



Sunday School Lesson (Zoom)
August 21, 2022

Facilitator(s): Bro/Deacon Ron Cooper

Background: Gave Life to Christ Jun 30, 1982, on Island of Guam/Followed Wife Janice(June 27).

Ice Breaker Credentials: BA (Born Again), COG (Child-of-God), DD (Disturb the Devil), PHD (Past Having Doubt), POP (Product of Prayer), LRFJ (Lightening Rod for Jesus), CTTPS (Connected to the Power Source), BTAF (Been through a fire), and WIP” (Work-in-Progress)! ☺

CHURCH THEME 2022: We are Stronger Together (Eccl 4:9-11)

SUNDAY SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT: To make disciples and lead them to live and serve under the Lordship of Christ by teaching God’s Word, building relationships based on love, and encouraging service in ministry.

Song(s): Don’t Wait Til the Battle is Over, Shout Now – Hawkins Family/We Shall Behold Him – Karen Clark

Quarter/Theme: Partners in a New Creation

Unit 3: The Great Hope of the Saints – To help learners envision the new home and city God has prepared for the Redeemed!

Lesson: River of Life (Rev 22:1-7)

Sub-Title: ??

Prequel 1: A New Home (Rev 21:1-8) August 7, 2022 - Rev Gillis Taylor

Prequel 2: A New City (Rev 21:9-27) August 14, 2022 - Rev Gillis Taylor

Sequel: Come and Enjoy (Rev 22:8-21) August 28, 2022 - Rev Cynthia Ball

Who: Apostle John (Referred to as John the Elder)/God, Jesus, and Holy Spirit

What: John’s Divine Vision for the Seven Church’s in Asia and Believers everywhere!!

When: A.D. 95

Where: The Isle of Patmos

Why: To REVEAL the full identification of Christ and to give warning to unbelievers and HOPE to Believers!!

Lesson Outline/Outline At-A-Glance:

1. God’s Glorious People (Rev 22:1-2)
2. God’s Glorious Presence (Rev 22:3-5)
3. God’s Glorious Promise (Rev 22:6-7)

Goal: To perfect (mature) and **edify** the Saints through the WORD (Eph 4:12)

Facts/Liberating Lesson: To know that the human race continues to encounter injustice, oppression, and misery. To be reminded that hope for a paradise on this earth is a misguided hope.

Principle: To learn about God’s redemptive plan for Heaven and earth. And appreciate the Book of Revelation and the ultimate Promise of God!!

Application/Application for Activation(Take-a-Way): To take time each day to intentionally rejoice and give thanks for the Glory that awaits you in God’s Presence!

FACTS/TRIVIA:

- Revelation is written in “apocalyptic” form—a type of Jewish literature that uses symbolic imagery to communicate hope (in the ultimate triumph of God) to those in the midst of persecution. The events are ordered according to literary, rather than strictly chronological, patterns.
- In the Book of Revelation, the designation “Lamb” occurs many times in symbolic reference to Christ and unites the two ideas of **redemption** and kingship!
- Most scholars believe that the seven churches of Asia to whom John writes were experiencing the persecution that took place under Emperor Domitian (A.D. 90–95). It seems that the Roman authorities had exiled John to the island of Patmos (off the coast of Asia). John, who had been an eyewitness of the incarnate Christ, had a vision of the glorified Christ. God also revealed to John what would take place in the future—judgment and the ultimate triumph of God over evil.
- New Jerusalem is 1.9 million Sq miles. India is 1.4 million sq miles with 1.4 billion people!! 😊
- The Old Testament is the New Testament Concealed. The New Testament is the Old Testament **REVEALED!!**

VOCABULARY:

- Redemption- Deliverance upon payment of ransom; rescue.
- BIBLE – **B**attle **I**nstructions **B**efore **L**eaving **E**arth

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE:

- Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; **But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.** (I Peter 1:18-19)
- “The Lord God made all sorts of trees grow up from the ground—trees that were beautiful and that produced delicious fruit. In the middle of the garden, he placed the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.” (Genesis 2:9 NLT)
- “Fruit trees of all kinds will grow along both sides of the river. The leaves of these trees will never turn brown and fall, and there will always be fruit on their branches. There will be a new crop every month, for they are watered by the river flowing from the Temple. The fruit will be for food and the leaves for healing.” (Ezekiel 47:12 NLT)

Pre-Test Question(s): N/A

ROLE PLAY/READERS: N/A

OPENING QUESTION(S) for THOUGHT:

What is the thing you most look forward to in God’s new Heaven and new Earth?

LESSON INTRODUCTION/IN FOCUS: Story of Ms Cattie, 95-year-old and the challenges and Blessings of aging. “And she was ready!” 🙏. Are YOU ready!!

GOLDEN TEXT/KEEP IN MIND: Then the angel showed me a river with the water of life, clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb. (Rev 22:1)

LESSON SCRIPTURE:

Rev 22:1-7 (New King James Version)

1. And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb.
2. In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.
3. And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him.
4. They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads.
5. There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.
6. Then he said to me, "These words are faithful and true." And the Lord God of the holy prophets sent His angel to show His servants the things which must shortly take place. "
7. **Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.**

Rev 22:1-7 (New Living Translation)

1. Then the angel showed me a river with the water of life, clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb.
2. It flowed down the center of the main street. On each side of the river grew a tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, with a fresh crop each month. The leaves were used for medicine to heal the nations.
3. No longer will there be a curse upon anything. For the throne of God and of the Lamb will be there, and his servants will worship him.
4. And they will see His face, and his name will be written on their foreheads.
5. And there will be no night there—no need for lamps or sun—for the Lord God will shine on them. And they will reign forever and ever.
6. Then the angel said to me, "Everything you have heard and seen is trustworthy and true. The Lord God, who inspires his prophets, has sent his angel to tell his servants what will happen soon.
7. **Look, I am coming soon! Blessed are those who obey the words of prophecy written in this book.**

Verse-by-Verse Commentary/Discussion:

God's Glorious People (Rev 1-2)

Verse 22:1 - *And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb.*

Commentary: *"A pure river of water of life:"* Throughout the Old Testament, prophets used the picture of a river as a powerful expression of richness, provision, and peace (Isaiah 48:18, Zechariah 14:8, Ezekiel 47:1-9). As expressed by the Psalmist in Psalm 46:4-5: *There is a river whose streams shall make glad the city of God, the Holy place of the tabernacle of the Most High. God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved; God shall help her, just at the break of dawn.* The water of life is a symbol of eternal life. Jesus used this same image with the Samaritan woman (John 4:7-14). It pictures the fullness of life with God and the eternal blessings that come when we believe in him and allow him to satisfy our spiritual thirst (see Rev 22:17).

b. "Clear as crystal:" God's provision in the New Jerusalem is described with pure, absolutely unpolluted waters. "Its waters are literal waters, of a nature and quality answering to that of the golden city to which they belong. Man on earth never knew such waters, as men on earth never knew such a city; but the city is a sublime reality."

c. "From the throne of God and of the Lamb:" This river of provision comes right from God's throne. Because it comes from God, it cannot be anything other than pure and abundant.

i. Ezekiel saw a glorious river (Ezekiel 47) flow down from the temple in Jerusalem and into the sea, but that river belongs to the millennial earth. It is perhaps the final preview of this heavenly river. This is a better river with better trees.

Verse 22:2 (The Tree of Life.) - *In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.*

Commentary:

a. "In the middle of its streets, and on either side, was the Tree of Life:" This tree of life is like the tree of life in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 2:9). After Adam and Eve sinned, they were forbidden to eat from the Tree of Life because they could not have eternal life as long as they were under sin's control. But because of the forgiveness of sin through the blood of Jesus, there will be no evil or sin in this city. We will be able to eat freely from the tree of life when sin's control over us is destroyed and our eternity with God is secure. Now we see the tree of life again. Seeing the tree of life again points to a restoration of all things. The visual picture presented is that the river of life flows down through the middle of the city.

b. "which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month:" From all indications, this describes the world of the new heaven and the new earth, yet we are given a *time indicator*. Apparently, heaven will still mark time, but not be subject to it in the same way we are on this side of eternity.

c. "The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations:"

Why would the nations need to be healed if all evil is gone? John is quoting from Ezekiel 47:12, where water flowing from the temple produces trees with healing leaves. He is not implying that there will be illness in the new earth; he is emphasizing that the water of life produces health and strength wherever it goes.

God's Glorious Presence (22:3-5)

Verse 22:3 - *And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.*

Commentary:

- a. ***“And there shall be no more curse:”*** Means that nothing accursed will be in God's presence. This fulfills Zechariah's prophecy (see Zechariah 14:11). In heaven, the curse is gone. Since the fall, man and creation have lived with the effect of the curse described in Genesis 3:16-19: sorrow and pain in childbirth for women, friction between the sexes, the necessity of hard and often futile work for man's sustenance, and most of all *death*. In the new heaven and new earth, they instead of the curse, the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it. That's quite an exchange!!
- b. ***“His servants shall serve Him:”*** Heaven will be a place of work and service for God's people. However, this is a picture of the pure blessedness of service rather than arduous, curse-stained toil.
- c. ***“They shall see His face:”*** Heaven will be a place where God's people see His face, a place of intimate, face to face fellowship with God. Moses was denied the privilege of seeing God face to face (Exodus 33:20-23), but everyone in heaven shall see His face.
 - i. They shall see His face: “By which I understand two things: first, that they shall literally and physically, with their risen bodies, actually look into the face of Jesus; and secondly, that spiritually their mental faculties shall be enlarged, so that they shall be enabled to look into the very heart, and soul, and character of Christ, so as to understand Him, His work, His love, His all in all, as they never understood Him before.” (Spurgeon)
 - ii. Because of Jesus, we can know something of the face of God right now: *For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ* (2 Corinthians 4:6).
- d. ***“His name shall be on their foreheads:”*** Heaven will be a place where God's people will forever be identified with their God, and there will never be any doubt that they belong to Him.
- e. ***“There shall be no more night there:”*** Heaven will be a place where the darkness of this age will be forever gone. The light is not artificial, even from the sun – God Himself is the light.
- f. ***“they shall reign forever and ever:”*** Heaven will be a place where God's people enjoy an eternal reign, in contrast to the limited duration of the Millennium. It will never end. As the Bible opens with the story of ‘Paradise Lost,’ so *it here closes with the story of ‘Paradise Regained.*

God's Glorious Promise (22:6-7)

Verse 22:6-7 - *Then he said to me, “These words are faithful and true.” And the Lord God of the holy prophets sent His angel to show His servants the things which must shortly take place. **“Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.”***

Commentary:

- a. ***“Then he said to me:”*** In these last few verses of the Book of Revelation, we hear parting words from a variety of persons. It isn't always easy to know who is speaking, but the themes make sense no matter who speaks: verification, invitation, and warning.
- b. ***“These words are faithful and true:”*** The angel that showed John all this reminds John that it isn't too good to be true. John is assured that it is in fact faithful and true.
- c. ***“The things which must shortly take place” ... Behold I am coming quickly”!*** As John reminds us of the suddenness of these events, *Jesus Himself breaks in with a reminder to all* that He is coming quickly. Why does it seem that it has been so long? Was Jesus wrong here? The word quickly in the ancient Greek isn't exactly the same as our word for “quickly.” “The word ‘quickly’ might with accuracy be rendered ‘suddenly.’”

Still, the early church expected Jesus' return *soon* – were they just wrong, or did Jesus mislead them? Not at all, they were not wrong, and they were not misled by Jesus. *God wants to keep all generations expectant, watching, and ready for His return.*

We are not rushing towards a distant brink of the consummation of all things; we are running parallel along the edge of that brink and have been since the time of the apostles. “Thus, the time has always been at hand.”

d. *“Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book:”* This blessing reminds us that prophecy gives us a word to keep, not merely material for interesting discussions and debates. The main intent of prophecy is to lead us to trust and obey God and APPLY His truth to the way we *live*.

In closing, in these scriptures we have discussed, we see the return of Paradise in the ideas of a river, a tree of life, revocation of the curse, intimacy restored, and reigning resumed. It is a perfect consummation!!!

LESSON CLOSING: “We Shall Behold Him” lyrics

Review Goal, Objective, and Purpose

Facts/Liberating Lesson: To know that the human race continues to encounter injustice, oppression, and misery. This passage reminds us that hope for a paradise on this earth is a misguided hope.

Principle: To learn about God's redemptive plan for Heaven and earth.

Application/Application for Activation: To take time each day to intentionally rejoice and give thanks for the Glory that awaits you in God's Presence!

THOUGHT(S) FOR THE WEEK:

Joke: N/A

Closing Prayer (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication)



References:

Holy Spirit (Teacher)

UMI Direction (The Bible Study Guide for Adults)

Online:

Enduring Word Bible

Life Application Study Bible

Bible Study Tools

Bible Gateway

YouVersion

Biblehub

The Black Presence in the Bible (Rev Walter Arthur McCray)

NOTES:

We Shall Behold Him Lyrics

The sky shall unfold
Preparing His entrance
The stars shall applaud Him
With thunders of praise
The sweet light in His eyes, shall enhance those awaiting
And we shall behold Him, then face to face
O we shall behold Him, we shall behold Him
Face to face in all of His glory
O we shall behold Him, yes, we shall behold Him
Face to face, our Savior and Lord
The angel will sound, the shout of His coming
And the sleeping shall rise, from there slumbering place
And those remaining, shall be changed in a moment
And we shall behold him, then face to face
We shall behold Him, o yes, we shall behold Him
Face to face in all of His glory
We shall behold Him, face to face
Our Savior and Lord
We shall behold Him, our Savior and Lord
Savior and Lord!

DON'T WAIT TILL THE BATTLE IS OVER SHOUT NOW
YOU KNOW IN THE END WE GONNA WIN!!!!

WHEN YOU'RE BURDENED DOWN WITH THE CARES OF LIFE,
AND YOUR STRIVING SEEMS IN VAIN
HOLD YOUR HEAD UP HIGH, YOUR DELIVERANCE IS NIGH
WHEN THE BATTLE IS OVER, (CHOIR) WHEN THE BATTLE IS OVER
WERE GOING TO SHOUT HALLELUJAH, (CHOIR) WHEN THE BATTLE IS OVER
WHEN THE BATTLES OVER (CHOIR) WHEN THE BATTLE IS OVER
HEEEEEY (CHOIR) WE'RE GOING HOME (TOP)

When the tears stream down and there's no one around,
when you feel like all hope is gone
Don't despair, God is right there
When the battle is over (Choir) When the battle is over
Oh when the battle is over, (Choir) When the battle is over
There'll be no more crying (Choir) When the battle is over
There'll be no more dying (Choir) When the battle is over
Oh when the Battle is Over (Choir) When the battle is over
Oh oh oh oh (CHOIR) Were going home Hallelujah

One of these mornings, (Choir) Hallelujah
Won't be very long. (Choir) Hallelujah
You're going to look for me (Choir) Hallelujah,
Look but I'll be gone on home (Choir) HA - LE - LEU - JAH
going up to glory, there to sing and shout, nobody there is going to put me out, Im going to walk and talk with
Jesus tell, him how I made it over, gonna tell him all about my troubles, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah,

Why should I wait x 4 Going praise him right now 3, Thank him for the pain, thank him for the trials,
hallelujah, x 4, Help me say it, hallelujah x 4 When the battle is over

When the Battle (choir) When the battle is over x4 HALLELUJAH!!!!