



ONE PLUS GOD

**Get going: We don't have forever to get into forever  
A study on Revelation**

**Dr. Wynand de Wet (aka Pastor Wayne)**

**Week 12**

**God's complete reign is coming soon!**

**One Plus God Ministries**

**Missions Minded, Every Day, Everywhere.**

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## **Revelation: Lesson plan**

Lesson 1 — September 3 — Who is Jesus? (Rev 1)

Lesson 2 — September 10 — What Jesus expects from His Church, part 1 (Rev 2 & 3)

Lesson 3 — September 17 — What Jesus expects from His Church, part 2 (Rev 2 & 3)

Lesson 4 — September 24 — In the throne room with God: Father, Lamb, and Spirit (Rev 4 & 5)

Lesson 5 — October 1 — Judgement and Grace (Rev 6 & 7)

Lesson 6 — October 8 — The Church has a mission (Rev 8 to 11)

Lesson 7 — October 15 — The Christmas-story through the eyes of Revelation (Rev 12)

Lesson 8 — October 22 — Evil attempting to imitate God (Rev 13)

Lesson 9 — October 29 — Time for grace will run out... (Rev 14 to 16)

Lesson 10 — November 5 — The efforts of Darkness will intensify, yet come to an end (Rev 17-18)

Lesson 11 — November 12 — God's triumph over a one-sided war (Rev 19 to 20)

Lesson 12 — November 19 — God's complete reign is coming soon! (Rev 21 to 22)

**Revelation 21:1-8, Everything new!**

In great contrast to the wicked and rotten city in chapters 17 and 18 the new Jerusalem now becomes a symbol of a city and a bride that is completely new and reflects the complete presence and glory of the Alpha and the Omega (vv. 1-2; see also Is. 65:17-18, 66:22). This city will also be pure and forever holy because God is present, and the sea as residence and source of evil had been removed (vv. 1-2)! The presence of God and the amazing consequences of His presence is indescribable and incomprehensible (vv. 3-4). And we encounter another blessing hidden in the Greek grammar: While the first covenant was made between God and Israel (Ex. 29:45; Ezek. 37:27), this covenant is now between His “peoples” (plural in the Greek) and Himself—His “bride” from amongst all nations are now included (v. 3)!

Everything is changed to become new and perfect, and this will surely happen, because these words are trustworthy and true (v. 5). Therefore it can actually be stated in the past tense, even though it’s complete fulfillment still lies (at least currently) in the future: “It is done” (v. 6a). What a blessing to the believers guaranteed by the Alpha and the Omega (vv. 6-7; see also Is. 55:1 and Gn. 17:7), and a terrifying thought to those who had chosen against the salvation in Christ Jesus (v. 8)?!

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**Revelation 21:9-21, Come and look at the new Jerusalem!**

The sacrifice of the Lamb has made an intimate and everlasting bond between the Father and His children possible, just like a marriage between a bridegroom and a bride (v. 9; see also Mk. 2:19-20 and Is. 54:5, 61:10). That all of this is now happening within the presence of God is shared repeatedly with different metaphors (v. 10).

The new Jerusalem is pure and holy, shining with the glory and presence of God (v. 11). The great high wall also reflects His glory—obviously it makes no sense to interpret it here as protection, because that is not needed anymore (v. 12a)! While the earthly Jerusalem had only 5 entrances, this city has 12, providing entrance to all nations, entrance of course to all who carry the name of the Lamb (vv. 12b-13; see also Rev. 7:1-8). The angels at the gates don’t have to provide protection either, but continue to serve between God and man (v. 12a; see also Is. 62:6 and Rev. 2-3).

This city belongs forever to God and will forever be under His protection (v. 15; see also Ezek. 40-41; Jer. 31:38-40). He provides protection Himself and therefore the wall and angels now have different roles. Everything is about His perfect presence as all the measurements symbolize: Just like the temple in Ezek. 42:15-20 and 45:2 this city is also in a perfect cube; it is the temple...it is filled with the presence of God (v. 16). And all the believers are present in His presence, just as the number 144 had been representing all along in Revelation (v. 17; Rev. 7:14 and 14:1 and 3).

The building material of the city is exquisite! Human language can simply not capture the holiness and glory of God that is reflected in the new Jerusalem. How could it...? John is obviously trying his best to portray in some way through references to gold, glass, and some of the most precious jewels and stones (of which many was also found in the breast plate of the high priest and the most holy of the temple) the amazing glory and holiness of God (vv. 18-21; see also Is. 54:11-12; Ex. 28; 1 Kings 6:20-22)!

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**Revelation 21:22-22:5, From a city to garden...all in His presence!**

Great emphasis is once again given to the amazing, glorified, holy...absolutely incredible presence of God! No temple is needed, because God Himself is there (v. 22; see also Ex. 40:34); no sun or moon is needed because His glory shines so bright (v. 23; see also Is. 60:19-20). And in His presence are those that answered to the call of the Lamb: Many did repent and followed (v. 24; see also Is. 49:6, 55:5, 60:1 and 3).

Imagine...open gates...forever (v. 25a), because there is no more night (v. 25b). Evil has been dealt with, and only those who are pure can now bring their glory and honor into the city (v. 26); nothing impure will ever enter it again (v. 27)!

Whether we are dealing with a new Jerusalem or a new Eden, it really doesn’t make any difference. Both metaphors are trying to describe something that John sees that is indescribable! This image of the new Eden starts with a river flowing from the throne of God (v. 1), similar to the river we find in Gen. 2:10 and Ezek. 47:1-12. As the river in Ezekiel brought healing and life to everything it made contact with, this river from the throne of God and the Lamb does in a perfect way (v. 2). The life from this river is abundant and everlasting! New life flowing in perfect abundance from the river and the tree of life in the presence of God is now forever possible (v. 2; see also Ezek. 47:12 and Is. 35:6-9). The curse had been removed (v. 3a; Zech. 14:11), because sin doesn’t exist anymore! And of course, with the throne in the city (v. 3b), with God’s face now visible (v. 4a), His Name on the believers’ foreheads (v. 4b; see also Rev. 7:3), Him giving light (v. 4b) and the believers reigning eternally with God it continues to be the unimaginable, extreme intimate presence and glorified, holy relationship with God that tops it all...by far! What else could the believers do but to fall down and worship and adore such a God as if they were servants...slaves... (v. 3b)?!

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## **Revelation 22:6-21, Come, Lord Jesus, come!**

Every generation should live as if Jesus' second coming is about to happen within their generation! Each believer should live with a sense of urgency, because what had been shared in Revelation is the truth (v. 6a) and will come to pass soon—it *must* (v. 6b)! That Jesus is coming soon is being emphasized again and again and again throughout Revelation and then three more times in this last passage of the last chapter of God's Word (vv. 7, 12, 20; see also Rom. 13:11; 1 Cor. 7:29-31; 1 Thess. 4:16-5:2; 1 Pet. 4:7). How can one continue to miss this, be ignorant of it, or ignore it...?! The only reason Jesus had not returned yet is because of God's grace, patience, and broken heart for the lost...longing that more of His creation would become His children (2 Pet. 3:8-9)! We therefore have no choice but to take His mission seriously! And if we do? God promises: We will be blessed (v. 7b)!

In the end it is all about worshipping God alone, as we are reminded again by vv. 8-9. This is what drives our mission—having people come to bow the knee and adore the King of kings and Lord of lords! This news needs to get out, and we need to accomplish it with an urgency as time is surely running out (v. 10). Verse 11 shares this fact hyperbolically, driving the point home with shocking force! Wake up, be alert, Jesus is coming soon, and His reward is coming with Him (v. 12)! Get ready to meet your God, the Alpha and Omega (v. 13); get your robes washed by the blood of the Lamb (v. 14a) so you can share in the tree of life (v. 14b), walk through the gates of the city (v. 14c), and not get stuck outside (v. 15)! Now is the time to rush to the Lord, to answer to the call of the bright Morning Star (v. 16), and to drink from the free gift of life-giving water (v. 17). Is this not amazing: Up to the very last page of our Bibles God is still inviting those who are thirsty to come and drink, to be saved by His grace, and to have life in Him!

It is important that this message should not be changed, falsified or distorted (vv. 18-19). This Good News has to be shared truthfully, faithfully and urgently!

What else is left to say but to echo Jesus' promise that He is coming soon (v. 20a) with a loud shout: "Amen. Come, Lord Jesus" (v. 20b)!

Indeed, may the grace of our Lord Jesus be with you, people of God. Amen (v. 21).

Soli Deo Gloria!

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## What's Next - Classes offered by One Plus God Ministries

We would love for you to join other Bible class opportunities - please find registration links below, or visit [www.oneplusgod.org](http://www.oneplusgod.org) - EVENTS:

- Zoom: The Epistles of John & Jude in February 2021: <https://oneplusgod.org/the-epistles-of-john-jude-class/>
- Onsite at OPG Meeting Room, 2890 Harding Hwy E, Marion OH: The Gospel of John from April 15-May 20, 2021 - only 25 spots available: <https://oneplusgod.org/gospel-of-john-class/>

If you would like us to come and teach a specific class or classes, or do a Bible workshop at your church or with your group, please call pastor Wayne to discuss possibilities with you.

## Want to dig deeper, or just stay connected?

- Email pastor Wayne/Wynand with your questions/remarks at [wynand@OnePlusGod.org](mailto:wynand@OnePlusGod.org).
- Call pastor Wayne/Wynand at 567-356 2007.
- Connect with us on Facebook:
  - Pastor Wayne/Wynand: <https://www.facebook.com/wynand.dewet.7>
  - One Plus God Ministries: <https://www.facebook.com/OneplusgodMinistries>

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