



Revelation
Cracking the Code
or
Why you won't be left behind!

Week 8
Scene 8 – Jerusalem the Bride
(Revelation 21 & 22)



Looking Back to Scene 7

- ❖ Seven visions of the drama behind history
 - This was the real, the ultimate, struggle – Rome and Babylon and other earthly struggles only pointed us to this drama.
- ❖ Key things we saw:
 - Jesus on the white horse leading God's armies to victory
 - The imprisonment of Satan
 - The resurrection of the martyrs & the millennial reign of Christ
 - The destruction of Satan
 - The books of merit and of life (grace) and the second death
 - The new heavens and the new earth



A Picture of the Unrepentant

Out of the night that covers me,
Black as the Pit from pole to pole,
I thank whatever gods may be
For my unconquerable soul.

Beyond this place of wrath and tears
Looms but the Horror of the shade,
And yet the menace of the years
Finds, and shall find, me unafraid.

In the fell clutch of circumstance
I have not winced nor cried aloud.
Under the bludgeonings of chance
My head is bloody, but unbowed.

It matters not how strait the gate,
How charged with punishments the
scroll,
I am the master of my fate:
I am the captain of my soul.

Invictus, by William Henley

©2003 Scott L. Engle



New Creation!!

- ❖ Now, John sees the new earth and the new heavens – the new Jerusalem coming down out of heaven
 - This is all very physical! This is the renewal, restoration, and redemption of all creation. Obviously this is a huge burst of creative activity on God's part. "Creation" has been one of the key biblical words and concepts from Genesis 1.
 - This is a time of great comfort – all the powers that have opposed God and God's ways are gone. Even death is gone.
 - The one on the throne is making all things new! He offers the thirsty the water of life. Who is the water of life (John 4:13-14)?
 - But lest we forget where we have been, we are reminded that God's new city is meant for the faithful and will not be enjoyed by those who have opposed God.
- ❖ Notice that in 21:3, "I will be their God and they will be my people" (Ezekiel 37:27) is changed to "peoples!"

©2003 Scott L. Engle



Holy City – Holy People (21:9-21)

- ❖ A Tale of Two Cities: Jerusalem & Babylon
- ❖ For much of this book of prophecy, readers might have despaired! Either they suffer in this life or throw in their lot with the Harlot – and we've seen where that leads. But now, we get the full-faceted vision of the glorious future that awaits the saints.
- ❖ The keys to the city
 - Not one gate – 12!
 - A huge 1500 miles/side cube. The city's holiness and perfection is expressed by this perfect cube. In the tabernacle and temple, the Holiest of Holies was constructed as a cube (see 1 Kings 6:20).

©2003 Scott L. Engle



Glory to God and the Lamb (21:22-22:5)

- ❖ God is glorified by this city
 - There is no temple
 - The only light needed is the light of God – for all nations and all kings.
 - Beautiful beyond imagining.
- ❖ The Water of Life & the Tree of Life
 - The river flows from the throne of God and the Lamb
 - The leaves of the tree of life (see Genesis 2) heal all nations. We now see the fulfillment of the covenant with Abraham – that all the families of the earth would be blessed through him.
 - God's people will see his face. Moses could not! God's name will be on their foreheads. That is now their seal.
- ❖ These visions are the fulfillment of God's promises to his people and the realization of his vision for all peoples and all creation.

©2003 Scott L. Engle



The End is Near (22:6-21)

- ❖ What is the End?
 - It is not an event; it is a person: The Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end.
- ❖ But . . . “See, I am coming soon.” (22:7)
 - “Soon . . . the time is near . . . soon . . . soon” – all these call us to a sense of urgency. They call us away from our complacency.
 - 2 Peter 3:1-13 is a defense for the delay in Christ’s return. What is “soon” for God? (See also Psalm 90:4)
- ❖ Two final beatitudes (there are seven in Rev.) – (1) blessed are those who keep these words, and (2) blessed are those who “wash their robes” or “do these commandments”
- ❖ This book is open for all – in contrast to Daniel. Nothing is to be added to it or taken away from it!
- ❖ Notice that the stark warnings continue right to the end!
- ❖ “Come, Lord Jesus!” Read this in all its layers.

©2003 Scott L. Engle



Reflections on Revelation

- ❖ Yes, Revelation has much to say to us today.
 - But not as some sort of movie script waiting to be played out nor as a collection of puzzle pieces. We need to look past some of the bizarre imagery and seek the reasons for its being in the canon.
- ❖ Revelation forces us to confront our own tendencies toward complacency. It is very easy to be lukewarm about Jesus – to try to force God into a couple of hours on Sunday morning.
- ❖ In whom or in what do we really place our faith, our trust?
 - In our own abilities or our bank accounts or our armies or our police or our government or our doctors?
 - If, in the end, our faith – our trust – is anywhere but in Jesus, it is tragically misplaced.

©2003 Scott L. Engle



Reflections on Revelation

- ❖ Suffering is real. We are not exempted from suffering. God did not exempt himself from suffering. We are called to endure, to persevere, to stay true to God . . . our story and the larger will end well!!
- ❖ Our choices are real and they matter. How we exercise our freedom has eternal consequences!
 - We are a people owned by God. How should the choices we make differ from choices made by those who are not owned by God? Might “lukewarmness” result from our inability to even see such choices?

©2003 Scott L. Engle



From “a book of prophecy” to the prophets

- ❖ *The Power of the Prophets: from Moses to Jesus*
 - Prophets are those who speak for God
 - We’ll look at the story of God and his people through the eyes and lives of great prophets
 - We’ll see how that story points us toward Jesus, the greatest prophet of all.
- ❖ The Bible Academy grows only through word-of-mouth. Please invite others to give it a try. If you are planning on returning in January, you might even invite someone to come with you.

©2003 Scott L. Engle