

Eden Restored (Seven Final Words)

Revelation 21 – 22

by Don Falkos

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In a final series of visions John saw the people of God. Their faith in Jesus had brought them salvation culminating in resurrection into the glorious presence of God, where they would remain forever. This community of believers, completed and perfected, was founded in the ancient covenant of God with the people of Israel and was fulfilled through the death and resurrection of Jesus. No longer will a temple and priests be needed to intercede with God. Every one of the redeemed will have the status of a priest with unlimited, unmediated access to the Almighty.

John saw how believers had faithfully shared the good news of Jesus. As a result, people from every nation and tribe and ethnicity and language had been saved. Even some of those who had been intimately involved in empire's malevolent machinations were among them, thanks to the efforts of the faithful and to the healing power of God.

In God's original creation, heaven overlapped with Eden for a time. In God's new creation, heaven and earth will be transformed, renewed, eternally restored to their former Edenic state. Human beings will live face-to-face with their creator, and together all the redeemed will worship the Lord forever and ever.

When John had seen all he was intended to see, Jesus said:

I am coming soon!
I will give recompense to each one
according to what they've done.

I am the Alpha and the Omega,
the First and the Last,
the Beginning and the End.

Blessed are those who engage in ongoing repentance,
which results in eternal life in the presence of God.

I, Jesus, declare to all of you:
I am the Messiah.

"Come!" I say.
"Come!" say all the faithful.
Let anyone who desires it come
and take the free gift I provide
– eternal life.

Anyone who tries to alter the truth of these revelatory words
proves by their actions
they are not a recipient of eternal life in the presence of God.

I am coming soon!

Amen.

Come, Lord Jesus!

May the grace of the Lord Jesus be with us all.