

Rev 26-07-19b

We're picking up our study in Revelation chapter 21, and I want to point out a few things here by way of fulfillment of previous scripture. Once again looking at our passage in verses 3 through 8. I heard a loud voice from heaven saying behold the Tabernacle of God is with men and he will dwell with them. So this loud voice from heaven is Not God speaking because God has spoken out in the third person, right? He will dwell with them. They shall be his people. God himself will be with them and be their God and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There shall be no more death nor sorrow nor crying.

There shall be no more pain for the former things have passed away. All of these were a part of the first heaven and the first earth and the presence of the troubled sea but here. Then he who sat on the throne said behold I make all things new and he said to me right for these words are true and faithful and He said it is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega the beginning and the end. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. He who overcomes shall inherit all things. I will be his God and he shall be my son. But the cowardly unbelieving abominable murderers sexually immoral sorcerers idolaters and all liars shall have their portion their part their inheritance in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone. Which is the second death. Notice it is not the people who are in the lake of fire.

It is their portion. That which would have been divided to them. Maros. Comes from a word that means to divide to a portion and Their lot is apportioned with the hypocrites as it says in another place, but this is fascinating. I want to point out a few things first of all. You have a speaker the loud voice from the throne that Explains the significance of What John has just seen then he who is seated on the throne continues speaking in the first person in verses 5 through 8 and That voice from the throne first reminds John again of what he has just seen the dwelling of God is with men with humankind and The Speaker shifts from the present tense to the future tense. Here is what has been established and here is what is going to be true going forward. This is Anticipating the ongoing Kingdom of the Father but John in a sense doesn't seem to be Looking anymore at the great white throne and the place of judgment. He is now looking at this new Heavens new earth and new Jerusalem. Scene he has in a sense turned away from the judgment throne and is looking at the eternal throne of God hearing the voice from that throne and anticipating the future it is so important for us to forget those things which are behind and Press toward the mark of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. To not let the past get its hooks into us and Slow our progress. Not to dig up old bones and past grudges and old issues. Paul says in in one place that some people forget that they have been cleansed from their old sins and We can't grant power to sins that have been forgiven and from which we have been cleansed if Something from the past rears its ugly head. Aim the fire hose of the grace of God at it and Extinguish its lingering flame.

I don't even want to see the smoke. Forgetting those things which are behind we press forward

John in much of chapter 20 was looking at that great white throne and that awful eternal judgment and things that end up in the lake of fire, but when that heavens and earth Disappear death and the grave disappear. The sea is no more We're in a new environment John is now looking forward so you have this shift into the future tense there's a new sky a new earth and There's a sense in which he's also somewhat back in his own time He's starting to sort of return to standing on his feet in Patmos as you remember from chapter 1 verses 9 and 10 He was in the spirit and he heard a loud voice and that is what got this whole revelation started now it is Sort of fasten your seatbelts. We're on approach for landing and This message was for John and for the seven congregations to whom he sent it upon its completion And He is speaking to these mixed congregations God through the Lord Jesus and through John superintended by angels is Sending this message but remember John is well into the church age at this point and there are Gentiles mixed in with the Jews and we're not talking about fulfillment of covenant promises to Israel, but there is a similarity so Back in Leviticus chapter 26 verses 11 and 12 God told Moses to tell Israel just as he's telling John to tell the churches God told Moses tell Israel this I will put my dwelling place among you and I will not abhor you I will walk among you and be your God and you will be my people Leviticus 26 11 and 12 Do you see the Similarity and the ultimate fulfillment.

God is going to dwell with Israel in fulfillment of these literal promises From the Pentateuch during the Millennial Kingdom But the ultimate fulfillment for them as for us is in this future kingdom of the Father I will put my dwelling place among you and I will not abhor you. I won't hold you at arm's distance I won't prevent you and Set a barrier between I Will be your God and you will be my people Ezekiel in Ezekiel 37 26 and 27 Records the words of God I will make a covenant of peace with them. It will be an everlasting covenant I will establish them and increase their numbers and I will put my sanctuary among them forever My dwelling place will be with them.

I will be their God and they will be my people again, Ezekiel 37 26 and 27 He goes on to say in verse 28 Then the nations will know that I the Lord make Israel holy when my sanctuary is among them forever What is the name of the new capital city where God dwells with his people? Yerushalayim It is the city of peace Yerushalom if you will So it's got an Israel name and it has Identifying features that hark back to the days when Israel was God's chosen people So God's covenant with Israel also provides hope for the Gentiles God told Abraham and you all nations will be blessed and Zechariah goes even a step further Many nations will be joined with the Lord in that day and will become my people Many nations will become my people that's Zechariah 2 verse 11 You see an echo of this in Isaiah chapter 56 and verse 7 The one I just gave you was Zechariah 2 11 This is Isaiah 56 verse 7 Even them I will bring to my holy mountain and make them joyful in my house of prayer Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar For my house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations you see the the ripple effect of that promise and that Prophecy when the Lord Jesus quotes a portion of that verse while he's got the whip of cords in his hand and he is driving the moneychangers and the short-sighted profiteers out of God's house of prayer. It's it's an anticipation. It's a foreshadowing This Is also reflected in the New Testament Paul is Writing to an almost entirely Gentile congregation in

Corinth We are the temple of the Living God.

This is 2nd Corinthians 6:16 Paul writing to Corinth one of the most corrupt cities in all of the ancient Greek world Roman world But Paul tells them in 2nd Corinthians 6:16 for we are the temple of the Living God as God has said I will live with them and walk among them and I will be their God and they will be my people We are a walking Anticipation a walking prophecy a walking adumbration and foreshadowing of the presence of God among and with his people The Holy Spirit has come and Tabernacles with us as Individuals and with us as groups the Lord Jesus comes where two or three of us are gathered in his name He is there in the midst all of this anticipates this future condition in the kingdom of the Father and Gives us an opportunity to get ready for it know how to act What it takes to enjoy this presence and to make the most of it to be useful and functional in it Old Testament and new we've had the chance to get ready So These covenant promises are for God's people's plural and We saw this back in chapter 5 verse 9 When the throng in heaven sings a new song saying you are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals For you were slain and have redeemed us to God by your blood this of course you remember we've corrected this These are the 24 elders saying you have redeemed them these First-person plurals should be third-person plurals But the elders sing a new song you are worthy to take the scroll and open its seals for you were slain and have redeemed Them to God this throng by your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation It's not a huge difference whether it's first-person or third-person plural, but the significance for us here is Many tribes many tongues many peoples many nations the sea is gone because those that came from those areas are now united through Christ with God Same thing in chapter 7 verse 9 after these things I looked and behold a great multitude Which no one could number of all nations all tribes all peoples all tongues Standing before the throne and before the lamb clothed with white robes palm branches in their hands Where was the palm branch? celebration held recorded in the Gospels often called the Triumphal entry We call it the tragic entry Where was that? What city? Jerusalem there will be white-robed throngs singing songs and waving palm branches in their hands In the at least in the figurative or spiritual sense If there are real palm trees in the kingdom of the Father, that's going to be cool, too But I think this represents the kind of celebration that genuinely appreciates the Lord Jesus Jerusalem is a Jewish city, but now in the kingdom of the Father it represents a Capital for everyone All cities all people in the world The inhabitants of the earth the land dwellers were thrown into the lake of fire But the bride the New Jerusalem is The home of the redeemed and especially the overcoming redeemed Because there is a city it doesn't take up the entire kingdom of the Father. There is a vast realm beyond its walls as We will see here shortly The destiny of others was the second death in chapter 20 verse 14 For this group there is no more death Now this voice from the throne is Similar to what we see back in Isaiah chapter 25 verses 6 through 8 and In the book of Revelation there are only two times when God the Father speaks with all of the voices and all of the commands and all of the Conversation that has taken place and the edicts that have been delivered the oracles that have been pronounced the instructions that have been communicated There are only two times that God the Father speaks the first was back in Chapter 1 and verse 8 I Am the Alpha and Omega the beginning and

the end says the Lord who is and who was and who is to come The Almighty that was God the Father speaking Others have spoken at his behest and on his behalf throughout the rest of this book, but now God the Father speaks in the first person again and this Reminds us again of Isaiah 25 verses 6 through 8 and in this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all people a feast of choice pieces a feast of wines on the leaves of Fathings full of marrow of well-refined wines on the leaves and he will destroy on this mountain the surface of the covering cast over all People and the veil that is spread over all nations that which separates that which prevents Visibility and concourse that will be taken away. It will be gone He will swallow up death forever and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces The rebuke of his people he will take away from all the earth For the Lord has spoken That's Isaiah 25 verses 6 through 8 speaking of this very scene and the voice from the throne announces there will be no more death or Mourning or crying or pain the old order of things has passed away and this reminds us in a contrast way of what we heard in chapter 18 verses 21 through 23 and The fall of Babylon a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea saying Thus with great violence this great city Babylon shall be thrown down and shall not be found anymore The sound of harpists musicians flutists and trumpeters shall not be heard in you anymore No craftsman of any craft shall be found in you anymore and the sound of a millstone shall not be heard in you anymore The light of a lamp shall not shine in you anymore and the voice of bridegroom and bride shall not be heard in you anymore For your merchants were the great men of the earth for by your sorcery all the nations were deceived That is a contrast that is the opposite.

That is what happens to Satan's capital city that has existed in a spiritual form and in a metaphorical way throughout human history and You see by way of contrast Babylon won't have millstones won't have craftsmen won't have productivity and and Wonderful positive effort in in light and with relationship all of those things will be true in the New Jerusalem this is an indirect way of saying there is going to be activity and Productivity of which we can be a part if we're ready if we see it coming and pay attention in school Get good grades now, and we get a good job later We know what that's like so There are sad things like death mourning crying and pain in Babylon, but no longer will there be any curse we are going to see in chapter 22 and no more night in chapter 22 But the joys that are associated with life Sink with Babylon like a millstone They are destroyed with Babylon because they are ephemeral and temporary they are earthly They are transitory these joys and opportunities are permanent in the kingdom of the Father We want to go there. We want to inherit there. We want to be functional skilled Knowledgeable ready and able to serve to dwell to enjoy all of these wonderful benefits We are making the choices now that will determine whether that happens or not Are we investing in Babylon or are we investing in the New Jerusalem? Everything that goes to Babylon is going away everything that we bank the treasure that we Lay up in heaven Is eternal So The transition from the old order of things to I am making everything new and this is God the Father This is the God who spoke in Genesis chapter 1 He made the old order.

He is making everything new This is the father. That's why it is the kingdom of the father and he

is the one on the throne He is the one dwelling with his people So the loud voice that we heard in verses 3 & 4 is exchanged for the one who's seated on the throne in verses 5 through 8 and He is the Alpha and Omega the beginning and the end both in chapter 1 verse 8 and here in verse 6 and Again just as John heard him sort of in the Patmos environment in the first chapter We get the idea that that John is in the process of returning to an earthly perspective and sharing with us a View from now into that eternal future and into that eternal kingdom So he's not standing by the sea. He's not Up here so to speak he is now viewing these things and and he's he's getting ready to sort of Get back to real life just as we do when we finish class and set our Bibles and notes aside and get ready to continue to live in time John is is in view and the Lord is preparing him for that But the entire book of Revelation has been driving to chapter 21 verse 5. I make all things new This is what we need this is what salvation is and You think about? for 2nd Corinthians 5 17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation We are Prepping for the new creation by becoming a new creation now Old things have passed away behold all things have become new What a tremendous Link we see and pattern that is expressed throughout scripture where there is an anticipation of ultimate fulfillment in the here and now in the past as we read the scriptures of days gone by and God's promises to Israel fulfilled in their day taking them out of Egypt into the promised land That future that is fulfilled in the Millennium and this ultimate fulfillment in the kingdom of the Father There's so much to learn by looking at those examples There's so much to learn by way of preparation for service and function by becoming a new creation now As Paul says in 2nd Corinthians 5 17 so that we are ready when the actual and final and eternal new creation takes place and we as Overcomers enter into it So the voice is going to continue to speak to John and by extension the churches and by extension everyone since The Alpha and the Omega the beginning and the end Is a reminder of What Jesus said during his first appearance on this earth This same John wrote in chapter 6 verse 35 of his gospel Jesus said to them I am the bread of life He who comes to me shall never hunger and he who believes in me shall never thirst not in a needy way not in a lack and shortfall way We will have a thirst but that thirst will immediately be met with the water of life from the river of life That comes from the throne John chapter 8 verse 12 He who I am the light of the world He whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life True spiritually for us now true in practical and actual terms in the kingdom of the Father John 11 25 and 26.

You remember the Lazarus chapter? I am the resurrection in the life He who believes in me will live even though he dies and whoever lives and believes in me will never die There is no more death There are ways in which we enter into that truth and that promise now It's ultimate final and eternal fulfillment is in this kingdom scene, which we are now viewing through John's eyes We're going to see it upcoming again in chapter 22 the next chapter looking at verse 13 Jesus is going to say I am the Alpha and Omega the first and the last the beginning and the end This is that essence that he shares with God the Father Who has just pronounced himself to be these things? There are two promises here That accompany this Self-identification here in chapter 21 One is I will give the thirsty to drink without cost From the spring of the water of life that's in verse

6 here Freely without cost Compare this to John chapter 4 verse 14 Whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst But the water that I shall give him will become to him and in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life John chapter 6 verse 35 Jesus said to them I am the bread of life he who comes to me shall never hunger and he who believes in me shall never thirst John chapter 7 verses 37 and 38 On the last day that great day of the feast Jesus stood and cried out saying if anyone thirsts Let him come to me and drink He who believes in me as the scripture has said out of his heart will flow rivers of living water That's the first promise from the Alpha and Omega the first and the last the beginning and the end The second promise Is To inherit all of this I will be his God and he will be my son my child This is a reminder of those overcomer promises we studied so thoroughly back in chapter 2 and 3 So These are an invitation Everyone from the time that John I think through an amanuensis got these visions set down put in order and distributed to the seven churches and they began to be copied and distributed and they have been a blessing and A revelation to the church from that day to this This is an invitation to everyone There will be those on the periphery who are observing us as Christians as body of Christ to whom we serve as a light shining in a dark place and Paul addresses this in 1st Corinthians 14 verses 23 through 25 when the whole church comes together in one place and all speak with tongues there comes in someone uninformed or Faithless Will they not say that you're out of your mind if everyone prophesies and a faithless or uninformed person comes in He's convinced by all Convicted by all thus the secrets of his heart are revealed so falling down on his face He will worship God and report that God is truly among you in other words rather than being obscure and partial and removed and And inscrutable we should be a testimony and When outsiders those who are not yet of faith See us There should be understanding there should be invitation to come and join in the same way that the book of Revelation is an invitation to participate to make ourselves ready and to Enjoy All of these wonderful things our lives ought to be an invitation in the here And now to enjoy the new creation that we have become in Christ and the blessings Despite the fallen world in which we live despite our own fallen natures the blessings and the opportunities that we experience in Christ When people are associated with us for any length of time a conversation or a relationship Are we an invitation to the new heavens and the new earth to the new Jerusalem to the presence and power of God To the refreshing streams of living water that flow through Jesus Christ Are we an invitation or are we off-putting? well Whatever it is you're believing. I that's not the kind of life. I want to live That's not the the kind of hope I want to have or lack thereof People should see the glory of God reflecting in our face Just as we see it in the face of Jesus Christ We are in a sense now his face on this earth So we are the new creation Do we live that way first and foremost For the Lord Jesus and for our Father in heaven so that we can be a light that shines to others We don't have to be intentional about this kind of witness You can't put it on you can't adopt it or or Sort of be performative in it.

We have to become the new creation and That new creation is the invitation. It's the power of God. It's the glory of God and It is that which will appeal to those who are thirsty and they will come to the Lord Jesus and through him to the Father That's what we're looking for.

That's what we hope to be and When we become kings and priests to God God and our Father the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ To him should be glory and dominion forever and ever That's a quote from Revelation 1 verse 6 Those who reject this invitation you have a Portion all of these opportunities end up Irretrievably lost in the lake of fire. That's what we have here in Verse 8 These are pattern behaviors Cowardly is not Succumbing to fear in one moment or on one occasion This is a lack of courage as a pattern We either fall into the pattern that anticipates the kingdom of the Father and reflect it and enjoy it in the future or we are a part of the pattern of This old earth old heavens the scarlet harlot Babylon that lives in the short term and Gives into fear gives into pressure and seduction and All of these things are concomitant so Lack of courage lack of faith, that's the first two Participating in those things that are not just Wrong, but an abomination in God's sight that which he has to get out of his sight Murderers We'll talk about that separately sexual immorality, this is basically faithlessness inability to keep a commitment and adhere to a standard and Conform to a pattern that God himself has established in marriage and family It goes beyond Merely the physical act it has to do with an attitude that would Sacrifice loyalty and a pledge To another person whether they are future or present To break vows To be untrustworthy and unfaithful is The idea it this can happen without any physical activity whatsoever It is to be a partaker in that kind of pornaya which is a Particular kind of immorality characterized by untruthfulness and Covenant breaking Sorcery this has to do with direct appeal to some power other than God to solve problems There are other spirits. There are other Powers that can satisfy they can gratify this can this can include pharmacheia.

This can include going to the pharmacy and Using it as a substitute all of us benefit from the wonders of modern medicine from time to time and there are wonderful things that include relief from pain and and and other kinds of medicine if that becomes a substitute for our reliance and Dependence upon God and the implementation of his word in our lives Looking to his spirit for guidance Looking to his strength to produce the fruit of the spirit if we substitute something else for genuine happiness for genuine Participation that's that's sorcery Idolatry making something else the God of our lives deciding that something else has first claim on us and on our efforts and all liars those who who partake of Living and believing the lie Satan was a liar from the beginning he is a father of lies and to share that attitude of of an alternate reality and giving that credit and not Crediting the reality that God communicates that God represents and that God expresses the Lord Jesus is the truth But we don't want that truth. We want some other truth a truth that gratifies us and enables us to ignore sin and ignore distance between ourselves and God All these who are characterized by these things as a pattern many times We will fail in these areas, but we can recover we can Confess we can be restored and renewed By the presence of God in his spirit and in his word But if we make this a habit and a pattern if it is characteristic of us, these are failures in specific areas Inheritance is off the table it has been Scooped into the lake of fire it is destroyed. It is inaccessible.

It is irretrievable and it is no more They will have their part it doesn't say that they will be cast into

which is an easy thing to have said were it the destination for their Personal self It's the reward and inheritance and opportunity that will be In the lake of fire This is the second death you see this in Mark chapter 4 verse 40 when the Lord Jesus says to his disciples. Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith? That's not a salvation situation is it being Overcome by fear and lacking faith is a believers failure He doesn't turn to Judas and say how is it that you're characterized by self-interest and you don't believe in me Judas is a believer, but he's characterized by pattern failures and Judas will be outside With the faithless there was a kind of pornography where Judas betrayed his loyalty to the Lord Jesus for self-interest for his own agenda Matthew chapter 8 verse 26 Jesus says why are you fearful? Oh you of little faith then Jesus arose and rebuked The winds of the sea and there was a great calm Turn to the Lord Jesus and let his power Take care of stormy situations instead of trying to do it ourselves In Revelation chapter 2 verse 10 the Lord Jesus said to those in Smyrna Do not fear any of the things which you are about to suffer Indeed the devil is going to throw some of you into prison that you may be tested and you will have tribulation 10 days Be faithful unto death and I will give you the crown of life It's not about the crown. It's about the life that that crown represents and gives access Revelation 17 14 These Individuals make war with the Lamb and the Lamb will overcome them for he is Lord of Lords and King of Kings and those who are with him are called chosen and faithful called Chosen and faithful all things work together for good Paul says to those who are the called Who are the chosen according to his purpose? Called chosen and faithful we know what this means We saw in Chapter 3 verse 9 The Lord Jesus says indeed I will make those of the synagogue of Satan who say they are Jews and are not but lie I will make them come and worship before your feet and to know that I have loved you Similar to chapter 2 verse 9 I know your works tribulation and poverty, but you are rich I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not but are a synagogue of Satan Doesn't fit the pattern of the tabernacle in the dwelling place of God to be of the synagogue of Satan to not be fitted for the New Jerusalem because we're too much in the capital city of Babylon Finally Those who are false and liars are mentioned in chapter 2 verse 2 You have tested those who say they are apostles and are not and have found them liars That was in Ephesus the very first church chapter 2 verse 2 chapter 14 verse 5 those who are Faithful unto death in their mouth was found.

No deceit. They are without fault before the throne of God and 2215 we're going to see this again outside. It's repeated twice if God says something twice We really need to pay attention God shouldn't have to say a thing more than once But 2215 outside the dogs sorcerers sexually immoral murderers idolaters whoever loves and practices loves embraces tolerates the presence of enjoys the presence of and Practices the lie we need to be people of truth That's why we're a Bible Church and why we endeavor to not only expose ourselves to it, but understand it and apply it Well, this gets us ready now to pick up in verse 9 next time.

We'll close here in a word of prayer Father thank you for the wonderful Revelation of truth to be found in your word We can see so clearly the blessing that comes to us when we read and keep the words of this book We pray that God the Holy Spirit will enable us to understand it and to be

faithful to its content To remember who we are and why we're here and what our future opportunities are in your son the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior We pray it in his name. Amen