven. And we won't sin anymore...so there will be no sin in Heaven.

Our **hearts** will be made perfect...our **bodies** will be made perfect...our **minds** will be made perfect...

There will also be no needs in Heaven.

**Revelation 22:1-2...**

We will have heavenly water and heavenly food. We'll have the tree of life and it will bear a different fruit every month...a sort of “fruit of the month” tree! And its leaves will be for the healing of the nations.”

I read several interpretations of this this week...

“healing” – Greek “*therapeia*”; English “*therapy*.”

Somehow the leaves of this tree will enrich and be therapeutic to those who partake of them. I don't believe we will eat for substance. I believe we will eat for pleasure and enrichment. Isn't God good to give us food to enjoy?

**Verses 3-5...No more curse...**

The agony and pain of toil, sweat, thorns, disease, sorrow,  
sin, disappointment, discouragement, heartache, stress,  
loneliness...

All these will be no more! They have no place in Heaven.

**Verse 5...No more night...**

Don't our problems seem magnified at night? Things that we've coped with during the day seem so much more difficult at night...Well, in Heaven, there will be no more night!

**Verse 4...** “they (his bond-servants) shall see His face”

This speaks of unbroken fellowship with Jesus!!

# The Christian Arsenal

[www.christianarsenal.com](http://www.christianarsenal.com)

Ever since we have been saved, we have trusted in Jesus, but we've not seen him. We've prayed in His name, but we've not seen Him. We've been strengthened by Jesus, but we've not seen Him...

One day, our faith will be sight and we'll turn our eyes upon Jesus and we'll truly see His wonder face!

## **Verses 6-7...**

Well, here we see John winding down his message to us. He wants us to know that what he has written can be depended upon... "these things are faithful and true."

"shortly" doesn't mean "soon"...it means when it happens, it will happen suddenly and rapidly...

When Jesus comes, there will be no time **to regroup, to rethink, to redecide, or to relive** our lives...**to be certain we're ready when Jesus comes, we must be ready now!!**

***"Blessed is he who heeds the words of the prophecy of this book..."***

John is saying, "Blessed is he who pays attention to the prophecy of this book. We cannot heed what we do not know! It is imperative to know the prophecy of this book in order to heed it!

Don't take what I've said and heed that...I could be wrong!

Don't take what an author has written in a book and heed that...he could be wrong!

Don't even take what our pastor says and heed that...he could be wrong!

**Heed the prophecy of this book!!!**

Well, let's look at three titles Jesus calls Himself in this last chapter.

## **1) verse 13... "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."**

And, I might add, "He's everything in between."

Jesus transcends all time. He did not begin at Bethlehem and He did not end at Calvary!

## **2) verse 16... "I am the root and offspring of David"**

Jesus identified Himself all the way through His ministry on earth with the nation of Israel. He never separated Himself from His Jewish heritage.

Paul said, "I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, **to the Jew first** and also to the Greek."

## **3) verse 16... "I am the bright morning star..."**

All of God's created lights pale in comparison to the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Not only do we see three titles of Jesus, but we also see three warnings in these last verses:

### **1) Verse 11...**

God is a God of love and compassion. Scripture makes it very clear that He is not willing for any to perish, but for all to come to repentance. God has done everything to bring folks to His precious Son.

But, God says His Spirit will not not always strive with man.

God also says that a man being often reprov'd will suddenly be cut off and that without remedy.

# The Christian Arsenal

[www.christianarsenal.com](http://www.christianarsenal.com)

So, these who are “filthy and wrong” have made their choice, and they will continue “to do wrong” and they will continue “to be filthy.”

## 2) Verses 14 and 15...

There are two places to spend eternity...  
**inside** this beautiful city that we've seen today,  
or **outside** this city.

## 3) Verses 18 and 19...

The last warning concerns God's holy Word! Listen, this is God's final Word! There are no other divinely inspired books and don't let anyone tell you that there are...

Please don't take God's Word for granted. God has breathed out His holy Word to instruct us, to teach us, to correct us, to reprove us, and most importantly, to bring us to Jesus!

I love to read. I'm never bored if I can find a good book to  
Read. Over a lifetime, I've read many books...but very rarely  
Do I know the author of the books I've read.

But, Beloved, when we as believers read this book...we know we have a vital, living, personal relationship with the One who wrote it!

Don't allow your Bible to gather dust from Sunday to Sunday. If you don't have a format for reading God's Word, see me...I'll get you one...

Well, we not only see **three titles** or **pictures** of Jesus, and **three warnings** to us from this chapter, but we also see **God's last invitation**.

## Verse 17... “Come”

Someday, I want to sit down and do a word study on the word “come” as it relates to God's children.

In order to come to Jesus, we must be willing to leave where we are and go somewhere else. We must leave the world behind and come to where Jesus is!!

Was there ever a time in your life that you know was the  
time that you realized you were a sinner and you knew you  
must come to Jesus? Was there ever a time when you  
realized you had a hunger and thirst that the world could  
not satisfy?

We see the last invitation is for folks to “come”...but who issues the invitation?

“**the Spirit**” – “No man comes to the Father unless the Spirit draws him.”

“**the church**” – that's you and me, if we're His bride...

Are you sharing Jesus with others? When was the last time you shared with someone what Jesus has done in your life? Are you inviting folks to come to Jesus?

If you're not witnessing to others, you're missing a blessing  
and more importantly, you're being disobedient to  
Jesus...

Remember, evangelism is simply one beggar telling another beggar where to get bread.

# The Christian Arsenal

[www.christianarsenal.com](http://www.christianarsenal.com)

I know we've had to rush through this and I wish we had had more time. A thousand questions remain unanswered. Entire volumes have been written on this subject that we've tried to cover in the past 40 to 45 minutes.

I just want to say a couple more things and then we'll be through.

**The older we get, the longer we live, the more precious Heaven becomes to us, doesn't it?**

**We long to see our Savior face to face!**

**We long for the peace and the purity and the pleasure and the permanence of Heaven, don't we?**

**We also long to see those who have gone before!**

I would say that most of us in this room have one or both parents already there. Some of you have an **immediate family member** who has already gone to be with Jesus.

Some have **children** there...Gloria and I have a son there. He died when he was only four days old. Will he still be a baby? I don't know. I've often wondered.

Some of us have **brothers and sisters** there.

All of us have **friends and family** there and the more loved ones we have in Heaven, the more precious Heaven becomes, doesn't it?

Do you long for Heaven?

The story is told of a little girl who was spending the night away from home for the first time. She was having such a good time with her little friend, until time to go to bed. Then, she got real quiet and her little friend's mother said, "Susie, are you homesick?" And Susie said, "No, I'm 'heresick'."

Can you relate to that? Do you ever get "heresick"? Do you ever get sick of being here and you long to go there?

One more thing...

**The more we suffer here, the more we long for Heaven!**

Suffering can be physical, but it isn't always, is it? Sometimes our suffering is mental, emotional or even spiritual.

Paul said, "I consider that the sufferings of this present time are are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us."

Peter said, "Rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when His glory is revealed."

In Heaven, there will be no more suffering!

Doesn't this make you long for Heaven! Don't you want to see it? Don't you want to take in its beauty? Don't you want to find out what service we'll be doing there?

Don't you want to say with John, "Come, Lord Jesus..."

Jesus is coming and He is coming quickly and I believe He is coming soon!

**My prayer is that each of us is ready now for Him to come, and that we are also inviting others to come to know our precious Savior.**