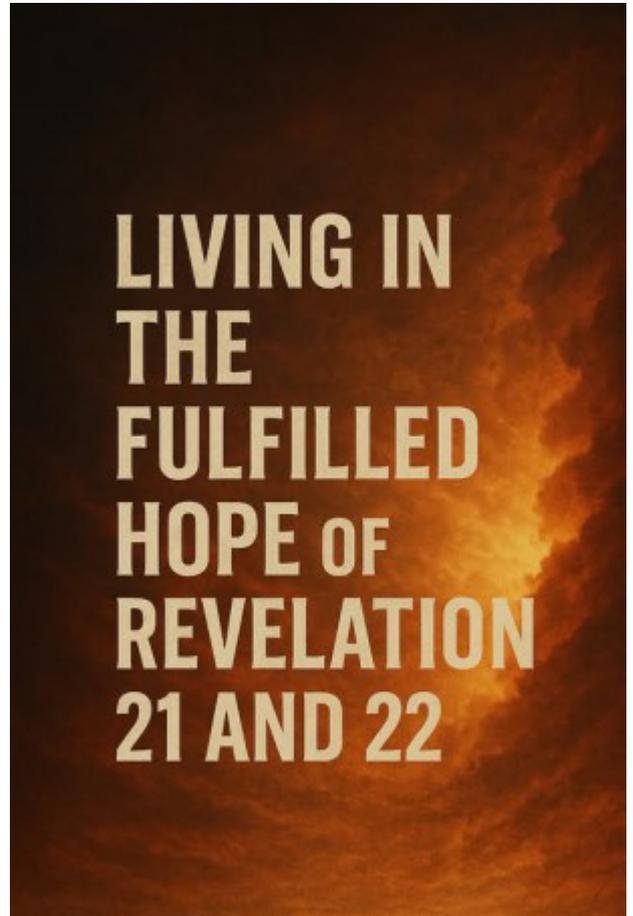


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New Jerusalem - Living in the Fulfilled Hope of Revelation 21 and 22



By Dan Maines

Living in the Fulfilled Hope of Revelation 21 and 22

Introduction:

The final chapters of Revelation are not about a distant future. They are a vivid picture of our present reality in Christ.

These chapters describe the New Jerusalem, the bride of Christ, the fully established kingdom of God.

As preterists, we rejoice knowing these promises were fulfilled in the first century and are now fully available to us today.

1. A New Heaven and a New Earth

"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." (Revelation 21:1)

This is not about a literal new planet. It is covenantal language. The old system of law, temple, and sacrifice has passed. A new covenant order has been established.

The "sea" often symbolized chaos and separation. In Christ, there is now peace and unity.

2. The Tabernacle of God Is Among Us

"Behold, the tabernacle of God is among the people, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them." (Revelation 21:3)

God is not distant. We are His temple. He dwells with us now, not in buildings, but in His people.

We no longer wait for access to God. It is ours through Christ.

3. All Things Made New

"And He who sits on the throne said, 'Behold, I am making all things new.'" (Revelation 21:5)

This is not about new geography but new relationship and access.

In Christ, the old life of separation and fear is replaced with life, joy, and freedom.

4. No More Death or Pain

"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..." (Revelation 21:4)

This is covenantal death. Separation from God has ended. Those in Christ are alive in the Spirit.

We are now part of a kingdom where life, not death, reigns.

5. The River and the Tree of Life

"Then he showed me a river of the water of life... and on either side of the river was the tree of life..." (Revelation 22:1-2)

This is Eden restored. The presence of God flows freely.

The Tree of Life is Christ Himself, the source of our healing and life.

6. His Name Will Be on Their Foreheads

"They will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads." (Revelation 22:4)

This is intimate covenant language. We are marked as His.

There is no more veil, no more distance. We have full access to the Father through the Son.

7. The Spirit and the Bride Say 'Come'

"The Spirit and the bride say, 'Come.' And let the one who hears say, 'Come.'" (Revelation 22:17)

This is a present invitation. The kingdom is open, and all who are thirsty may come and drink freely.

We are not waiting for the kingdom to arrive, we are calling others into it now.

Conclusion:

Revelation 21 and 22 are not promises postponed. They are realities fulfilled.

We are not wandering in a wilderness. We are citizens of the New Jerusalem.

Let us live boldly, joyfully, and with purpose, knowing that we dwell in the presence of God, that He reigns now, and that we are His people.

Encouragement:

Lift your head. The kingdom is here.

Rejoice, for God has made His dwelling with us.

Let us invite others to come, see, and live in the light of the Lamb.

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