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DAY 01: THE GREETING Revelation 1:1-8

PRAY THIS PASSAGE

- "Father, let me see Jesus' glory" (see John 17:24)
- "Holy Spirit, thank You for giving us the revelation of Jesus"
- "Jesus, thank You for coming once. Thank you that You will come again. I love You and I trust You"
- "Father, Your Kingdom come" (see Matthew 6:10)

THESE first eight verses set the context for the rest of the book to follow. Immediately, we are told these key elements we should keep in mind as we receive the message given to John on Patmos:

- This is "the revelation of Jesus"—meaning this message is not about events. It is not about fear mongering. It is not about conspiracies. It is not about governments or empires. It is about Jesus and His glory (*verse 1*).
- We are reminded Jesus came once already to atone for sin, making us "accepted in the Beloved" (verses 5-6; see also Ephesians 1:6).
- Our attention is brought to His return: "Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him...." (verse 7; see also Zechariah 12:10; Matthew 23:37-39).

A lready, we are given the full "Maranatha" message: Jesus came once for sin, and He is coming again to restore all things. Depending on how you pronounce this Aramaic phrase ("mara natha" or "maran atha"), you declare "the Lord has come" or "the Lord is coming."

This two-fold declaration is the "Gospel of the Kingdom" (*Matthew 24:14*), faithfully revealed to and declared by the prophets and apostles. And it is what the Lord is emphasizing to prepare the nations for His return, wherein He will rule from Jerusalem and restore all things (*see Psalm 2; 110; Isaiah 2:2-4; 24:21-23; Micah 4:1-5; Matthew 19:28*)—and it is the bottom line of the Revelation of Jesus.



DAY 02: THE VISION Revelation 1:9-18

PRAY THIS PASSAGE

- "Jesus, let me see Your beauty"
- "Lord, give me a heart that wants only You" (see Psalm 27:4; Luke 10:38-42)
- "Jesus, You're beautiful"
- "Father, help me be trustworthy with Your words"
- "Holy Spirit, help me be a faithful witness"

YEARS into exile on Patmos, John the Beloved saw his Friend for the first time since the Ascension (see Acts 1:6-11). He recognized Jesus immediately, yet saw Him not as an "undesired" (Isaiah 53:2) carpenter from Nazareth. The Son of Man stood before the aged apostle in glory. John puts it best: "When I saw Him, I fell at His feet as if I had died" (Revelation 1:17). But as Jesus did to so many dead and blind men, He touched John, and the old man stood up again. This was no simple visit to hang out and have coffee; Jesus had a message He could entrust to John. Why?

J ohn was a disciple, but so was Judas Iscariot. How can two men share the same experiences with Jesus and reach such different ends? It is worth noting that John's Gospel immediately tells the story of Jesus turning water into wine; it's almost as if John thought, "This is the best way to describe what Jesus did to me." When John met the God-Man in the Galilee, he was a rough-cut "son of thun-

der" (*Mark 3:17*) who wanted to burn down anyone who opposed him (*Luke 9:51-56*). He treated ministry like territory and the Gospel like politics (*Mark 9:38-41*). He was the water—and he was transformed into *wine*. How?

H e knew he was loved (John 13:23). Like David, he met the gentle hand that makes fallen men "great"(Psalm 18:35). The man who stood by the cross as Jesus took His last breath, the man who took care of Jesus' mom until she finished her days in this age—that is the man Jesus trusted with this vision. John wasn't just Jesus' disciple—he was Jesus' loving and obedient friend (John 15:12-15).



DAY 03: THE LETTERS Revelation 1:19-3:22

PRAY THIS PASSAGE

- "Jesus, I repent of any way I have deviated from simple devotion and pure love. Holy Spirit, please show me anything I need to give to You"
- "God, my heart is Yours. Thank You for Your grace. Help me to love holiness and hate wickedness"
- "Father, please give me an ear that can hear what the Spirit is saying to Your people"

EVELATION is essentially in three parts: (1) John sees Jesus, (2) Jesus gives John seven letters to seven churches, and (3) John is brought to the Throne Room and has an extensive vision of the Day of the LORD. These seven letters meant real things to real people and communities in that time, but they're included in the eternal Word for a reason. In this way, these letters are a gift to us to meditate on (see Proverbs 25:2). Each one addresses a church with affirmations of strengths, encouragement to endure, and corrections on compromises. Notably, Smyrna and Philadelphia were not corrected. But each letter ends with this admonition: "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit is saying" (verses 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22). It is repeated for the eighth time in Revelation 13:9, and you may remember it from its occurrences in the Gospels (see Matthew 11:15; 13:9, 43; Mark 4:9, 23; 7:16; Luke 8:8; 14:35).

Jesus is the Good Shepherd, and His sheep hear His voice. It is His will and desire that we listen when He speaks, and that we hear Him (see John 10:11-18, 25-30). As you read through these letters, ask the Holy Spirit to illuminate what He may want to highlight in your own heart and life. Consider what rebukes you may need to hear. Pay attention to what Jesus affirms, and ask Him to help you walk well in those areas. Meditate on what He promises to reward obedience with, because He wants you to receive those things in the age to come—and they are incredible rewards. And remember that our Father disciplines His children, and it is a good thing to receive from His hand (see Hebrews 12:3-13). We are His sons and daughters, and He is committed to taking good care of us (see Romans 8:14-39).



DAY 04: THE THRONE Revelation 4:1-11

PRAY THIS PASSAGE

- "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD God Almighty" (verse 8)
- "Worthy are You, our LORD and God, to receive glory and honor and power—for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created" (verse 11)
- "Jesus, You are the fullness of the Godhead. You are preeminent in all things" (see Colossians 1:15-20)

LIMPSES of the "throne founded in truth and right- ${\tt J}$ eousness" (Psalm 89:14) have been given through the eyes of the prophets in history past. Ezekiel was apprehended by a glorious storm and saw the seat from which the Godhead governs the cosmos (Ezekiel 1:1-28). Daniel was an early recipient of the message John is about to see, and encountered the moment the Son of Man receives the Kingdom He was promised by His Father in Psalm 2 (Daniel 7:9-14). Perhaps most interestingly, Isaiah found himself in the Throne Room immersed in the glory of the One sitting on it (Isaiah 6:1-5). Every one of these men struggled to describe what they were seeing: "He had the appearance of something like jasper;" "The living creatures looked something like...;" "...a throne, and One sitting on it had the appearance like a human appearance...." But the apostle John gave us important insight in his Gospel: the One whom Isaiah saw on the throne was none other than Jesus (John 12:41). The Son and the Father are One (John 10:30); YHWH is Yesh-

ua. Yeshua is YHWH. Years after he wrote his Gospel, John found himself in that very Room.

We are anchored in these truths: the Lord is beautiful, merciful, sovereign, and trustworthy.



DAY 05: THE LAMB Revelation 5:1-14

PRAY THIS PASSAGE

- "Worthy are You, Jesus, to take the scroll and to open its seals, for You were slain, and by Your blood You ransomed people for God from every tribe, tongue, and nation" (verses 9-10)
- "To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and power forever and ever! Worthy is the Lamb who was slain!" (verses 12-13)
- "Behold the Lamb!" (John 1:29)

P ERHAPS nothing resonates quite like the tension in this passage and encourages us quite like the Revelation of the Lamb and His authority as we see here. We all want a good ruler; we long for a good King. We feel the limitations of every candidate in every election. We feel the disgust and disappointment when an Assad slaughters his own people for his own gain. We feel the fear and apprehension when an Erdogan stages genocide in territorial power grabs; we look at a merciless Putin with warranted distrust. We know no man or woman could ever be trusted with absolute power; it is like Tolkein's ring. Every heart wants to drink from the cup of dominion—we were made for dominion (*Genesis* 1:28)—yet all are seduced by lust for control (*see Jeremiah* 17:9; Romans 3:23).

J ohn enters the Throne Room as a scroll is presented. Think of it like the title deed to creation—the power to crush the serpent and his seed (see Genesis 3:15). Who can

be given the authority to subdue every wicked man and bring all governments and authorities into submission? Who can be given control over all world finance to provide for everyone, everywhere, with fairness? Who will harness all resources to actually end poverty? Who will restore the earth to its beauty? Who will fight for the poor, the fatherless, the widows, the exploited? Who will end trafficking? Who has the wisdom to judge justly, yet with a heart of mercy? Perhaps you are feeling the sinking realization John felt: *no one*. No one can be trusted to end "this present evil age" (*see Galatians 1:4*). But let the same elder step in, touch your shoulder, and deliver this witness: "You don't have to weep; the One who obeyed the Father all the way to the Cross—He is here, and we can trust Him."



DAY 06: THE SEALS (1/2) *Revelation* 6:1-17; 8:1-5

PRAY THIS PASSAGE

- "Jesus, You are the unchanging Man. You rule the unshakeable Kingdom. Help me to build my house on the rock so I can stand when the storm comes" (see Matthew 7:24-27; Hebrews 12:25-29)
- "Heavenly Father, I trust Your goodness" (see James 1:16-17)

J ESUS begins to transition this "present evil age" (Galatians 1:4) to the next: the glorious Millennium when He devotes 1,000 years to restoring the earth. We will partner with Him in the incredible work of restoration. That transition will occur relatively quickly (all things considered), but certainly not overnight. We do know He has limited the Great Time of Jacob's Trouble (see Daniel 12:1; Jeremiah 50:5-7; Micah 4:9-10; Matthew 24:21) to be as short as possible (see Matthew 24:22). He is committed to using the least severe means necessary to remove and destroy everything that (1) opposes His crown, (2) despises His Father, and (3) hurts His Bride (see Psalm 110; 2 Thessalonians 1:5-2:12). Jesus is committed to "destroying the works of the devil" (see 1 John

3:8) and "saving everything that was lost" in the Garden (*see Luke 19:10*). Therefore, He will eliminate everything that hurts and hinders mankind's—His Image Bearers'—ability to obey the Greatest Commandment: to love Him as He loves us, with all our minds, souls, hearts, and strength (*see Matthew 22:36-40*).

When Jesus breaks a seal, He begins to break the back of all that opposes Him. He will end this in-person, but first He will permit the geopolitical rise of the Antichrist, the seed of the great serpent of old (*see Genesis 3:15; Revelation 20:2*)— the 1st seal. Global war and conflict follow (2nd), then famine and economic crises (3rd). With the fourth seal, pandemics and famine take the lives of 1/4th the earth's population. The 5th seal marks a sharp increase in martyrdom the world over, as lawlessness grows (*see Matthew 24:12*) and men despise the people of the Cross. The 6th seal causes cosmic disturbances affecting the sun, moon, and stars (*see Isaiah 24:20-23*). Then we'll cry, "Marana-tha!" (7th). We will beg the Lord to come with a mighty hand and outstretched arm—and He will.



DAY 07: THE SEALS (2/2) Revelation 7:1-8:5

PRAY THIS PASSAGE

- "Lord of the harvest, send laborers!" (see Luke 10:2)
- "Jesus, You are worth everything and I want to give you everything"
- "Help me live for eternity"
- "Father, give Your Son what You promised Him—in me, and in the nations. May the Lamb receive the reward of His suffering!"

YOU might be wondering what all this is for, or why such severity is required to move us across the threshold between this age and the next. War? Famine? Plague? Economic collapse? Wasn't 2020 bad enough?

Do you remember when John Allen Chau was martyred on North Sentinel Island in November 2018? The whole world condemned him—and most within the Church did the same. We didn't think Jesus was worth disturbing the "world's most isolated tribe" with the Good News of His Kingdom, but Chau did. And he gave his life for it, with this passage in mind. The night before he died, as he weighed his mortality, he wrote these words to his family: "This is not a pointless thing. The eternal lives of this tribe are at stake and I can't wait to see them worshipping around the throne as Revelation 7:9-10 states."

when Peter preached the Gospel in Solomon's portico, he made this comment: "Repent...that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that He may send the Messiah appointed for you, Jesus, whom heaven must receive until the time of restoration God told you about through the prophets generations ago" (see Acts 3:19-20). This age is like the 40 years the Israelites spent in the wilderness; we have tents, but we were never meant to build here like it's forever. Right now, we preach the Gospel and make disciples to every ethnic people group everywhere "as a witness, and then the end will come" (Matthew 24:14). Our Father promised Jesus an inheritance from every nation (see Psalm 2:8); it is ours to give it to Him before He comes (see Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:6-8).



DAY 08: THE TRUMPETS (1/2) Revelation 8:6-14:20

PRAY THIS PASSAGE

- "Holy Spirit, help me take the 'little scroll' and willingly digest Your word, even if it doesn't always taste good"
- "Jesus, help me be a faithful witness in my generation"
- "Father, please grant me the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Jesus who He is and what He is doing" (see Ephesians 1:17)

THE wages of sin are death (*Romans 6:23*), but our hearts are idol factories and the devil is a very good liar (*see Jeremiah 17:9; John 8:44*). Still, the LORD does not delight in the death of the wicked (*Ezekiel 18:23; 33:11*) and wishes none would perish (*2 Peter 3:9*). When it is, in the Father's good leadership, *time* to release Jesus from Heaven to come and make all wrong things right (*see Acts 1:6-8*), He will do everything He needs to do to get every man's attention. Until He pulls a "But God" (*Ephesians 2:4*), we are imprisoned by the deception that has haunted us since the wicked one first whispered accusations in the Garden (*see Genesis 3:1-5*). Without Jesus, we stumble like drunkards—and the Day of the LORD is His last-ditch effort to shake us into life and sobriety before it is too late.

I n chapter 11, John describes two prophets who are a "torment to those who dwell on the earth" (verse 10). Think of Moses and Aaron standing before Pharoah warning him

and demonstrating signs and wonders to mark the truth of their testimony (*see Exodus 5:1-10:29*). These two witnesses are like a latter-days Aaron and Moses standing before the latter-day Pharoah, and the Day of the LORD is (in many ways) the Greater Exodus as the LORD delivers His people into the fullness of His promises. Much like the Egyptians came to dread the two Hebrew brothers, the many in the world who love the Antichrist (*verses 13:1*) will hate the two witnesses and will refuse to repent. This is the final warning before the seventh trumpet. Lastly, consider the scroll offered to John (*verses 10:1-11*). The word of the LORD—and the burden to bear His message—is bitter at first, but sweet if you meditate on it with humility. We encourage you to fast and pray about these things.



DAY 09: THE TRUMPETS (2/2) Revelation 19:11-16; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11

PRAY THIS PASSAGE

- "Jesus, all glory and power and dominion are Yours forever"
- "You are the God who raises the dead. I believe in the resurrection of the saints and thank You for the eternal life You've bought for me"
- "Jesus, You are Faithful and True. Everything You do is just. I trust You, and I want You to rend the heavens" (see Isaiah 64:1)

7 HEN these things take place, we are cautioned to let no one deceive us (see Matthew 24:4). But the incredible thing about the Revelation of Jesus is we aren't just given a glimpse of the throne or a whisper of the word; we are given precise clarity regarding the final 3.5 years of this "present evil age" (Galatians 1:4). We are given the road map, the blueprints. We know what each seal will be; we "are not in the dark," that we should be caught off-guard (see 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11). In fact, a very real display of God's kindness to the world is He will not "rapture" His people before the trouble begins. The world will not be left without a prophetic witness. Your family, your friends, and your neighbors who do not confess the lordship of Jesus will not be left to die alone in sin and the wicked one's destruction. The Day of the LORD is the Church's strongest and most shining moment in all of human history, when we withstand the worst trial and shaking and uncertainty with confidence in His goodness—standing firm on the rock of His word, and

facing each stage of the trouble with *clarity*.

I magine, if you will, living through the seals as Jesus breaks them off the scroll. You see the "abomination that makes desolate," and you understand (*see Matthew 24:15*). You see the wars, the famines. You watch the banks collapse. You see the plagues. You survive the pandemics. Your friends are martyred. You see the cosmos quake. And you beg God to move with judgment, to end it. You see the trumpets. You see it all escalate. And you *know* after the sixth trumpet, there's going to be a seventh. You *know* you're going to meet Him as He splits the sky, and forever sing: **"All hail our bloody King!"**



DAY 10: THE BOWLS (1/2) Revelation 15:1-8

PRAY THIS PASSAGE

- "Great and amazing are Your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty!" (verse 15:3)
- "Jesus, You are destined to receive the nations. Egypt saw Your strength in the Exodus and defied You—but in Your Day, all nations will see, and all nations will stream" (verse 15:4)

C HORUSES and choirs are woven throughout the Revelation; each our gifts to us to help our hearts marinate and find Jesus in what can be very uncomfortable texts. Paul often advised young, burgeoning fellowships as disciples exited their pagan backgrounds and learned to walk the "narrow way" (see Matthew 7:13-14). He wrote to Ephesus about how numbered our days are, how urgent our time is, and commanded us to "make best use" of it (Ephesians 5:15-17). Interestingly, his prescription to pursue a wise and redeemed life was to...sing. "Do not be drunk with wine, but be filled with the Spirit...addressing one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritural songs..." (see Ephesians 5:18-21). The disciples of Colossae received similar advice: "Let

the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God" (*Colossians 3:16*).

A swe spend today and tomorrow reflecting on the seven bowls of wrath—knowing "with them the wrath of God is finished" (*Revelation 15:1*)—we invite you to consider the song that erupts as the bowls are introduced. We've just seen the seals and the trumpets, and the collision of Jesus' right-eousness against the rage of the Antichrist and the lust of the Harlot is only intensifying. The fight is so fierce, John sees blood on a battlefield rise as high as a horse's bridle (*Revelation 14:20; see Isaiah 63:1-6*). Yet the sea of glass is full of those who've "conquered the beast" (*verse 15:2*), who've overcome by the blood of Jesus, the word of their testimony, and not clinging to their lives in this fleeting age (*see Revelation 12:1*), and they erupt with the song of Moses and the song of the Lamb (*verses 15:3-4*), confident in the goodness and trustworthiness of the One on the throne, and the One breaking the scroll and rolling it open: "Just and true are Your ways…Your righteous ways have been revealed."

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DAY 11: THE BOWLS (2/2) Revelation 16:1-21

PRAY THIS PASSAGE

 "Just are You, O Holy One, who is and who was, for You brought these judgments. You have given each man not covered by the Lamb what he deserves" (verses 5-6) NE prophet in particular spoke of Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem: in His first coming, and in His second. We are largely familiar with the first entrance, foretold in Zechariah 9:9 and fulfilled in Matthew 21:9, Mark 11:9-10, and John 12:12-14:

"...and Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written: 'Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your King is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!"

Much like the Revelation of the Lamb in *chapter 5*, we are given a tether between the meekness of Jesus' first appearance to atone for sin, and the might of His second coming. He could have come with force to begin with, but He chose the meekness of the Cross and the humility of the manger so that *when* He comes to end this great rebellion, we know that we can trust Him.

Z echariah's description of Jesus' return is not a quiet event, and to understand it we must bear both the Triumphal Entry of Zechariah 9 and the parting of the Red Sea (see Exodus 14) in mind. Consider the prophet's words concerning this Day, when the LORD has gathered all nations to fight against Jerusalem: "Behold, I am about to make Jerusalem a cup of staggering to all the surrounding people..." (12:2) and "I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle...then the LORD will go out and fight against those nations as when He fights on a day of battle. On that Day, His feet shall stand on the Mount of Olives...and [it] shall be split in two from east to west" (14:2-3). Today's Revelation passage of the bowls being poured out is a description of how He will gather these wicked nations—and how He will deliver His people forever. The return of the Son of Man, Jesus King and Messiah, is the Greater Exodus: the Greater Deliverance by the greater Lamb, and the day the people of God are brought out of bondage and into His blessed promises, never to be moved again—forever.



DAY 12: THE HARLOT Revelation 17:1-19:5

PRAY THIS PASSAGE

 "Hallelujah! Salvation and power and glory belong to our God, for His judgments are true and just; thank You God that You will judge and end the harlot. She has and will corrupt the earth, but You will end her immortality and influence forever" (verses 19:1-2) THERE were two trees identified in the Garden; eating from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil condemned us to death from the start. We were always meant to eat from the Tree of Life, and commune with the One whose Image we bear. We were already like Him, and all our knowledge, revelation, and understanding is to come to us from Him. To pursue another path—easily accessible it may be—is the fast track to our own demise (see Genesis 1:26-31; 2:15-25; Matthew 7:13-14).

J ames identified the "wisdom from below; earthly, sensual, and demonic." He contrasted it with the "pure, peaceable, gentle, reasonable, merciful, impartial, and sincere

wisdom from above" (see James 3:13-18). Just as the devil came to Eve as a serpent with just enough truth to sell her a lie, he does not come to us as a red, horned creature with a pitchfork. His wisdom feels just right enough that we do not "abide in the Vine" (John 15:1-10) and we instead walk according to ourselves (see Galatians 5:17-21). And we can make it look—and sound—really good. But the wisdom from below is the wisdom of the wide road, and it will lead us straight to eternity without life.

The harlot Babylon is the fruition of the worst wisdom. She is not the empire of the Antichrist; the two have different cultures. The Antichrist is contrasted against Jesus, while the harlot is the contrast against the Bride. Babylon is the crescendo of worldly wisdom's clanging gongs, and nearly everyone will love her song. She will make people feel good. She will celebrate whoever and whatever they want to be. And she will offer means to indulge in absolutely anything, *except* Jesus. To evade her—and lead people out of her—we will need wisdom from above, given to us generously when we ask our good Father (*see Matthew 7:11; James 1:17; Revelation 17:9*). She will not see the light of eternity.



DAY 13: THE BRIDE Revelation 19:6-21:4

PRAY THIS PASSAGE

- "Holy Spirit, lead me to the Wedding Feast. Teach me how to walk worthy, that I may be a 'bride made ready'—prepared for eternity with Jesus" (see Colossians 1:9-10)
- "Jesus, I commit myself to You.
 'Jealousy is a husband's fury,' and I trust You to burn away all my idols and 'other lovers.' I am Yours, and I believe that You want me" (see Proverbs 6:34; Song of Solomon 7:10; 8:6-7)

F INALLY, we see the "joy that was set before Jesus" (*Hebrews* 12:2) as He allowed His friend Judas to betray Him with a kiss (*Matthew* 26:47-50), Roman soldiers to beat Him bloody and mock His crown (*Mark* 15:16-20), Jerusalem's crowds to demand His execution (*Luke* 23:18-25), and rusty nails to pierce His body to hang Him in the air on splintered wood until He suffocated (*John* 19:28-30). What did He close His eyes and think about to get Himself through the pain?

You.

"Hallelujah! For the LORD God the Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and give Him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His bride has made herself ready; it was granted to her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure" (verses 19:6-8)

 ${f T}$ he only thing saving us from the fate of the harlot is the blood of the Lamb, the greater Adam who gave His life

for His bride—His "suitable companion" (see Genesis 2:18; Ephesians 5:32). We have been bought with His blood and "brought near" (see Ephesians 2:13), delivered from the plagues of our own sin, freed from the bondage of the accuser, and scrubbed clean with the water of His word and declarations over us. We have followed Him through the dark night, to our own Gethsemanes and Golgothas, and met Him in the sky. We've made it to the Wedding Feast, radiant and white. Eternity is before us. Memories of loss, pain, grief, sickness, and trials are behind us. Every "yes" we've made to Jesus in this age has mattered—and we'll carry them into eternity with us, with every "other lover" left behind.

DAY 14: THE FUTURE Revelation 21:5-22:21

PRAY THIS PASSAGE

- "Father, let me see Jesus' glory" (see John 17:24)
- "Holy Spirit, thank You for giving us the revelation of Jesus"
- "Jesus, thank You for coming once. Thank you that You will come again. I love You and I trust You"
- "Father, Your Kingdom come" (see Matthew 6:10)

A FTER the Wedding Feast, and after 1,000 years of serving Jesus—*in person!*—as He works to restore the earth to its "very good" condition of *Genesis 1*, it is ready for an unprecedented union with the throne of God. Not even in Eden did the city of God descend from heaven; no, "heaven is His throne, and earth is His footstool" (see Isaiah 66:1). But history has always been heading toward this end; Abraham himself spent his life looking for this city (see Hebrews 11:8-10). And Abraham will live in it forever.

So will we.

You'll never be left to wonder if your Father in heaven likes you; His name will be written on your forehead. You'll never have to wonder to whom you belong, or what you're supposed to do. Every accusation against you will be silenced—a memory of a long-forgotten past. And, incred-

ibly, you'll look just like your Father—shining forever (see Matthew 13:43). Remember the jasper and sardius and other rare and beautiful jewels and stones used to describe the One on the throne in *Revelation 4*? Here, they're used to describe...you. Your Father has good things for you—and only good things—and He is the very best thing. For all eternity, the New Jerusalem will be full of ransomed and redeemed Image Bearers who look just like the Holy. We won't even need the sun or moon anymore, because He will shine bright enough on His own. We will walk in His light. The nations will be healed. And for the first time since our expulsion from Eden, mankind will be granted entrance to the Garden of God—and we will eat from the cherished Tree of Life. **"O death, where is your sting?"**

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