

LIGHTHOUSE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
BIBLE STUDY
LOOKING FOR THE CITY
REVELATION 21-22

OBJECTIVE: To get a vision of where we're headed if we continue on the right path and that the best and worst of times we experience here on this earth is blown away by who and what awaits us after this life.

Think of a place or event in your life that you remember and could NEVER forget because it had such an impact on you. It was so great being there. The sights, sounds, people, etc. electrified you, you couldn't get enough, and you were drunk on it. You didn't want it to end. Or maybe you still think of something that hasn't happened yet but still it stirs your heart, consuming your thoughts at times, imagining what could be. Maybe you're in total bliss and satisfaction. Kinda like Heaven, huh?

INTRODUCTION: When a saint dies, he or she is with THE LORD immediately in a place we call HEAVEN. As wonderful as that place is, it's not our final destination. After The Great White Throne Judgment, GOD will bring our present world to an end. Then, in a dazzling display of power, GOD will create a new earth and a new heaven. A New Jerusalem, our new home forever. This is what was shown to John. It was shocking to him to say the least. So much so that he fell down and worshipped in front of the angel who was showing these great things to come. Let's take a look at some of what awaits us.

*****NOTE:** There is no right or wrong answer to many of the questions and they are intended to be discussed in a group setting that allows people to answer what they think.

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. As we've read through these two chapters, which scene would you like to capture in a photograph? Answer- Though this is more of a personal question, but for me, it's seeing our GOD in all HIS glory in a picture. What more could anybody want than to see HIM who loves us so much and so perfectly, hands down it's seeing GOD. Then after that, seeing my loved ones LORD willing and I know HE is. OH, then dinosaurs. Sounds goofy but love them dinos, hopefully they will be there.
2. What fact about eternity is new to you? Answer- I don't know about you, but for me, maybe it's knowing that we won't be in Heaven for all eternity as we know it but will be on earth, THE NEW EARTH, IN THE NEW JERUSALEM with GOD AND JESUS.
3. What promise from GOD in these two chapters is most important to you? Answer- Though there are more than one, for me again, it's probably that there will be no more death, or crying, or sorrow, or pain. Can you imagine such a place? It's hard for me to even think of a place. Don't have to worry about getting hurt and to be quite honest, we won't hurt anybody either and we do in this life if we're real CHRISTIANS. No more funerals, no more goodbyes, or hospitals or hospital visits. No more hospices. No more bad news phone calls and we all got them. You name it, whatever you can think of that causes these things WILL NOT BE THERE!!! PRAISE BE TO THE ONE TRUE LIVING GOD!!!!
4. When we go through hard times, do we ever stop to think about eternity with GOD and why? Answer- Again, another personal question, one could have many reasons why or why not think about eternity with GOD. Maybe they do indirectly and just believe that if GOD got them through past trials, HE will just get them through another trial which is true. For me though, I do tend to think about Heaven when I go through the trials of life. Because even if we get the desires of our heart and needs met, there are times when life just gets to be a drain, or things happen in our lives that we didn't expect and maybe there's no way out of it and we just have to go through the storm and who knows how long that storm will last. We just have to have that UNDEFEATABLE HOPE that all the nonsense will end one day and we will see the end of our hope. JESUS CHRIST.

5. What will be missing from the future city according to Rev. 21:22-27?

Answer- Well there could be a lot of things that won't be there but according to the verses given, the following will not be there:

A. No temple because GOD and JESUS CHRIST will be there and there will be no need to have a house of GOD to go to for THE LORD will be amongst us.

B. Now there will be no need for the sun or moon in those days because the glory of THE LORD AND HIS CHRIST will illuminate everything. There will be no darkness or night at all forever. All day long is light. But for me to say that there will be no more sun or moon would not be right only because I've not found enough scripture to back that up or maybe not enough understanding.

C. No sinner or sin will be there for THE LORD HIMSELF will be there and no sin can dwell near THE ALMIGHTY.

6. According to Rev.22:1-5, what will the inhabitants of the city be doing? Answer- By just sticking to these verses, we can conclude that we will be active and at least some of these activities will involve SERVING in some form or fashion, maybe not too much different from what we're doing now. We will also REIGN with CHRIST forever. Exactly how, I honestly couldn't tell you. So we'll be doing more than just playing a harp or sitting on a beach sipping lemonade.

7. Can just anyone enter the city according to Rev.21:8, 22:15? Answer- NO, not everybody will be able to enter the new city. Notice who isn't allowed. Sinners who don't repent of their sin but keep living a sinful lifestyle. GOD WILL NOT BE MOCKED. No one will pull a fast one on GOD. No, nobody is perfect, even the best saint. But GOD does provide the ability to live a holy life if we are TRUE BELIEVERS IN CHRIST. There MUST be an honest fight against sin. Perfection, NO, but humble repentance, YES. To turn from ones own sin and ask GOD for help when and if we fall. ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE WITH GOD.

8. If we take a look at Rev. 22:18-19, why might a person add to or take away from GOD'S prophetic word? ANSWER- There could be many reasons why one would mess with GOD'S word but one main reason is to make an excuse to sin. Sin is what keeps us from fellowship with GOD. Whatever entices us might lure us from GOD'S word and to justify our reason to sin and to get our way and not have our conscience convicted, we'll tinker with THE WORD OF GOD thinking we'll be OK afterwards.

9. Who is the bride in ch.21: 2? **Answer- It is the New Jerusalem described as a bride the way GOD adorned her but ultimately it will house the Bride of CHRIST which are the saints. All of GOD'S saints. When a man looks upon his bride, who will soon be his wife, he looks in total awe, he delights so much in the one he chose and who chose him, and they will be together for the rest of their lives. GOD delights in us whom HE chose, and wants to be with us forever. What an awesome thought. Marriage is very special and so is our relationship with GOD because that's how GOD sees it.**
10. What is meant by Rev.22:10? **Answer- That CHRIST can come back at any moment and that we should take heed, to get right with GOD and stay right and to spread the GOSPEL OF CHRIST TO THE LOST, TO DO THE WILL OF THE FATHER.**

SUMMARY; As we looked at the subject chapters of this bible study and the previous questions contained in it, we get a little better understanding of what it's going to be like in the life hereafter. There's nothing on this earth that can compare to walking with GOD right there beside you. No more faith because there will be no more need for it. Sin, death, pain, sorrow, and everything that comes with it will be forever GONE. It's hard to put it in words on how remarkable it will be. There is a story about a woman who had a near death experience in a rafting accident, a doctor with a husband and kids. She said she saw things and felt things, and that it was so powerful, that she didn't want to come back. She said she went to Heaven and didn't want to come back. I saw her website and heard her testimony though I'm not sure if she was saved before or after the accident. Can you imagine that, having a good career, a good family and not wanting to come back? What could explain such a phenomena? I'll tell you what could do such a thing, being in Heaven where GOD dwells. It is the ultimate hope of every saint or at least it should be. Because all else WILL fall short because we're in a fallen world. But only those who are covered by CHRIST' blood and hold to their testimony will overcome the sin of this world and the enemy will enter in the dwelling place of GOD AND HIS CHRIST. But once we are in, WE ARE IN! So be encouraged fellow brethren. The prize is ahead of us and it's all worth it. Who knows how long the trial will last but we do know one thing, IT WON'T LAST FOREVER. GOD'S grace is enough THE WORD OF GOD says and seasons come and seasons go but

THE WORD OF GOD STANDS FOREVER and it says that HE is for us and not against us and that the promises of GOD are yes and amen! Let us pray for one another and press forward for the GOSPEL SAKE, to tell the world about THE LIVING CHRIST AND THAT HE IS COMING SOON. BE READY! GOD BLESS!