

- Order of Service -

Call to Worship

Welcoming Prayer

- Only a Holy God
- Great is the Lord
- 18, Immortal, Invisible, God only Wise
- 49, O for a thousand tongues to sing

Q & A

Announcements and Prayer requests

Greeting

Message in the Word -

The immensely, vastly divergent destinies of every human

What will it be like for us? Part 6

Revelation 22:7-21

Sending prayer

You may notice we don't pass an offering plate

We invite you to participate in the ministry, and the offering box in the foyer is for your gifts and offerings for the Lord's work.

- 2 Corinthians 9:7-8, Galatians 6:6 -

Grace Bible Fellowship

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GRACE
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love. truth. grace.

“We are identified with Jesus Christ in his crucifixion, death, burial, resurrection, ascension, and heavenly seating”



- Teaching -

Eric Peterman

The immensely, vastly divergent destinies of every human

What will it be like for us? Part 6

Revelation 22:7-21

- June 19th, 2022 -

The immensely, vastly divergent destinies of every human

What will it be like for us? Part 6

Revelation 22:7-21

In this world there are a wide variety of peoples, cultures, professions, habits, likes, hobbies, cuisines, and worldviews. From simple shepherds in the Himalayas to sophisticated billionaires who send satellites into orbit, from a street artist to an island fisherman casting his net, from Gypsy to honor guard, from devout believer to indifferent atheist, the contrasts in our lives are astoundingly variable. Yet God's revelation of our future shows such immensely, vastly divergent destinies and experiences between humans that by comparison, it makes this present world's variety look like a canvas painted a bland and boring gray.

The last half of the last chapter of the Bible reveals two starkly divergent worlds with two humanities, and we as followers of Christ would do well to be gripped by this sharp divergence. It will invoke in us greater joy, provoke us to speak the gospel, and up-scale our view of God's love and holiness.

V6, The angel reveals to John the intense interest and investment of God that we who believe in His Son, we His own possession, should know the future of these two worlds and of our own destiny in one of them.

V7, We have the promise of Jesus that His return to accomplish is near at hand! *And a unique blessing (a happiness gift from God Himself), for those who take in, understand and hold firmly to the Revelation of John.*

V8-9, John is overcome with the weight and stunning view and joy that the angel has revealed to him. V9 reveals a critical aspect on angels. Though higher in the created order, ordained with massive powers, in God's economy they are our fellow servants, and especially *for those who take in, understand and hold firmly to the Revelation of John.*

V10, Whereas Paul was forbidden to reveal much of that future world (2 Cor 12:2-4), *John here is commanded to reveal it!*

V11a, *There is no more terrifying and awful thing than for people to get what they want from God: To be left alone, to not be bothered by him!* (See Romans 1:18-32 to understand this interaction and judgment). *This interaction will characterize the bulk of humanity in the last days.*

V11b, *God works on and for His saved children, those who come in faith in the Son), so that their lives are not enslaved and bound to sin as their master. They may yet sin, but they are not identified with those sins.*

So in vv7-11, we have our first divergence between peoples, and it begins in this present world: Those spiritually sensitive and wise, who heed (take in, understand, comply with) the Revelation of Jesus Christ given to John, vs the implication that there are those that don't/won't.

The two divergent worlds and existences

v12, The Lord Jesus will come as sovereign and judge! Here we get the fascinating fact that he will reward every human according to their works! *Both the saved and the unsaved, the peoples of two divergent worlds! The believer in Christ is rewarded in varying degrees at the Bema after the rapture. OT saints at the resurrection in the 2nd Coming. Everyone else gets what their works deserve at the Great White Throne Judgment of Rev 20:12.*

See Jeremiah 17:10, 2 Cor 5:10-11, 1 Cor 3:10-14

God saves us and freely gifts us the New Jerusalem by faith alone, without works (Rev 22:14). *But our works activated by God's grace once we believe are weighed at the Bema and our reward for good works (or loss thereof) is very substantial and consequential!*

V13, Jesus has three titles that give assurance that He both can and will fulfill His former promise to reward (cf. 1:4, 8, 17; 2:8; 21:6)

1-Jesus Christ, as well as God the Father, is The Alpha and Omega (cf. 1:8; 21:6). *This title stresses His eternity and sovereignty.*

2-The first and the last is also a title for Christ (1:17; 2:8) and the Father (Isa. 44:6; 48:12). *It emphasizes that God is the cause and goal of history.*

3- The beginning and the end describes God in 21:6 and Christ in Hebrews 12:2. *It means that He finishes what He begins.*

V14-15, The resulting worlds, experiences, existences, humanities in the eternal state:

v14, The upward, happy, and glorious life of those who have: been washed (Rev 7:14; 21:27, Titus 3:5). The robes are the measured and rewarded (Bema) works/acts of the saints (19:8).

v15, **The downward-divergent, excluded other world:** Those who are clothed in and identified by their unclean, un-graced works. (See Rev 21:6-8, 22-27)

Dear blood-bought and washed-of-sin brothers and sisters of God's amazing grace: We are citizens of an eternal city, by grace through faith in Jesus alone! Praise Him! So, let us walk, by the Spirit's help, worthy of that stunning citizenship in this sin-sore world. Let us light the path for sinners so that they join us! This is rewardable!

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