WORKBOOK STUDY COMPANION · REVELATION 21:1–22:5

All Things *New*

REVELATION 21:1–22:5

Scripture written out in the NASB95, every question answered in one sentence, cross references, verse-by-verse commentary from three trusted teachers — and for each question, a point of critical thinking and a key question to carry into the week.

Amir Tsarfati
REVEALING REVELATION

John MacArthur
GRACE TO YOU

David Guzik
ENDURING WORD

01 CAPTURE THE SCENE

What do I see?

"We all enjoy whatever is new… Our imaginations are far too small to remotely comprehend the wonders of what God has in store for us." Read Revelation 21:1–22:5. "John's narrative starts with 'Now I saw,' which is followed by 'Then I, John, saw' (21:1-8). The angel brings vision after vision before John's eyes, and the apostle faithfully records what passes in front of him." Eight numbered questions.

READ **Revelation 21:1–22:5**

Revelation 21:1-2 NASB95

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband.

IN MY WORDS

Time is over, judgment is finished, and John sees eternity begin — a new heaven, a new earth, and a city coming down from God that is more beautiful than anything I can picture.

CROSS REFERENCE **Hebrews 11:10** Abraham "was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God" — here it is.

Amir Tsarfati REVEALING REVELATION

This is the moment every covenant promise finally lands on solid, permanent ground. The Millennium was the rehearsal on the old earth; this is the eternal reality on the new one — exactly the scene Isaiah and the prophets described when they spoke of a new heaven and new earth.

David Guzik ENDURING WORD

John reaches for the most beautiful image he can find — a bride adorned for her husband — because no other picture comes as close. And the sea, which to the Jewish mind meant separation and danger, is simply gone: one more sign that every source of dread has been removed.

CRITICAL THINKING

The workbook opens by admitting the limits of imagination before it asks a single question. That is unusual honesty for a study guide — it is telling you in advance that every answer you write in this lesson will be smaller than the thing it describes.

KEY QUESTION

When I think about heaven, am I picturing a place God built — or a vague, harp-and-cloud cartoon I never bothered to replace?

1 What are the benefits of God's dwelling with His people (Revelation 21:3-4)?

Revelation 21:3-4 NASB95

And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away."

IN MY WORDS

We are His people and He is with us Himself, He wipes away every tear, and death, mourning, crying, and pain are gone for good.

CROSS REFERENCE **Isaiah 25:8** "He will swallow up death for all time, And the Lord GOD will wipe tears away from all faces" — the promise John watches come true.

Amir Tsarfati REVEALING REVELATION

"God Himself will be among them" is the answer to the ache running through the entire Hebrew Bible — Immanuel, God with us, no longer through a tabernacle curtain or a distant cloud, but face to face, forever. Everything Israel's feasts and sacrifices pictured from a distance is now everyday life.

John MacArthur GRACE TO YOU

Notice the order: God does not merely remove the tears, He wipes them away Himself — a personal, tender act from the sovereign Ruler of the universe. Death, mourning, crying, and pain are not managed or minimized; they cease to exist, because the order that produced them has passed away.

CRITICAL THINKING

The greatest benefit is listed first and it is not the absence of anything — it is the presence of Someone. Tears, death, and pain leave in verse 4 only because God arrives in verse 3; the workbook question says "benefits of God's dwelling," and the dwelling is the benefit.

KEY QUESTION

If I could have heaven's comforts without heaven's God, would I be honest enough to admit I might take the deal?

2 How does the Lord describe Himself in this chapter?

Revelation 21:6 NASB95

Then He said to me, "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost.

IN MY WORDS

He calls Himself the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end — the One who started everything and finishes it, and who gives living water freely to anyone who is thirsty.

CROSS REFERENCE **Revelation 1:8** "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God — the book opens and closes with the same name.

John MacArthur GRACE TO YOU

This is one of the rare places in Revelation where God Himself speaks directly from the throne, and He commands John to write because these words are "faithful and true." The offer costs the sinner nothing precisely because Christ already paid everything.

David Guzik ENDURING WORD

Drinking is the simplest picture of faith in all of Scripture — not a merit-earning work, just receiving what is freely offered. The One who is the beginning and the end is also the One who hands the cup to the thirsty.

CRITICAL THINKING

"It is done" here is the second time those words fall from the throne — the first (16:17) ended the wrath, this one ends history. The same God who announced the last bowl announces the new creation, and He introduces Himself by the same title both times.

KEY QUESTION

Do I treat God as the beginning and the end of my own story — or as a chapter I consult when the plot gets hard?

3 What is the "second death" (20:6; 21:8)?

Revelation 20:6 NASB95

Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.

Revelation 21:8 NASB95

"But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

IN MY WORDS

The second death is the lake of fire — the final, eternal separation from God that follows the Great White Throne, and it has no power over anyone who belongs to the first resurrection.

CROSS REFERENCE **Revelation 20:14** "This is the second death, the lake of fire."

David Guzik ENDURING WORD

"Cowardly" heads the list of the excluded for a reason: this is not natural timidity but the deliberate choice of self and safety over Christ when it matters most. The list describes people who never came to the spring of verse 6, not believers who stumbled.

Amir Tsarfati REVEALING REVELATION

The warning is attached to the invitation on purpose — the offer to drink freely is open today, and the door will not stay open forever. That is exactly why watching the times matters now.

CRITICAL THINKING

The workbook pairs 20:6 with 21:8 so you see the same phrase from both sides of the throne: to one group the second death "has no power," to the other it is their "part." The difference is not in the death but in the resurrection you had first.

KEY QUESTION

Which item on the verse 8 list would I have been most tempted to argue does not really belong there — and why that one?

4 Name the various stones that comprise the foundations of the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:19-20). Look up three or four online to learn what they look like.

Revelation 21:19-20 NASB95

The foundation stones of the city wall were adorned with every kind of precious stone. The first foundation stone was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, chalcedony; the fourth, emerald; the fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, topaz; the tenth, chrysoprase; the eleventh, jacinth; the twelfth, amethyst.

IN MY WORDS

Jasper, sapphire, chalcedony, emerald, sardonyx, sardius, chrysolite, beryl, topaz, chrysoprase, jacinth, and amethyst — clear, deep blue, milky blue-white, green, banded red-and-white, blood red, golden, sea-green, yellow, apple green, orange-red, and purple.

CROSS REFERENCE **Isaiah 54:11** "your foundations I will lay in sapphires" — Isaiah saw the jeweled foundations nearly eight centuries before John.

David Guzik ENDURING WORD

The jewels are not meant to signal luxury for its own sake but to point to the glory and holiness of God, likely echoing the gemstones of the high priest's breastplate. We can only glimpse what John saw; the full weight of it waits until we see it with our own eyes.

Amir Tsarfati REVEALING REVELATION

A city built on this scale and with this beauty makes one thing plain — there is room for everyone Messiah ever called, from every tribe of Israel and every nation. No one who trusted Him will be crowded out or forgotten in eternity.

CRITICAL THINKING

Foundations are the part of a building nobody sees — and God spent the most beauty there. In the New Jerusalem the hidden work is the jeweled work, which says something about how God values what He builds underneath a life versus what shows.

KEY QUESTION

Am I willing to let God do jeweled work in the parts of my life no one will ever see?

5 What names are on the gates of the city?

Revelation 21:12 NASB95

It had a great and high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels; and names were written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel.

IN MY WORDS

The names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel — one tribe on each gate.

CROSS REFERENCE **Ezekiel 48:31** "the gates of the city, named for the tribes of Israel" — Ezekiel's millennial city carries the same names.

Amir Tsarfati REVEALING REVELATION

The twelve tribes carved into the gates is not sentiment — it is God putting Israel's name permanently into the architecture of eternity. Whatever the church's place in this city, Israel is never erased or replaced; her name is built into the gates every resident will pass through forever.

CRITICAL THINKING

Every person who enters the eternal city — from every nation — walks in under the name of a tribe of Israel. Replacement theology has to explain why God engraved the "replaced" people's names on the only doors into heaven.

KEY QUESTION

Do I honor Israel the way God's architecture does — or only when it is politically convenient?

6 What names are on the foundations of the city?

Revelation 21:14 NASB95

And the wall of the city had twelve foundation stones, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

IN MY WORDS

The names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb — one apostle on each foundation stone.

CROSS REFERENCE **Ephesians 2:20** "built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone."

John MacArthur GRACE TO YOU

The twelve apostles named in the foundations is a direct, physical statement that this city — and the church itself — is built on nothing else: not tradition, not human wisdom, but the apostolic testimony to Christ. Tribes on the gates and apostles in the foundation display continuity between Israel and the church, not confusion between them.

CRITICAL THINKING

John is writing this — and his own name is on one of those stones. He records it without a flicker of comment, which is either remarkable humility or a man too overwhelmed by what he is seeing to notice himself in it.

KEY QUESTION

Is my faith actually built on what the apostles taught — or on what my tradition assumes they taught?

7 Of what material are the gates made?

Revelation 21:21 NASB95

And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; each one of the gates was a single pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.

IN MY WORDS

Pearl — each gate is one single, enormous pearl.

CROSS REFERENCE **Isaiah 54:12** "your gates of crystal, And your entire wall of precious stones."

David Guzik ENDURING WORD

The great, high wall gives the city definition — it is no formless nirvana — and its very structure declares that only the righteous may enter. Gates that never shut are gates that no longer need to.

CRITICAL THINKING

A pearl is the only gem made by a living creature, and it is made out of a wound — an irritant the oyster covers layer by layer. Every entrance into the eternal city is a picture of suffering turned into beauty, which is the gospel in a doorway.

KEY QUESTION

What wound in my life is God still layering over — and do I trust Him to make a gate out of it?

8 What is the source of light within the city?

Revelation 21:23 NASB95

And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb.

IN MY WORDS

The glory of God is the light and the Lamb is the lamp — no sun, no moon, no night.

CROSS REFERENCE **Isaiah 60:19** "you will have the LORD for an everlasting light, And your God for your glory."

John MacArthur GRACE TO YOU

Every distraction that once stood between worshiper and God — building, ritual, even sun and moon — is gone, leaving only unmediated worship of the Lamb. In the presence of ultimate reality no lesser light is needed or wanted.

Amir Tsarfati REVEALING REVELATION

The workbook says it well: the New Jerusalem will not have nonessentials. Sun and moon are essential for life now; in the new creation they are replaced with the incomprehensible glory of God.

CRITICAL THINKING

The sun was created on day four; the Lamb was slain from the foundation of the world. The city runs on the older light. Creation's first "Let there be light" came three days before a sun existed — and eternity simply returns to that.

KEY QUESTION

What am I currently depending on for light that the Lamb was always meant to supply?

02 ANALYZE THE MESSAGE

What does this mean?

"Now that the time of God's final judgment is over, it is time for a great celebration… The word translated 'new' is the Greek term *kainos*. It means something that is 'new in kind.' The new heavens and earth are not only new in time, but they are also very different from the heavens and earth we have now." Seven numbered questions, then the workbook's "Read Revelation 21:9-27" teaching.

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1 What is new in the new heavens and earth?

a. Revelation 21:3

> **Revelation 21:3 NASB95**
> And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them,

> **IN MY WORDS**
> God Himself lives among His people — no more distance, no more veil.

b. Revelation 21:4 (five things)

> **Revelation 21:4 NASB95**
> and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away."

> **IN MY WORDS**
> No more tears, no more death, no more mourning, no more crying, no more pain.

c. Revelation 21:6

> **Revelation 21:6 NASB95**
> Then He said to me, "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost.

> **IN MY WORDS**
> Living water, free of charge, for anyone who is thirsty — thirst itself is finally answered.

d. Revelation 21:7

> **Revelation 21:7 NASB95**
> "He who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son.

> **IN MY WORDS**
> A full inheritance and a family name — God is my God and I am His son.

e. Revelation 21:8, 27

> **Revelation 21:8 NASB95**
> "But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

> **Revelation 21:27 NASB95**
> and nothing unclean, and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

> **IN MY WORDS**
> No sin and no sinners — nothing unclean ever enters, only those written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

f. Revelation 21:22

> **Revelation 21:22 NASB95**
> I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.

> **IN MY WORDS**
> No temple — God and the Lamb are the temple, so worship needs no building.

g. Revelation 21:23-25; 22:5

> **Revelation 21:23-25 NASB95**
> And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. In the daytime (for there will be no night there) its gates will never be closed;

> **Revelation 22:5 NASB95**
> And there will no longer be any night; and they will not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God will illumine them; and they will reign forever and ever.

> **IN MY WORDS**
> No sun, no moon, no night, and no closed gates — God's glory is the light, and we reign with Him forever.

h. Revelation 22:3

> **Revelation 22:3 NASB95**
> There will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His bond-servants will serve Him;

> **IN MY WORDS**
> No more curse — the sentence handed down in Genesis 3 is lifted, and we serve Him at His throne.

CROSS REFERENCE **Isaiah 65:17** "the former things will not be remembered or come to mind" — new in kind, not repaired.

John MacArthur GRACE TO YOU

"No longer any sea" is not decoration — it marks a genuinely new creation, not a renovated one. The Greek word for "new" means new in kind, not new in time; God does not patch up the old order, He replaces it entirely, exactly as He said heaven and earth would pass away while His Word endures.

David Guzik ENDURING WORD

"Every tear" covers every kind — grief, sympathy, persecution, regret, longing — all dried forever by God's own hand. The promise was never meant to shame believers over tears shed now; the emphasis lies on the comfort God supplies then.

CRITICAL THINKING

Walk the eight passages in order and most of what is "new" is described by what is *absent* — no tears, no death, no temple, no sun, no night, no curse. John can only describe eternity by subtraction, because the only vocabulary he has was built in a fallen world.

KEY QUESTION

Which of the eight "new" things do I ache for most — and what does that reveal about where I am hurting now?

2 The idea of a new heaven and earth was first revealed through the prophet Isaiah.

a. How does Isaiah describe the new heavens and earth (Isaiah 65:17)?

Isaiah 65:17 NASB95

"For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; And the former things will not be remembered or come to mind.

IN MY WORDS

God creates them Himself, and the former things will not even be remembered or come to mind.

b. What does God say about His relationship with Jerusalem (Isaiah 66:22-23)?

Isaiah 66:22-23 NASB95

"For just as the new heavens and the new earth Which I make will endure before Me," declares the LORD, "So your offspring and your name will endure. And it shall be from new moon to new moon And from sabbath to sabbath, All mankind will come to bow down before Me," says the LORD.

IN MY WORDS

Her offspring and her name will endure as long as the new heavens and earth do, and all mankind will come to Jerusalem to bow before Him.

c. What does the apostle Peter tell us about the new heavens and earth (2 Peter 3:13)?

2 Peter 3:13 NASB95

But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.

IN MY WORDS

They are promised, we are to be looking for them, and righteousness will be at home there.

CROSS REFERENCE **Romans 8:21** "the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption" — the groaning has an end date.

Amir Tsarfati REVEALING REVELATION

When Isaiah and the prophets spoke of a new heaven and new earth, they were not speaking in riddles — they were describing exactly this scene, the final and literal fulfillment of everything Israel was promised from the beginning. Isaiah 66 ties Israel's name to the new creation itself; the two endure together.

CRITICAL THINKING

Isaiah, Peter, and John span more than seven hundred years, and not one of them corrects the other. The doctrine of the new creation was not developed — it was announced once and then confirmed, which is what you would expect if the same Author was behind all three.

KEY QUESTION

Peter says we are "looking for" the new heavens and earth — when did I last actually look?

3 Who do you believe is represented by the twelve gates? Why?

Revelation 21:12-13 NASB95

It had a great and high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels; and names were written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel. There were three gates on the east and three gates on the north and three gates on the south and three gates on the west.

IN MY WORDS

Israel — because the text says the gates bear the names of the twelve tribes, and Israel has always been the doorway through which God's revelation, His Messiah, and His salvation came into the world.

CROSS REFERENCE **Isaiah 66:22** "So your offspring and your name will endure" — the name endures on the gates.

Amir Tsarfati REVEALING REVELATION

The workbook says it plainly: Israel and the church are the two witnesses in the world, pointing mankind to God. God took Israel through the tribulation so that she would turn to Him en masse and recognize Jesus as Messiah — and now she is part of the New Jerusalem, represented by the twelve gates.

CRITICAL THINKING

The gates face all four directions, three to a side — the same arrangement as Israel's camp around the tabernacle in Numbers 2. The wilderness camp was a floor plan for eternity, and no one in the camp knew it.

KEY QUESTION

Can I explain from Scripture — not from a slogan — why Israel still matters to God?

4 Who do you believe is represented by the twelve foundations? Why?

Revelation 21:14 NASB95

And the wall of the city had twelve foundation stones, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

IN MY WORDS

The church — because the foundations carry the apostles' names, and Paul says the church is built on the foundation of the apostles with Christ as the cornerstone.

CROSS REFERENCE **Ephesians 2:20** "built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone."

John MacArthur GRACE TO YOU

Tribes on the gates and apostles in the foundation together display continuity between Israel and the church, not confusion between them. The church is built on the apostolic testimony to Christ and nothing else — and the city's foundations say so in stone.

David Guzik ENDURING WORD

This is called "the bride, the Lamb's wife" not because it is merely a symbol of the church, but because it is the place where all God's redeemed are gathered — the city and the bride belong together.

CRITICAL THINKING

Israel is on the gates and the church is in the foundations — and neither is on the other. God did not fold one people into the other; He gave each its own place in the same wall. The one-people-of-God truth and the Israel-church distinction are both built into the masonry.

KEY QUESTION

Do I hold Israel and the church in the same balance the city's wall does — or have I let one crowd the other out?

5 The New Jerusalem measures 1,380 miles wide by 1,380 miles long and 1,380 miles high. How does that length and width compare to the United States? To Europe? To today's Israel?

Revelation 21:16 NASB95

The city is laid out as a square, and its length is as great as the width; and he measured the city with the rod, fifteen hundred miles; its length and width and height are equal.

IN MY WORDS

Set on the U.S. it would stretch roughly from the Atlantic coast to the Rocky Mountains and from Canada to the Gulf; laid on Europe it would cover from London past Vienna and from Denmark to Rome; and Israel, about 290 miles long and 85 miles at its widest, would fit inside it well over a hundred times.

CROSS REFERENCE **Revelation 21:17** the wall alone is seventy-two yards "according to human measurements, which are also angelic measurements" — John insists these are real numbers.

John MacArthur GRACE TO YOU

A perfect cube, equal in length, width, and height, deliberately echoes the Holy of Holies in the tabernacle — the whole city is now the innermost sanctuary. What was once entered once a year by one man is now the permanent address of every believer.

Amir Tsarfati REVEALING REVELATION

A city with dimensions this staggering makes one thing plain — there is room for everyone Messiah ever called. The scale itself is a promise: no one who trusted Him will ever find themselves crowded out or forgotten.

CRITICAL THINKING

The workbook rounds the figure (1,380 miles from twelve thousand stadia); the NASB95 rounds it the other way (fifteen hundred). Either way the city is nearly as tall as it is wide — a height that reaches far past the edge of today's atmosphere. A city like that cannot sit on an earth like this one, which is a quiet argument that the new earth really is new.

KEY QUESTION

Do I ever secretly worry that heaven will be crowded, small, or boring — and what does the 1,380-mile cube say to that?

6 Why do you think there will be no need for a temple in the New Jerusalem?

Revelation 21:22 NASB95

I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.

IN MY WORDS

Because a temple is a place to go meet with God, and in the New Jerusalem God is everywhere His people are — the Lord and the Lamb *are* the temple.

CROSS REFERENCE **John 1:14** "the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us" — literally "tabernacled"; the incarnation was the preview.

David Guzik ENDURING WORD

Saying a great city had no temple would have been unthinkable to the ancient world — but here the temple was not removed, it was expanded until it filled the whole city.

Amir Tsarfati REVEALING REVELATION

No temple is needed because the object every temple ever pointed toward — the presence of God with His people — is now unmediated and permanent. For centuries Israel served one God in one temple while the nations had many; now God dwells among His people, both Israel and the church, and the building has done its job.

CRITICAL THINKING

Every temple in Scripture had a wall, a veil, and a door — things that kept people *out* of God's presence as much as they let a few in. A temple is really a monument to separation; the absence of one is the loudest possible statement that separation is over.

KEY QUESTION

Do I still relate to God as if He lives in a building I visit — or as the One who has already moved in?

7 Compare Revelation 21:26 with Isaiah 60:5 and Isaiah 61:6.

Revelation 21:26 NASB95

and they will bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it;

Isaiah 60:5 NASB95

"Then you will see and be radiant, And your heart will thrill and rejoice; Because the abundance of the sea will be turned to you, The wealth of the nations will come to you.

Isaiah 61:6 NASB95

But you will be called the priests of the LORD; You will be spoken of as ministers of our God. You will eat the wealth of nations, And in their riches you will boast.

IN MY WORDS

All three say the same thing — the wealth, glory, and honor of the nations flow into God's city and to God's people, so what Isaiah promised Zion, John sees delivered to the New Jerusalem.

CROSS REFERENCE **Revelation 21:24** "the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it."

Amir Tsarfati REVEALING REVELATION

Nations still bring their glory into the city — a picture of Israel's promised place among the nations finally, fully realized without threat or delay. Isaiah's vision of the nations streaming to Zion was never poetry; it was a schedule.

John MacArthur GRACE TO YOU

The gates never shutting is not carelessness; it means there is no longer any threat left outside them to guard against. The traffic through those gates is glory coming in, not enemies.

CRITICAL THINKING

The workbook draws the practical conclusion: eternity is not one long worship service where we float on clouds. Nations bring glory and honor *into* the city, which means eternity has activity, culture, offering, and movement — a working world, not a waiting room.

KEY QUESTION

If the best of the nations is carried into eternity, what am I building now that could be worth carrying in?

READ Revelation 21:9-27 — the bride, the city, the river, and the tree

Revelation 22:1-2 NASB95

Then he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb, in the middle of its street. On either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

IN MY WORDS

The city descends like a bride, glory-lit and huge, and inside it John finds Eden back — a river from the throne and the tree of life, with leaves that keep the nations whole.

CROSS REFERENCE **Genesis 3:24** the cherubim and the flaming sword "to guard the way to the tree of life" — the guard is gone; the tree is open.

John MacArthur GRACE TO YOU

The tree of life reappears for the first time since Eden, and its reappearance is a deliberate bookend: what was forfeited by sin at the beginning of Scripture is restored by grace at its end, with no possibility of a second fall. And everything flows from one throne — God and the Lamb together, one authority, undivided.

David Guzik ENDURING WORD

Through the Old Testament, prophets used a river as the picture of richness, provision, and peace, and this one is clear as crystal because it comes straight from God's own throne. The tree yielding fruit every month is a striking detail: heaven still marks time, and even man's eating is restored rather than forbidden.

Amir Tsarfati REVEALING REVELATION

Ezekiel's river from the millennial temple is the earthly preview; this is the eternal reality it pointed toward. The healing of the nations is not medicine for sin still present in eternity, but the permanent flourishing of every people group once at odds with Israel and with God.

CRITICAL THINKING

The workbook is careful about the bride: the city is not the bride, it descends *like* one, because a bride is alive and has personhood. Walvoord's point stands — the city and the bride complement each other; the beauty of the one is the beauty of the other. And Ryrie's note on "healing" (*therapeion* — caring for) keeps us from imagining sickness in a world with no curse.

KEY QUESTION

The workbook asks husbands to remember the moment the bride appeared at the back of the church — do I look for Christ's return with anything like that expectancy?

03 COMPARE THIS CHAPTER WITH THE REST OF SCRIPTURE

Is this supported by other passages in Revelation, John's other books, the Old/New Testaments?

Five numbered questions, transcribed as the workbook asks them.

1 **List the various activities that take place around the One who is seated on the throne.**

a. **Revelation 4:3-6**

> Revelation 4:3-6 NASB95
>
> And He who was sitting was like a jasper stone and a sardius in appearance; and there was a rainbow around the throne, like an emerald in appearance. Around the throne were twenty-four thrones; and upon the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white garments, and golden crowns on their heads. Out from the throne come flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder. And there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God; and before the throne there was something like a sea of glass, like crystal; and in the center and around the throne, four living creatures full of eyes in front and behind.

> IN MY WORDS
>
> A rainbow circles the throne, twenty-four crowned elders sit around it, lightning and thunder come out of it, seven lamps burn before it, and four living creatures stand at its center.

b. **Revelation 5:13**

> Revelation 5:13 NASB95
>
> And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying, "To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever."

> IN MY WORDS
>
> Every created thing everywhere sings blessing, honor, glory, and dominion to Him on the throne and to the Lamb.

c. **Revelation 7:11**

> Revelation 7:11 NASB95
>
> And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures; and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God,

> IN MY WORDS
>
> All the angels stand around the throne, then fall on their faces and worship.

d. **Isaiah 6:1-4**

Isaiah 6:1-4 NASB95

In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple. Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called out to another and said, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, The whole earth is full of His glory." And the foundations of the thresholds trembled at the voice of him who called out, while the temple was filling with smoke.

IN MY WORDS

Seraphim hover above the throne covering their faces and feet, calling "Holy, Holy, Holy" to one another until the doorposts shake and the temple fills with smoke.

e. Daniel 7:9-14

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 NASB95

"I kept looking Until thrones were set up, And the Ancient of Days took His seat; His vesture was like white snow And the hair of His head like pure wool. His throne was ablaze with flames, Its wheels were a burning fire. A river of fire was flowing And coming out from before Him; Thousands upon thousands were attending Him, And myriads upon myriads were standing before Him; The court sat, And the books were opened. ... I kept looking in the night visions, And behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, And He came up to the Ancient of Days And was presented before Him. And to Him was given dominion, Glory and a kingdom, That all the peoples, nations and men of every language Might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion Which will not pass away; And His kingdom is one Which will not be destroyed.

IN MY WORDS

A river of fire flows from the throne, millions attend and stand before it, the court sits and the books are opened, and the Son of Man is presented and given an everlasting kingdom.

CROSS REFERENCE **Revelation 22:3** "the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His bond-servants will serve Him" — the last activity around the throne is ours.

John MacArthur GRACE TO YOU

From Isaiah to Daniel to John, the throne is never empty and never quiet — worship, judgment, and dominion all proceed from one seat. In the New Jerusalem that throne moves into the middle of the city, and the distance between the worshiper and the One worshiped is gone.

David Guzik ENDURING WORD

Revelation 22:3-5 is a perfect consummation, point for point — no more curse is perfect restoration, the throne in their midst is perfect administration, servants who serve is perfect subordination, seeing His face is perfect transformation. Heaven is not idle leisure but joyful service centered on God.

CRITICAL THINKING

In every earlier throne scene something stands *between* the throne and the observer — a sea of glass, a river of fire, smoke, seraphim. In 22:3-4 the barriers are simply absent and "they will see His face." The five passages the workbook lists are a study in shrinking distance.

KEY QUESTION

Isaiah, Daniel, and John all fell down at the sight of the throne — when did I last approach God with anything like that weight?

2 What do Revelation 21:4 and 1 Corinthians 15:50-56 say about death?

Revelation 21:4 NASB95

and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away."

1 Corinthians 15:53-56 NASB95

For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality. But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, "DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP in victory. O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY? O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law;

IN MY WORDS

Death is finished — John says there will no longer be any death, and Paul says it is swallowed up in victory when this mortal body puts on immortality, because its sting was sin and sin has been dealt with.

CROSS REFERENCE **Isaiah 25:8** "He will swallow up death for all time" — the verse Paul is quoting.

John MacArthur GRACE TO YOU

Death is not managed or minimized in the new creation — it ceases to exist, because the fallen order that produced it passed away. Paul gives the mechanism: the perishable puts on the imperishable, and there is nothing left for death to hold.

David Guzik ENDURING WORD

Every tear — grief, regret, longing — is dried forever by God's own hand, and the first of the four things that vanish in verse 4 is death itself. Paul's taunt, "O death, where is your sting?" is finally answered out loud: nowhere.

CRITICAL THINKING

Paul says the sting of death is sin and the power of sin is the law — so death is not defeated by making bodies stronger but by removing sin. Revelation 21:4 and 21:27 are the same verse from two sides: no death, because nothing unclean.

KEY QUESTION

Do I grieve the people I have lost like a man who knows the sting has already been pulled?

3 Only four times did a voice proceed from the throne in Revelation. What were the messages of this voice?

a. **Revelation 16:17**

Revelation 16:17 NASB95

Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl upon the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple from the throne, saying, "It is done."

IN MY WORDS

"It is done" — the wrath of the bowls is finished.

b. Revelation 19:5

Revelation 19:5 NASB95

And a voice came from the throne, saying, "Give praise to our God, all you His bond-servants, you who fear Him, the small and the great."

IN MY WORDS

"Give praise to our God" — a call to every servant, small and great, to worship.

c. Revelation 21:5 (two statements)

Revelation 21:5 NASB95

And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." And He said, "Write, for these words are faithful and true."

IN MY WORDS

"Behold, I am making all things new" and "Write, for these words are faithful and true."

CROSS REFERENCE **Revelation 21:3** the fourth voice from the throne — "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men."

John MacArthur GRACE TO YOU

This is one of the rare places in Revelation where God Himself speaks directly from the throne, and He commands John to write because these words are "faithful and true." The rarity is the point — when the throne speaks, it is announcing a turn in the story.

Amir Tsarfati REVEALING REVELATION

"It is done" closes the same circle the cross opened at Calvary — God's redemptive plan for Israel and the nations is now complete in every detail. Wrath, worship, and new creation all come from the same throne in the same voice.

CRITICAL THINKING

Read the four messages in order and you have the gospel in miniature: judgment finished, worship commanded, God dwelling with men, everything made new. The throne only speaks four times and it never wastes a word.

KEY QUESTION

God told John to write because the words were faithful and true — do I read Revelation as faithful and true, or as interesting and strange?

4 **The Lord says He is "the Alpha and the Omega" (Revelation 21:6—the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet), identifying Himself with the God of the Old Testament. What similar statements appear in the Old Testament?**

a. Isaiah 41:4

Isaiah 41:4 NASB95

"Who has performed and accomplished it, Calling forth the generations from the beginning? 'I, the LORD, am the first, and with the last. I am He.'"

IN MY WORDS

"I, the LORD, am the first, and with the last. I am He."

b. Isaiah 44:6

Isaiah 44:6 NASB95

"Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: 'I am the first and I am the last, And there is no God besides Me.

IN MY WORDS

"I am the first and I am the last, And there is no God besides Me."

c. Isaiah 48:12

Isaiah 48:12 NASB95

"Listen to Me, O Jacob, even Israel whom I called; I am He, I am the first, I am also the last.

IN MY WORDS

"I am He, I am the first, I am also the last."

CROSS REFERENCE **Revelation 1:17** Jesus to John: "Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last" — the Son claims Isaiah's title for Himself.

John MacArthur GRACE TO YOU

"First and last" in Isaiah is Yahweh's exclusive claim against every idol — "there is no God besides Me." When Jesus takes that title in chapter 1 and the throne repeats it in chapter 21, the deity of Christ is not being argued; it is being assumed.

David Guzik ENDURING WORD

The One who is the beginning and the end is also the One who hands the cup to the thirsty. The Alpha-and-Omega title belongs to the same voice that says "without cost" — absolute sovereignty and free grace in one breath.

CRITICAL THINKING

Isaiah 44:6 names the speaker three ways — the LORD, the King of Israel, his Redeemer. The Redeemer of Israel is the first and the last, and in Revelation the first and the last is a Lamb who was slain. Isaiah handed John the title; John shows us the face.

KEY QUESTION

If I met a Jewish friend who honored Isaiah, could I walk him from "the first and the last" to Jesus using only these verses?

5 Compare Isaiah 54:11-14 with Revelation 21:18-21.

Isaiah 54:11-12 NASB95

"O afflicted one, storm-tossed, and not comforted, Behold, I will set your stones in antimony, And your foundations I will lay in sapphires. Moreover, I will make your battlements of rubies, And your gates of crystal, And your entire wall of precious stones.

Revelation 21:18-19, 21 NASB95

The material of the wall was jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass. The foundation stones of the city wall were adorned with every kind of precious stone. … And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; each one of the gates was a single pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.

IN MY WORDS

Isaiah promised a storm-tossed people a city with jeweled foundations, gem gates, and precious-stone walls — and John describes exactly that city, foundation by foundation, nearly eight hundred years later.

CROSS REFERENCE **Isaiah 54:13-14** "All your sons will be taught of the LORD… In righteousness you will be established" — the city's people match its walls.

Amir Tsarfati REVEALING REVELATION

Isaiah spoke these words to an "afflicted one, storm-tossed, and not comforted" — Israel in her suffering. The jeweled city is God's answer to that affliction, and the answer is literal, permanent, and already measured.

David Guzik ENDURING WORD

The jewels point to the glory and holiness of God rather than to luxury, likely echoing the stones of the high priest's breastplate — Israel's twelve tribes were once carried over the priest's heart in gemstones; now the gemstones hold up the city.

CRITICAL THINKING

Isaiah 54 begins "Shout for joy, O barren one" and ends with jeweled walls — the whole chapter is a promise to people who feel childless, abandoned, and battered. God does not answer affliction with an explanation; He answers it with architecture.

KEY QUESTION

When I feel storm-tossed and not comforted, do I reach for the promise God actually gave — a finished city — or for a smaller comfort?

04 EXECUTE

So what? How does this affect my life?

Principle: **God always provides a new beginning for those willing to commit to Him.** "This chapter has been about God making all things new. He will create the new heavens and a new earth, the New Jerusalem, as well as a new name and a new song. Everything will be made new."

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1 As you draw near to the end of this workbook, what new insights have you gained along the way that stand out to you most?

Revelation 21:5 NASB95

And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." And He said, "Write, for these words are faithful and true."

IN MY WORDS

That Revelation is not a puzzle but a plan — God has a fixed order for Israel, the church, the nations, and the enemy, and every chapter we studied landed exactly where the prophets said it would.

CROSS REFERENCE **Revelation 1:3** "Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy" — the promise made at the start of the book.

Amir Tsarfati REVEALING REVELATION

The whole point of studying prophecy is not curiosity but confidence — God said what He would do, and He is doing it, which means He will finish it. Watching the times is only worthwhile because the ending is already written.

CRITICAL THINKING

The workbook asks for insights that "stand out" — not the most, but the ones that changed something. An insight that did not alter how I pray, watch, or speak was information; the question is quietly asking which ones became conviction.

KEY QUESTION

If I had to name one thing I now believe about the future that I did not believe in Revelation 1, what is it?

2 What new attitudes do you plan to develop?

2 Peter 3:13 NASB95

But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.

IN MY WORDS

Expectancy instead of anxiety about the headlines, urgency instead of politeness about the gospel, and gratitude that my name is written where it counts.

CROSS REFERENCE **1 John 3:2-3** "everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself" — the attitude the hope is meant to produce.

David Guzik ENDURING WORD

The closing warning of chapter 21 is not a threat to the city's security, since sin was already dealt with at the great white throne; it is an exhortation to every present reader that eternity is decided by present loyalty to the Lamb.

CRITICAL THINKING

Attitudes are not developed by deciding to have them — they grow from what we look at. Peter ties the new attitude directly to "looking for" the new creation; the plan, then, is not to try harder but to look longer.

KEY QUESTION

What am I looking at most days — and would anyone guess from my attitude that I expect a new earth?

3 Now that you have become more familiar with God's plan for the future, how do you think this new knowledge should influence your life?

Revelation 22:3-4 NASB95

There will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His bond-servants will serve Him; they will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads.

IN MY WORDS

I should hold this world more loosely and the people in it more tightly — investing less in what passes away and more in the names that can still be written.

CROSS REFERENCE **1 Corinthians 13:12** "now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face."

John MacArthur GRACE TO YOU

"They will see His face" is the single greatest statement in the passage — something even Moses was denied on earth is the unbroken privilege of every believer in eternity. Any life shaped by that promise will look different from one shaped by this world's.

CRITICAL THINKING

The workbook says "should influence," not "will" — it knows that knowledge of the future does not automatically change a life. Judas heard more prophecy than any of us. Knowing the plan and being changed by it are separated by one act of the will.

KEY QUESTION

What is one decision I have been postponing that I would make today if I really believed I will see His face?

4 What are some of the thoughts and life lessons you would like to share with your friends that you've learned from this workbook?

Revelation 21:27 NASB95

and nothing unclean, and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

IN MY WORDS

That God keeps every promise He made to Israel, that the door of grace is open now and not forever, and that the only thing that finally matters is whether your name is in the Lamb's Book of Life.

CROSS REFERENCE **Revelation 21:6** "I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost" — the invitation to pass on.

Amir Tsarfati REVEALING REVELATION

The invitation to drink freely is open today, and the door will not stay open forever — that is the one thing a friend most needs to hear from someone who has studied this book. Prophecy is meant to produce urgency, not curiosity.

CRITICAL THINKING

The workbook asks what you would like to *share*, not what you learned — and the two lists are not the same. The lessons worth sharing are the ones simple enough to say over coffee: no curse, free water, an open gate, one book.

KEY QUESTION

Which friend could I tell one thing from this workbook this week — and which thing?

5 In what ways would you like to grow more in your relationship with the Lord?

Revelation 21:7 NASB95

"He who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son.

IN MY WORDS

I want to live now like the son verse 7 says I am — talking with Him daily, obeying quickly, and letting His nearness in eternity start shaping how near I stay to Him today.

CROSS REFERENCE **Leviticus 26:12** "I will also walk among you and be your God, and you shall be My people" — the oldest promise, finally kept in full.

David Guzik ENDURING WORD

Heaven is not idle leisure but a place where joyful service centers entirely on God — servants who serve, faces that see His face, names on foreheads. Growing in relationship with the Lord now is simply practicing eternity early.

John MacArthur GRACE TO YOU

God does not merely remove the tears, He wipes them away Himself — the relationship in eternity is personal and tender, not administrative. The Father who will do that then is the same Father available now.

CRITICAL THINKING

The workbook's principle says God provides a new beginning for those "willing to commit to Him" — the only condition in the sentence is willingness. Growth in relationship is never blocked on God's side; the whole question reduces to what I am willing to give Him access to.

KEY QUESTION

What part of my life have I not yet been willing to let Him make new?

CLOSING THOUGHTS

Chapter 20 ended with earth and sky fleeing from a great white throne and two kinds of books lying open. Chapter 21 opens with a new heaven and a new earth, and the first thing John notices is what is missing: no sea. Then a city comes down out of heaven — not built up from below by human effort, but lowered from above by God — made ready like a bride on her wedding day. A voice from the throne speaks, and its first words are not about walls or jewels but about presence: God Himself will be among them. Everything else in the chapter follows from that one sentence. Tears go because He is there. Death goes. The temple goes, because the whole city has become the Holy of Holies. Even the sun goes, because the Lamb is the lamp.

Then the angel hands John a measuring rod, and the vision turns strangely practical — a cube 1,380 miles on a side, walls of jasper, twelve foundations of gemstones bearing the apostles' names, twelve gates of pearl bearing the tribes of Israel. Israel on the doors, the church in the footings, one wall holding both. Through those gates the nations carry their glory, and the gates never close, because nothing threatening is left outside them. Inside, a river runs from the throne down the middle of the street, and on either bank stands the tree that a flaming sword has guarded since Genesis 3. The curse is lifted. The servants see His face. The book that began with a garden and a fall ends with a garden and a homecoming.

The workbook's principle is a small sentence for so large a chapter — God always provides a new beginning for those willing to commit to Him. But it is the right size for a human being to carry. He will make all things new; the only question left is whether I am willing to be one of them.

> *"Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them."*
>
> **REVELATION 21:3**

You have now seen the end of the story — a city with your Savior for its light, your tears on His hand, and, if you have trusted Him, your name in His book. The gates are pearl and they never close. The water is free. Only one thing keeps anyone out, and it is not a wall. Be found in the book, and bring somebody through the gate with you.

Teaching the Word. Watching the Times. — Smith For Christ

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