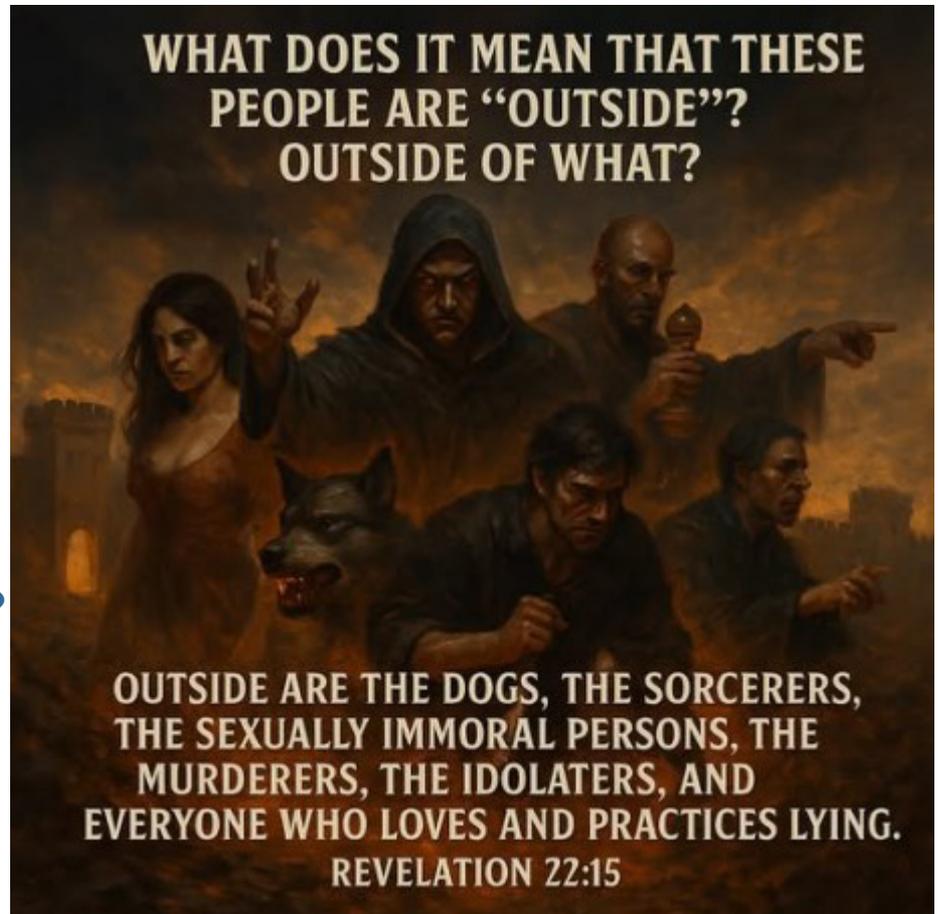


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**New Jerusalem -
What does it mean
that these people
are "outside"?
Outside of what
(Revelation 22:15)?**



By Dan Maines

**What does it mean that these people are "outside"?
Outside of what (Revelation 22:15)?**

When Revelation 22:15 says these people are "outside", it means they are excluded from the New Jerusalem, which symbolizes the New Covenant kingdom, the fulfilled presence of God with His people.

They are not outside a literal city gate, but outside the covenant relationship, cut off from the blessings, life, and fellowship found

in Christ. Here's how this fits the context:

Revelation 21:2 describes the New Jerusalem coming down out of heaven, a picture of the New Covenant reality.

Revelation 21:27 says nothing unclean or lying enters this city, but only those written in the Lamb's book of life.

So by 22:15, when it says "outside are the dogs, the sorcerers...", it's describing covenant exclusion, they are left out of the true kingdom.

From a Preterist view, this is not about people in some far future time being physically outside of heaven. It's about those in the first century who:

Rejected Christ,

Remained in the Old Covenant system,

Persecuted the saints,

And were cut off from the New Covenant blessings.

They are outside of fellowship with God, outside of the Bride, outside of the kingdom, spiritually and covenantally excluded.

Even though Revelation 22:15 was fulfilled in the first century and the judgment came upon those who rejected Christ and His kingdom, the principle of being "outside" still applies today. And this helps explain why evil and wicked people still exist.

They are still "outside" the New Covenant life

Outside the spiritual kingdom,

Outside fellowship with God,

And therefore, still walking in darkness.

The kingdom has come, and the gates of the New Jerusalem are always open (Revelation 21:25), but many still reject it. That rejection leaves them spiritually outside, not awaiting future judgment like in the first century, but already separated from the life that is only found in Christ.

This is why we still see evil today.

Those who remain in unbelief continue to act in wickedness, deceit, and rebellion, not because the kingdom hasn't come, but because they have not entered it. The presence of evil is not a failure of the kingdom, it's the result of people refusing to enter it.

So Revelation 22:15 explains both:

The past judgment on covenantal rebels,

And the present state of those who still reject Christ, they are "outside," and their wickedness is the fruit of that spiritual separation.

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