

Revelation 21:22-27

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[0 : 00] Good evening. Good evening. It's been the New Testament this evening.! It's a neglected book by preachers.

And I'm going to use this calendar to weigh mine down. Missy got me this Bible a while back, but I actually just started using it about a month ago. So Genesis and Revelation have a hard time laying flat, laying open.

But anyway, Revelation, unfortunately, a lot of times when a new convert, when someone is born again, they get their Bible and that's the first place they want to turn to.

And that's not advisable at all. In fact, if you don't have a decent understanding of the Old Testament, I wouldn't recommend you read the book of Revelation.

Not that I'm trying to steer you away from the Word of God, but there's over 800 allusions to the Old Testament in the book of Revelation. I can't remember what commentator it was.

[1 : 26] I was reading one time, though. He said there were 404 verses in the book of Revelation and just over 800 allusions. So if you figure that mathematically, that's a two to one ratio.

Each verse, that would average to each verse having two allusions to the Old Testament. So if you don't understand the Old Testament, I don't recommend you get into the book of Revelation.

I don't say neglected. I don't say go your entire Christian walk without reading it. But as far as studying it goes, we need to have a good understanding of the Old Testament Scriptures.

Y'all have heard me enough by now. Now you know I like to give a run-up to where we're going to be preaching from. We'll be preaching the last few verses of this chapter here in just a moment. But as far as the book of Revelation goes, I mean, Revelation 1, John's already seen Christ in all His glory. He's already seen Christ walking through the candlesticks.

[2 : 27] You know, the letters to the churches in Revelation 2 and 3, they've already been written. We've already seen the throne room of God. We've seen the throne of God.

Folks, the seven seals have been opened. The seven trumpets have been blown. The seven vials have been poured out. The wrath of God has come down upon mankind. The men have been saddened because Babylon has fell.

I preached a sermon on that a couple of years ago. But all these things have happened in Revelation. Revelation 20, we see our enemy.

We see the accuser of the brethren. We see Satan himself thrown into the lake of fire along with everyone whose name was not written in the Lamb's book of life.

We find that in Revelation 20. So in Revelation 21, John says he sees a new heaven and a new earth. And the new Jerusalem descending down out of the heavens.

[3 : 29] This is the beginning of Revelation 21. Then we see all these things. And this is where John says in Revelation 21, where he says there's not going to be any crying there.

There's not going to be any death. There's not going to be any sorrow. These things that we hear repeated many times in funeral services and the like. And then we see some measurements given of that city.

The city of New Jerusalem. We see all these things. We read about the Jasper walls. We read about the twelve foundations. We read about the apostles' names being written on all those.

And all those are all great and fine and well. And I'm not trying to discount those. I'm just saying we're not going to be going through all that tonight. But we need to keep all that in mind in Revelation 21 as we're reading through these final few verses here.

The book of Revelation is very fascinating. And there is a lot of prophecy in there. And a lot of preachers are afraid of the book of Revelation because of the prophecies that are found in there.

[4 : 36] And there's a lot of confusion that surrounds it. But folks, if you read the book of Revelation as literally as you can. Now, granted, there's some symbolism in there. Just like there is throughout the rest of Scripture.

There's symbolism everywhere. But if you read it as literally as you can, it helps it to make a whole lot better sense. If you're reading it literally.

So, all that being said, Revelation 21, beginning at verse 22. It says, Back to verse 22.

And I saw no temple therein, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. So, John, again, if we start back at the beginning of chapter 21, we see this new Jerusalem coming down.

Folks, we can refer to this as heaven if we want to, but this is referred to as a city, the city of new Jerusalem. What we need to remember here is God has made a promise in His Word that the entire earth was going to be consumed.

[6 : 29] It's going to be consumed. It's going to be consumed in fire one of these days. Peter describes it. It says that the very elements are going to melt with a fervent heat.

So, the earth is going to be destroyed. Why is the earth going to be destroyed? Why is everything only going to be destroyed? Because the earth is under the same curse that you and I are.

If it's under a curse, it needs to be destroyed so that it can be made new again. This new Jerusalem that is descending from above. This new Jerusalem is the city that you and I will live in if we are born again.

To all those that have been washed clean in the blood of Jesus Christ, all of those that have repented of their sins, all of those that have called upon the name of the Lord in the need of salvation, all of those which are saved.

This is the city that we are promised to live in. But folks, this would have been a foreign notion to John being a Jew. This would have been a foreign notion to any Jew that was reading this.

[7 : 30] The temple was the place where God was met. The temple was the place where God dwelt in the wilderness, in the Old Testament. He dwelt in the tabernacle.

He dwelt in a tent. And this thing was carried around with them. In the wilderness. But God still abode with His people in the tabernacle.

Later on, in Solomon's temple, God abode in the temple. Later on, in Herod's temple, He abode in the same place. This is the place where the people saw their meeting place with God.

This is the place where they went to where the priests were mediating with God, between God and the people. So the thought of there being no temple in this city, this was a foreign thing to any Jew that would have been reading this scripture.

And folks, this shows that it is a different thing than what we are reading about previously in the book of Revelation. But because you read about a temple in the heaven that is there, a temple that is open in the heaven.

[8 : 34] But here, John says, in the New Jerusalem, there is no temple. Not only is there a temple in the heaven previously, in the book of Revelation, you read about it in Revelation 11.

You read about it in Revelation 14. You read about it in Revelation 16. But you also read about an altar. And folks, if there is no temple in the New Jerusalem, there is no altar in the New Jerusalem either.

What does this mean? This means there is no need for that temple. There is no need for that altar for God and His cross. Jesus, or the temple, thereof.

Hallelujah! We are going to dwell with God, are we not, folks? You think about this. You think about this. The tabernacle which they carried around in the wilderness with them.

It had to be cleansed continually. It had to be cleaned over and over and over. The temple and the altars and all these other things. Solomon's temple, later on, Herod's temple.

[9 : 35] They had to be cleaned continuously, repetitively. But folks, we are talking about a city here that will have no defilement. It will have no impurity. It will have no sin.

The devil's already been cast into his forever home in the lake of fire. There will be no need for a temple, no need for an altar because there is no defilement that will come to this city.

And that's the place that I'm going to. That's the place that every child of God has promised to go to is the city that we call New Jerusalem here in the Bible in the book of Revelation.

I saw no temple therein for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of the temple. I've already mentioned the tabernacle. I've already mentioned the temple. But you go on to the New Testament.

Are we not the temple of the living God? Does Paul not write this very thing to the church of Corinth? Know ye not that ye are the temple of God.

[10:36] We are the temple of God. But folks, we will be there with the temple in this city of New Jerusalem. He will not be dwelling inside of us at this point, but we will be there in full glorification that we can look upon His face, that we can worship Him without hinders.

Hallelujah! Amen! Hallelujah! There's no need for a temple there. There is no temple there. But again, you read about a temple in heaven. But this is the New Jerusalem that John saw descending from above.

Verse 23, And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.

I appreciate this verse and I'll tell you why. I'll tell you why. On a humorous note, and the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon. Let me tell you something, the sun and bald heads don't get along very well.

When I got saved, and I run across this verse, I said, Hallelujah! Because I was bald when I got saved. I said, there ain't going to be no sun there. And you know what?

[11:47] If there's no sun there, there won't be any need for me to wear a hat, for me to wear a covering, or anything along those lines. If there's no sun there, there's no danger of me getting scorched.

Hallelujah! But on a more serious note, and the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon to shine in it. Neither of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.

Folks, there's not a whole lot of exposition here that is needed. We are talking about the intrinsic glory of God. That is the very light of that city. This city is not just living by God.

It is living with God. God Himself is the light, and His Christ is the light of this city. There will be no need of the sun there, no need of the moon.

Don't you notice the wording here? If you notice the wording, John doesn't say the sun and moon will be destroyed. He just says there's no need of them there.

[12:46] Folks, the Bible declares, and the psalmist said, the heavens declare the glory of God. And it's the sun and the moon and the stars. Everything that we know out there, if it is declaring the glory of God, I don't see God destroying those things.

But what I do read here is that there is no need of these things here, folks. The glory of Almighty God and the glory of Jesus Christ are the light of this city.

We read in the Scriptures in Psalm 119, Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. When you think about life, hey folks, we think about, we need a way to see we need something to go by.

We needed God to open up our eyes before we were saved because we were all spiritually blind at that point. But when God opened those eyes and He let the Spirit, and He allowed the Spirit to open our eyes and show us His glorious light, hey, it was a whole new world for you and I.

It was a whole new understanding for you and I. And it was a whole new joy for us. Hallelujah.

Hallelujah. And folks, if you don't have any joy in Jesus here, you ain't going to have any joy there in Jesus.

[13:59] If you don't have joy in that light here, in the light of Jesus Christ, in Him was light and that light was the life of men, according to John 1, if you have no joy, if you have no use for that light here, there'll be no use for it there.

And chances are you ain't going to be there anyway if you continue on with that mindset. You'll be back over in Revelation 20. Right. Revelation 20 where it says that everyone whose name was not found written in the book of life, they were cast into the lake of fire.

They were cast there with death and with hell. Both of those were cast into the fire. The Satan, the accuser of the brethren, Satan and the accuser of the brethren, he was cast into the lake of fire.

And folks, I realize we ain't supposed to hate anybody. We're supposed to love everybody. But I'll tell you right now, I hate Satan with a passion. I hate him. I can't wait for the day that he gets what he deserves.

I cannot say that about one human being that walks this planet. I've been wronged by people just like you all have been wronged by people in your lives, but I don't wish for any of them to go to that awful place. I hope and I pray that every one of them gets saved.

[15 : 11] I hope and I pray that I get to walk with them on the street of gold. I hope and I pray that we get to worship Jesus, that we get to cast our crowns together at the feet of Jesus. I hope and I pray that everyone that has ever done me wrong, everyone that has ever crossed me, talked about me, talked about my family, or anyone else, I hope they all get saved.

Amen. And if I don't have that attitude, if I don't have a heart for the lost, it's because I'm lost myself. If you don't have a heart for the lost, it's because you're lost yourself. Every one of us need that attitude.

That city had no need, and the city had no need of the sun, neither the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light. The light of Almighty God is the light of that city, and Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is the light of that city.

Verse 24, And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it, and the kings of the earth who bring their glory and honor into it.

The nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it. In the light of what? In the light of the sea. The nations of them which are saved. Folks, this tells me that our culture is not destroyed along with the earth.

[16 : 24] This tells me that our culture and our diversity are not done away with. Now, I'm not saying that there's going to be this group and that group, and there's going to be little niches here, and little niches there, and little sub-circles here, and there, and inner circles there, and heaven.

I'm not saying that at all, but folks, when the Bible tells me that the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it, that tells me there is still a distinction between the nations in that city.

There is still a distinction between the nations in that country that we are going to. And it says here they shall walk in the light of it, and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honor into it.

Folks, we're not talking about as far as the kings of the earth go. We're not talking about things that can cause pride. We're not talking about things that can cause a haughty attitude or a haughty spirit, but anything that is fruit that exalts Jesus Christ, the good things of Jesus Christ, the good things that He has blessed the kings of the earth with, the good things that He has blessed the nations of the earth with, these things will also be brought into consideration.

What does that tell me? What we do here counts in eternity. Everything we do here, if it is done to the glory of God, if it is done to the glory of Jesus Christ, done to the glory of the kingdom that He has promised to come, and has done in honor of the Word of God, everything that we do counts for eternity up there.

[17 : 59] Everything that we do. So folks, whatever you do, just like Paul wrote, just like Brother Paul wrote, whether you eat or whether you drink, do it all to the glory of God. Everything that you do, do it to the glory of God.

Eating, drinking, worshiping, everything that you do, do it to the glory of God. Don't do it for a hand pack from your brother or sister in Christ.

Don't do it for a handshake. Don't do it for recognition. You do it for recognition of God. You do it for recognition of His Word. You do it in honor of His Word and in honor of everything that He has promised.

Everything that we do for Christ, this side of eternity counts for the other side of eternity. Hallelujah. And for the glory, or I'm sorry, wrong verse, and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honor into it and the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day for there shall be no night there.

Folks, in the ancient times, even in John's time here, this is something else that was just crazy to think about. This was unheard of that the gates of any city would be open whether, especially at night time, the gates of every city were closed.

[19 : 17] Why was that? To keep the thieves out, to keep the robbers out, to keep anyone with malicious intent out, to keep invading armies out. The gates of the city were closed. But folks, I tell you now, I've already said it a couple of times since I've been up here this evening, but folks, we have no enemies by this point in the scripture.

Our final enemy, death, and Satan himself, have both been cast into the lake of fire. I'll tell you why the gates of this city remain open. These gates are not a barrier.

These gates are not to keep anything. But folks, this is a picture of the eternal security that we have in Jesus Christ. This is a picture of the safety that he purchased with his own blood.

Hallelujah. Amen. That's exactly what this is on. I believe those gates are real. And bless God, the Bible says they're going to remain open and I believe that they're going to remain open. But it's not

to keep enemies out.

There will be no danger of any enemy ever entering into that city. There will be no danger of any sin entering into that city. There will be no danger of any defilement or any impurity entering into that city as a place of sinless perfection meant for God and those that are purchased by the blood of His precious Son, Jesus Christ.

[20 : 36] Hallelujah. Verse 26. And they shall bring the glory and honor of the nations into it. So, if we go back to verse 24 and we read through verse 26, we see that all these go together.

Verse 26 alludes back to verse 24 because it's talking about the kings and their honor are coming in to the city of New Jerusalem.

And they bring in verse 26, and they shall bring the glory and honor of the nations into it. So not only the kings and their honor being brought into it, but everything to do with the nations, anything good, anything pure, anything that was done for Christ, nothing that is going to be impure and nothing that was done in vainglory.

And everything that was done for Christ will be part of this new Jerusalem. Folks, I don't know how you all believe it, but over in Revelation chapter 4, we have a picture of the 24 elders and they're there around the throne and it says they cast their crowns at the throne of He that sat upon the throne.

If you believe like I do that those 24 elders are representative of all the nations, all the kindreds, and all the tongues of planet earth, and folks, that's you and that's me.

[21 : 58] We will all be casting our crowns at that. If they were representative of that, and that's how I read that, that's how I understand that, then that is representative of you and I doing the same thing.

But folks, here in Revelation 21 and 26, it says, and they shall bring the glory and honor of the nations into it. Why is that? Folks, you all have heard me say it before, all glory belongs to God. The Bible says that. The Bible teaches that. It's all His. We might get a little taste of some glory down here, but folks, if we don't give it up to God, I promise you, it will stay right here and it will be burned up in that bourbon heat that Peter talks about that I mentioned earlier.

But if we receive glory and we give that glory unto God, when we get to heaven with that glory, it will be given to God who is the one who gave it to begin with.

It's His all alone. It's His anyway. We might as well give it to Him while we are here on this side because He's going to get it one way or the other on the other side. Hallelujah.

[23 : 00] It's all His and He is deserving of it. Is He not worthy of all the glory? Is He not worthy of all the honor? Folks, He saved our soul from hell. He saved us. Folks, my name is written in this book of life that I'm talking about here in this book of life that is mentioned in the last verse here.

It's mentioned also in Revelation chapter 20. My name is written there. Hallelujah. And there is no devil. There is no demon. There is no man, woman, boy or girl.

There is nothing that can do anything about that. Amen. Hallelujah. It's there. It's there. The books were opened, the Bible says.

The books were opened and another book was opened. The book of life. And my name is there.

Y'all ever heard that old hymn? I know, I know, I know, I know, my name is there.

I know, I know, my name is written there. Hallelujah. I know it beyond the shadow of a doubt.

[24 : 04] I can tell you when it happened. I can tell you how it happened. I can tell you who did it for me. And it wasn't me. My name is written there. I'm going to this city that we're talking about.

Can you imagine it, folks? I mean, you look at the region that we're in right now. Every street corner has got a church. Some of them has got two. I'm going to name you a half a dozen places in Johnson City right now where there's literally a church right here and one right across the street from it.

Two different denominations. I can also tell you where there's a church of God and a Pentecostal church next door to each other. We've got churches everywhere. We're going to a city, folks.

There will be no church. There will be no temple. There will be nothing like that. For God is the temple. And Christ is the temple. And everything there is Christ-seared.

Everything there is Christ-saturated. Everything there is about Jesus Christ. And we will forever worship Him in spirit and in truth.

[25 : 06] That will be our whole... The whole reason for us being there is to worship Christ. is to worship Christ. And I've heard people say, I've heard professing Christians, and I say professing for

a reason, I've heard professing Christians say, sounds like it will be a boring time there.

My goodness, this sounds like the greatest time that I could ever think of, that I could ever dream of in this life to me, to be there with Jesus Christ, the One who gave Himself for me, the One who loved me, the One who died for me.

I could spend all of eternity with Him. What could possibly be boring about that? And as the Queen of Sheba told Solomon, the half has not been told.

Folks, we have very few descriptions of heaven in our Bible. Very few descriptions. In fact, here in Revelation 21, that's probably the most descriptive passage that we have.

You can go over to Ezekiel, Ezekiel 40-48, and you can read some other things. You can also read about some things in Isaiah. In fact, Isaiah 60, you can read almost this very account that we're reading here in Revelation 21.

[26 : 16] You can read some things about heaven. You can read some things about New Jerusalem. But we know very little about it. In fact, we know more about hell than we do heaven as per the scriptural account. And there's a reason for that.

We're about to get to that, folks. I don't like to preach without presenting the Gospel. And the Gospel is in verse 27 here. The Gospel message is in verse 27 of Revelation 21.

And there shall in no wise enter into it anything that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie, but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Folks, this is the Gospel message. We've read about a city. I've preached about a city. We've heard about this city. Not just tonight, but multiple times in our Christian walk.

We have heard, heard and read and heard preached about and heard taught about this city. But who goes? Who goes to that city? The Bible tells us here, not those that worketh abominations.

[27 : 17] Now, people will say, well, preacher, we all say, and I've heard you say that. We do. We do. But to worketh abominations, that's perfect tense.

Worketh. That's perfect. That means you're continually doing it. You're continually doing it because that's all you know to do. That's all you know to do as an unregenerate heathen.

I'll call you exactly what the Bible would call you. That's all you know to do is to worketh abomination and maketh a lie. Again, maketh. That's perfect tense.

Constantly lying. We're not just talking about little white lies here, though. I mean, you read it in the context of the book of Revelation. You read it in the proper context. Now listen, white lies are bad too.

Don't you get me wrong when I say that. But I heard Brother Mike say just this morning somebody's 198 years old. Was that a white lie? Does he need to repent for that?

[28 : 15] I wouldn't think so. I think God's got a sense of humor too. But, what we're talking about in the context of the book of Revelation, if you flip back just a couple of chapters in Revelation, you'll read about these people that give in to false teaching.

They give in to idolatry. They give in to all these things. And they mourned over the fall of Babylon. They mourned over that city. Although that Babylon stood against everything that God was for. It was in complete anarchy against the government of God. Against the Word of God. Against anything that was godly. Godly. Babylon stood against it. You read about it in the letters to the churches in Revelation 2 and 3.

You read about idolatry. You read about false teaching. You read about all these things and these people giving themselves over to it and into it. These people accepting these things.

Not only are they liars by nature, but they accept lies that are told to them. How do we do that?

Church, how do we do that? By not knowing what the Word of God says.

[29 : 20] By not knowing and taking heed to the Word of God. And there shall in no wise enter into it anything that defileth neither whatsoever worketh abomination or maketh a lie. We cannot be defilers of ourselves or of other men or women.

And we cannot work abominations and we cannot be liars. But folks, this is not an exhaustive list. At all. This is not exhaustive at all. But what we're talking about here is people who were never born again.

Not only that, but folks, we're also talking about the devil himself. Did Jesus not say that he is the father of lies? Does the Word of God not tell us that?

That he is the father of lies? So if we're accepting lies and we're telling lies, we're doing what the devil wants us to do. And anybody that does what the devil wants them to do are of their father, the

devil.

They're of their father, the devil. Folks, we're all owned by God. Amen. As far as creation goes, we belong to Him. But I preached here not too awful long ago that there's another ownership.

[30 : 31] There's another ownership as far as salvation goes where we belong to God. Where the born again believers, where those that have been washed in the blood of Jesus Christ, where those belong to Him.

People will look at this Scripture, not only this Scripture, but other Scriptures that talk about the destruction that Almighty God has pronounced, that Almighty God has accomplished on this earth. They look at Noah's flood. They look at Solomon Gomorrah. They look at the last days accounts here. They look at the 21 judgments that I mentioned in the introduction to this sermon tonight. They look at all those things. They say, how can a loving God do that? I'll tell you why. Because that loving God is also just. And everything that He does is just. Everything that He does is righteous. And He cannot and He will not tolerate sin. Jesus Christ took the punishment for sin upon Himself. Jesus Christ took the very wrath of Almighty God upon Himself that you and I may not ever know what the true wrath of God feels like.

[31 : 34] Hallelujah. Hallelujah. And I won't. The question is, where are you at? Where are you at in this? And there shall in no wise enter into it anything that defileth neither whatsoever worketh abomination or maketh a lie.

But they which are written in the Lamb's book of life. Folks, I want you to notice here. This is not the church's book of life. It is no denomination's book of life. It is no doctrine's book of life.

It is no particular theology's book of life. It is Jesus Christ's book of life. It is the Lamb's book of life. It is His book of life. And if your name is not there, you will suffer through all of eternity in a place called Him.

Amen. That's not my interpretation of what the Bible says. It's what the Bible teaches. Right. The Bible teaches all those that have rejected Christ, all those that have rejected the Gospel, all those that worketh abomination, all those which are defiled, all those which maketh a lie, amongst other things, they will be found in the lake of fire.

Father, the folks, those that are found in the book of life, in the Lamb's book of life, we are the ones that will live in this city.

[32 : 47] We are the ones that will partake in this city. We are the ones that are going to be there. And we will see that there is no temple. We will see that there is no temple. We will see no sun. We will see no moon there.

We will see no light other than the glorious light of God the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ. We are the ones that are going to be able to witness these things.

And my prayer is that if you're here and you're one of these that the Bible talks about here, you're one of these that defiles, you're one of these that works abomination, you're one of these that makes a lie, you're one of these that have not repented and have not trusted Jesus Christ.

Folks, my prayer is that you turn to Christ. You come unto Christ. You look unto Christ and live. That you look unto Christ and seeing your need for Him. Seeing your need for the salvation that only He offers and that you can only have in Him.

My prayer is that you find Him and that you repent of your ways. That you call upon the name of the Lord. And the Bible says, if you do these things, thou shalt be saved. I don't want to think of anyone in that lake of fire.

[33 : 55] I know there's some going there. The Bible makes that plain. The Bible makes that plain. But folks, you don't have to go. Jesus Christ made a way that you can be saved.

And that way is through Him and through the perfect plan of Almighty God. God bless you all. That's my message for this evening. I appreciate your attention.