

God's Gate

Text: Revelation 22:10-17 And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand. 11 He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. 12 And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. 13 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. 14 Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. 15 For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie. 16 I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star. 17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

Revelation 21:27 And there shall in no wise enter into it (*God's Holy City*) any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Introduction: *There are 66 books & 1189 chapters in the KJV of the Bible. The Bible reveals much about our mysterious God. To me, some of the most important revelation in the Bible, is its teaching on heaven and how we can spend eternity with our wonderful God!*

In this sermon, we want to look at the final chapter of this wondrous book, Revelation 22. In this chapter we get a glimpse of the future for both the redeemed people of God in their future state, and also, those who are lost and continue to exist in eternal life outside of the Kingdom of God.

GATES & FENCES ARE DESIGNED FOR SEPARATION!

GATES & FENCES CREATE SAFE ENVIRONMENTS: KEEP OUT WHAT IS HARMFUL - PROTECT WHAT IS PRECIOUS AND VALUABLE!

I. First, allow me to be honest – I am not an expert on heaven or hell. The fact is, there isn't anyone on earth that is an expert either! – but – God has provided us with the Bible and the Bible tells us some important things about each place:

(1) They are close to each other – how close – no one knows but close enough to see each other

Revelation 22:14-15 Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.

Luke 15:23 And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

Isaiah 66:23-24 And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the LORD. And they shall go forth, and look upon the carcasses of the men that have transgressed against me: for their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched; and they shall be an abhorring unto all flesh.

(2) GOD has a GATE and FENCE to Separate the Redeemed from the Lost

Revelation 22:14 Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. 15 For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.

Luke 13:24-25 Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able. When once the master of the house is risen up, and hath shut to the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us; and he shall answer and say unto you, I know you not whence ye are:

Luke 15:26 (Abraham to the rich man) ...between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence.

(3) What a contrasting FUTURE between the Redeemed and the Lost!

➤ The Redeemed

Revelation 21:1-5 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new.

Revelation 22:3-5 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: And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads. And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

➤ The Lost are Now Cursed Children

Revelation 22:15 For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.

I Corinthians 6:9-10 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

Matthew 25:41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

(4) The Suddenness of the Great Separation – Death or Rapture

Revelation 22:10 ...for the time is at hand.

Luke 17:28-29 Likewise also as it was in *the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. IT WAS JUST AN ORDINARY DAY FOR SODOM & GOMORRAH AS THE SUN BEGAN TO RISE OVER THE CITY – BUT SUDDENLY IT WAS THEIR FINAL DAY ON EARTH!*

Revelation 22:12 And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

I Corinthians 15:51,52 Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, - In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

Twinkling of an eye – Speed

An eye Blink Speed – 100-150 milliseconds (0.1 to 0.4 seconds)

A Twinkle of an eye – *A twinkle is a reflected particle of light seen in the eye. Most of us have noticed a twinkle in someone's eye --- that reflected light travels at 186,000 miles per second. That little ray of light entering the eye and then being reflected occurs in **about a billionth of a second** (ref: **A WINK, A BLINK, AND A TWINK -Discovery World – www.discovery.global**)*

(5) The Finality of the Great Separation

Revelation 22:11 He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.

Ecclesiastes 11:3 ...if the tree fall toward the south, or toward the north, in the place where the tree falleth, there it shall be.

(6) CLOSING - The Call to Come ---- While the Door is Still Open!

Revelation 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

The central THEME of the entire Bible is JESUS – the central MESSAGE of the Bible is COME AND ACCEPT CHRIST INTO YOUR HEART WHILE THE DOOR IS OPEN TO YOU!

This verse list 5 different calls:

- The call from the Spirit of God
- The call from the bride – the church
- The call of the awakened ear - **let him that heareth say, Come**
- The call of the thirsty and seeking soul - **him that is athirst come** -- a heavenly fountain
- A universal call for anyone & everyone who is seeking a better life – **whosoever will** -- all countries
- all classes – all races - all age groups – all generations