Saved To Serve

Pastor Andrew Henriques
www.prophesyagain.com

Revelation 21:
Are You Thirsty For New Jerusalem?

1. In this Sabbath School Lesson, we will study Revelation 21, which is Jesus' persuasive appeal to us, to enjoy all the benefits of heaven with Him in the New Jerusalem.

2. Revelation 21:1 mentions a new heaven and a new earth. What happened to the first heaven and earth, which we are currently inhabiting? Revelation 21:1; 20:13-15

   _____

3. **Note:** For further study on Revelation 20, dealing with the one-thousand years and the destruction of the wicked in hell's fire, see our previous lesson entitled, "The Millennium." https://www.prophesyagain.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Notes/The-Millennium.pdf

4. Read Revelation 21:2, 10. Why is the city called New Jerusalem? What happened to old Jerusalem? Matthew 23:37-38; Isaiah 54:5-7; 62:1-5 **Answer:** Jerusalem of old was forsaken of God because of their rejection of His prophets and Jesus. But the New Jerusalem, in heaven, will receive the honor lost by Old Jerusalem, which became a "widow" because it was forsaken by God.

5. **Note:** As we study Revelation 21, let us view it from the perspective that Jesus is giving us insight into the amenities of heaven, to entice us to be there. Just like a salesman describes his product so that the customer comprehends why it is better than other products, so Jesus relates to us the pleasures of New Jerusalem, so that we can choose to be there instead of this world which will pass away.

6. Read Revelation 21:3, 22. Why will there not be a temple or tabernacle in heaven? *Notice: Another term for tabernacle is the sanctuary (Numbers 4:16).* Psalm 77:13; John 14:6

   _____

   _____

7. Many people are tempted to disbelieve in God because of the sorrow and pain they experience in this life. What will Jesus do for us if we make it to New Jerusalem? Revelation 21:4 Write down some things that have caused you sorrow in life and then, strike through each one as you claim this promise by faith that they shall be no more.

   _____

   _____

8. Read Revelation 21:5-6. Jesus assures us that He will fulfill these promises. To whom specifically, will Jesus fulfill these promises? Revelation 21:6-7

   _____

9. **Note:** Revelation 21:12, 14 tells us that there will be twelve gates in the city, named after the twelve tribes of Israel, and the city will also have twelve foundations named after the twelve apostles. The names of the tribes are written on the gates to identify the character of those who will enter the holy city (Revelation 7:4-8). The names of the twelve apostles will be used as the foundation because their teachings, which they received from Jesus, served as the foundation of the Christian church (Ephesians 2:20; Galatians 2:9; Matthew 16:18).

10. Read Revelation 21:21. The gates are made of pearls. What parable, connected to the kingdom of heaven, has to do with pearls? Matthew 13:45-46

    _____

11. What did the merchant man do to obtain the pearl of great price, which we likewise must do if we desire to live in New Jerusalem? Matthew 13:46

    _____

"**We cannot earn salvation, but we are to seek for it with as much interest and perseverance as though we would abandon everything in the world for it.**" {COL 117.2}

"**We are to seek for the pearl of great price, but not in worldly marts or in worldly ways. The price we are required to pay is not gold or silver, for this belongs to God**. **Abandon the idea that temporal or spiritual advantages will win for you salvation**. God calls for your willing obedience. He asks you to give up your sins. "To him that overcometh," Christ declares, "will I grant to sit with Me in My throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with My Father in His throne." Revelation 3:21." {COL 117.3}

"**Heaven will be cheap enough** whatever sacrifice we may make to obtain it." {2T 72.2}

12. The merchant man in the parable primarily represents individuals who are seeking salvation. However, many people find it hard to surrender all of this world to gain heaven. For a secondary application, who does this merchant man represent? How does this encourage us to surrender all? John 3:16; Romans 5:8

_____

"The parable of the merchantman seeking goodly pearls has a double significance: it applies not only to men as seeking the kingdom of heaven, but to Christ as seeking His lost inheritance. Christ, the heavenly merchantman seeking goodly pearls, saw in lost humanity the pearl of price. In man, defiled and ruined by sin, He saw the possibilities of redemption. Hearts that have been the battleground of the conflict with Satan, and that have been rescued by the power of love, are more precious to the Redeemer than are those who have never fallen. God looked upon humanity, not as vile and worthless; He looked upon it in Christ, saw it as it might become through redeeming love. He collected all the riches of the universe, and laid them down in order to buy the pearl. And Jesus, having found it, resets it in His own diadem. "For they shall be as the stones of a crown, lifted up as an ensign upon His land." Zechariah 9:16. "They shall be Mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up My jewels." Malachi 3:17." {COL 118.2}

13. As you scan Revelation 21:18-20, you will notice that the city is built with various precious stones, placed there by Jesus to beautify the city for His saints. Now that we have described the beauty and peaceful atmosphere of New Jerusalem, let us look at Jesus' closing "sales pitch" in Revelation 3:18. Based on the context of this study, why should we accept Jesus' offer to buy the gold, white raiment, and eye salve from Him?

a) Gold - Revelation 21:21 _____

_____

b) White Raiment - Revelation 19:7-8 _____

_____

c) Eyesalve - John 9:6, 11; 1 Corinthians 2:13-14 _____

_____

14. Both Revelation 21:7 and Revelation 3:21 tell us that we must "overcome" to inherit New Jerusalem. What must we overcome to be citizens there? Revelation 21:8, 27

_____

15. Based on the parable of the pearl of great price and the message to the church of Laodicea in Revelation 3, there is a particular condition that we must overcome if we want to be saved, and many will not enter in because of this. What is it? Revelation 3:15-16

_____

"**There are some who seem to be always seeking for the heavenly pearl. But they do not make an entire surrender of their wrong habits. They do not die to self that Christ may live in them. Therefore they do not find the precious pearl.** They have not overcome unholy ambition and their love for worldly attractions. They do not take up the cross and follow Christ in the path of self-denial and sacrifice. **Almost Christians, yet not fully Christians, they seem near the kingdom of heaven, but they cannot enter there. Almost but not wholly saved, means to be not almost but wholly lost.**" {COL 118.1}

16. As we close, let us focus more intently on the spiritual attitude we must have to inherit New Jerusalem.

17. What condition must we be in to receive the water of life from Jesus? Revelation 21:6

_____

18. To be thirsty in this sense, means to be spiritually parched due to the unsatisfying pleasures of this world and to be desirous to have a relationship with Jesus and obtain heaven with all of its treasures. What does Matthew 5:6 tell us we should thirst after? What is the promise?

_____

19. David describes the condition of being spiritually thirsty. What question does he ask? Psalm 42:1-2

_____

20. Before we can appear before God in heaven, daily where must we appear before Him? Psalm 63:1-2; 55:17

_____

21. As we continue in daily communion with Jesus, what will He pour out upon us, to satisfy our spiritual thirst and empower us to remain on the righteous path? Isaiah 44:3

_____

22. Like a persistent, persuasive salesman, Jesus continually appeals to us throughout scripture to purchase these rewards from Him.

    a) What is Jesus' appeal in Isaiah 55:1, and how much does it cost? Ephesians 2:8-9

    _____

    b) What reason does Jesus give to buy these free gifts of salvation from Him? Isaiah 55:2; Ecclesiastes 1:8

    _____

    c) What is Jesus' instruction and promise to us in Isaiah 55:3?

    _____

23. What final promises does Jesus leave with the saints who will be citizens of New Jerusalem? Revelation 7:16-17

_____