

Lesson 6 The Kingdom of Heaven and the Indwelling of the Holy Spirit

Day 1

Is the Kingdom of Heaven “Heaven?”

In **Matthew 21:5**, Jesus comes into Jerusalem riding on a donkey, the foal of a beast of burden. Please cross-reference **Isaiah 62:11** and **Daniel 9:24-27**. This is the last week of Jesus’ life on this earth before He is put to death by crucifixion. The people accept Him as their triumphant king on the first day of the week, the day after the Sabbath. If Jesus was accepted as a king, then it follows that he must have a kingdom in order to rule over a people. This is the first time that I have put the pieces of the puzzle together and understood the progression of events in Matthew in this last week of Jesus’ life. Before you go on, I would like for you to work through this chronological list of the events of Jesus’ life during this last week before He goes to the cross. Answer the questions in the spaces provided concerning the “Kingdom.”

- **Matthew 21:12-13** What claim does Jesus make concerning His kingdom by entering into the Temple, turning over the tables of the money changers, and the seats of those who were selling doves, and driving out all those who were buying and selling in the Temple?

His kingdom was going to be a kingdom of prayer and not a kingdom of thievery.

- **Matthew 21:18-27** How did He cause the fig tree to wither all at once? As we found out last semester, Hebrew words sometimes mean more than just what is on the surface. I think this is the case here with the word “mountain.” I believe that Jesus here is telling His disciples that if they have faith, they can even move a mountain...a mountain in this case meaning a kingdom...His disciples could move the kingdom of ha-Satan into the sea if they would just believe and not doubt. How could they do this?

By believing, by faith, prayer, by the Spirit.

- Most of what happens after His triumphant entry into Jerusalem is about His kingdom. By who’s authority was Jesus doing all of the above?

By the Spirit.

- **Matthew 21:28-32** Then we have Jesus starting to talk in parables: In this man’s personal kingdom, he had two sons. One said he would not work in the vineyard the day his father asked him but then he regretted what he had said and he did work in the vineyard. The other son told the father he would work in the vineyard and in the end he did not go. Which son did the will of the

father? Who was Jesus referring to in this parable? What did this have to do with Jesus' kingdom?

The will of the Father was done by the son who said he would not, but in the end, he did. The one who is obedient in the end is the one who is doing the will of the Father.

- **Matthew 21:33-41** Jesus tells another parable. What is Jesus saying about His kingdom through the telling of this parable?

He is speaking to the Pharisees and the Chief priests, Saducees and telling them if they kill the Son of God, the kingdom will be given to another people.

- **Matthew 21:42-45** Jesus is rather forthright in His condemnation of the chief priests and the Pharisees in verse 21:43. What does He say about the Kingdom of God here?

The kingdom will be given to another nation.

- **Matthew 22:1-14** Jesus compares the Kingdom of Heaven here to a King who gave a wedding feast for his son. What happened to the King's Son in this parable?

His friends made light of his marriage and skipped it and the festivities.

Please continue reading **Matthew 23-24**. We return to the kingdom theme starting again in Matthew 25.

- **Matthew 25: 1-13** What did Jesus compare with the kingdom of heaven?

The virgins waiting for the bride groom with their lamps

- **Matthew 25:14-30** What else did Jesus compare with the kingdom of heaven?

the coins of the master to invest

Matthew was written to the Jewish people The Jewish people were looking for a King. They wanted their King to banish and destroy all their enemies and place them in a Kingdom. Therefore, Matthew's Gospel account could be looked at as the Kingdom Gospel. So, what do you think the difference is between the Kingdom of Heaven and the Kingdom of God?

In the original Greek the "Kingdom of Heaven" is only used in Matthew's Gospel, not in the other three Gospel accounts. In various passages of Matthew, Jesus uses the two terms for Kingdom of God and Kingdom of Heaven interchangeably. For example, in **Matthew 19:23-24**, "And Jesus said to His disciples, 'Truly I say to you, it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter the

kingdom of God.” Most of the commentators I read concerning this say there is no difference; the two are the same.

Okay then, what was the meaning behind the kingdom of God or the kingdom of Heaven in the context in which we study the Millennial Kingdom? I don’t really expect you to come up with the ties between the Kingdom of Heaven and the Millennium reign of Jesus at this time, but keep your ears attuned to clues as we continue on. We will discuss this below in day 4 and also in Part 3 of this study.

What does Jesus say about His Kingdom to Pilate in **John 18:36**?

My kingdom is not of this world

What does Jesus answer Pilate when Pilate asks Him, “So you are a king?”

You say that I am a king. I was born for this, and I have come into the world for this: to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.

So, what do you think? Is the Kingdom of Heaven, Heaven?

I don’t know at this point.

Day 2

Is the Kingdom of Heaven in our hearts?

...for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now...**Acts 1:5**

In our timeline, we are at the part in the Scripture where Jesus has died on the cross for the sins of all Mankind and has been resurrected from the dead by His Father and has appeared to His disciples. For the next 40 days after His resurrection, Jesus will teach His apostles many things concerning the Kingdom of God. Write the words of **Acts 1:3** below:

After he had suffered, he also presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of 40 days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

Continuing on in **Acts 1:6-8**, we find out that the disciples wanted to know if this was now the time when He would restore the Kingdom to Israel? They just didn’t get it yet, did they? There is reason they didn’t have the understanding they needed to carry out His will on their own at this time. What do you think that reason might be? Please read **Acts 1:4-8** and give your answer below:

Why was it necessary for them to wait in Jerusalem before they moved out from there to the rest of the world? **They needed the power of the Holy Spirit with them to convict and convince the rest of the world**

So, what were the disciples missing concerning their understanding of the Kingdom before Jesus left them and ascended back into Heaven? **They were missing the Holy Spirit.**

The Day of Pentecost...you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you

Jesus was here on this earth until 40 days past the resurrection. He told His disciples to wait to leave Jerusalem, because in a little while, they were going to be baptized by the Holy Spirit. On the Day of Pentecost (one of the three festivals for which the Jews were to be in Jerusalem) the Father sent the Holy Spirit to indwell those of His who were true believers. I chuckle at the series, ***The Son of God***, as I remember the man who played Peter being very impatient, not knowing when the Holy Spirit was coming. I chuckle because I would have been just like Peter, wondering somehow if I was going to have to wait an eternity. It was only 10 days between when Jesus ascended back to His Father and when the Holy Spirit came to indwell the Believers. **10 Days!**

What was the significance of God sending the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost? Let's take a review of two of the three of these festivals, called the Spring Festivals, in which the Jewish men were to participate in Jerusalem. For the men (at least), these three trips to Jerusalem every year were in order to obey the Law Moses had given the Israelite men when they were in the land God had promised them.

The first festival, comprising of the Feast of Passover, the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and the Feast of First Fruits was earlier in the calendar year, probably some time in the early to mid-springtime. All three of these feasts together are called The Festival of Passover.

Of course, we know about the Passover. When the Israelites had been slaves in Egypt for 400 years, Moses told Pharaoh to let the Israelites leave Egypt nine times. For nine times Pharaoh agreed in some form or fashion to Moses' demand and then he would renege on his word. So, God brought a tenth plague in which the Angel of Death (some think this was the LORD Himself) brought about the death of the firstborn of all those in Egypt who did not have the blood of the Passover Lamb on their doors. You will notice here, I said "all those in Egypt." In addition to the Israelites obeying God, there were probably some of the Egyptians who heard and obeyed the LORD as well. With the last plague, the death of the first born of every household without the blood of the Lamb on the Door, Moses was successful in moving his people out of Egypt and across the Reed Sea and into the desert. After the Law was given and the Israelites were in the land, they were to remember and celebrate God's deliverance of them from slavery in Egypt.

The second feast of the Passover Festival was the Feast of Unleavened Bread. For seven days, the Israelites who were then in the land, were to clean their houses of all

leavening. Leavening in the Old Testament was one of the symbols used for sin. So, what were these Israelites supposed to be doing concerning their spiritual lives for these seven days? I just had a revelation from the Holy Spirit. The call to repentance in John the Baptist's ministry may have been the fulfillment of the Old Testament Feast of Unleavened bread: they were to get all of the leaven (sin) out of their houses. John the Baptist called to the people to repent. The repentance and subsequent baptism was a preparation for the Son of God's arrival.

Finally, on what we would call the same weekend as the other two feasts the Israelites were to bring the first fruits of their harvest and present them before the LORD. They did this in obedience to God and also in trust of God. This was called the Feast of First Fruits for if they would bring their first fruits to Him, He would provide them with the needed harvest for the rest of the current growing season. Do you remember "First Fruits" from anything we have already studied in Part 1? Let me refresh your memory: reread **Colossians 1:18** and **1 Corinthians 15:20-23**. Who was the "First Fruits?" Who was resurrected (never to die again) before any other human being? **Sunday School answer: Jesus**

The promise God gave to them if they offered their "first fruits" to Him was: with Jesus' resurrection, more of the harvest would also be resurrected. What did His resurrection mean for those who came after Him? **They, too, were to be resurrected.**

So now, we come to the Day of Pentecost. "Pente," means fifty. Fifty days after the Feast of First Fruits, God does what? **Gives the believers the Holy Spirit.**

What was the gift offering to be presented before the LORD (in the Temple or Tabernacle) on the Day of Pentecost? Please read **Acts 2** and just write down below what God through His Spirit teaches you in this passage. Spend some time on this please. Also see **Leviticus 23:15-21**.

2 sheaves of leavened bread were to be waived before the LORD depicting Jew and Gentile were now in one body.

Why were the people from Parthia, Mede, Elam, Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, Asia, Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, Libya, Cyrene, and Rome doing in Jerusalem?

It was one of the three times during the year when the men were required to come to Jerusalem for the three festivals of Israel, in this case the Festival of Pentecost.

Now before you go on to Day 3, I would like you to read once again, **Jeremiah 31:31-34** and **Ezekiel 36:22-32**. What will God place inside the Believers when they humble themselves and receive His gift of Salvation?

His Spirit

So, if the Believer is indwelt by the Third Person of the Godhead, does this make the believing person God's dwelling place? Does this make the person's body Heaven?

I don't know, but it is interesting to contemplate. We are told in the New Testament that our bodies are the Temple of God (are part of Christ's body)?

Day 3

You are a temple of God and the Spirit of God dwells in you!

Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him, for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are...**1 Corinthians 3:16**.

Thinking back to our definition of Heaven that we are using, and that is, it is "where God chooses to be and also where there is no sin," which of the criteria does the indwelling Holy Spirit satisfy? This is a trick question. **Both, if the person has truly accepted the LORD and also if the person has truly repented and been cleansed of their sin.**

We are going to look more closely at the two passages of Scripture I gave you to read at the end of Day 2 on the New Covenant. We are talking about the Temple of God and God choosing to dwell in us by His Holy Spirit. In our sinful state, yes, we are not suitable for His indwelling. However, Christ's righteousness has been imputed to us who have taken Him as our Savior and Lord and we have our righteousness in Him. Remember Abram? Because of Abram's belief God accounted it to him as righteousness. Because of our belief, God has accounted to us Christ's righteousness. No, we are not in Heaven, but God has chosen to dwell in us through the third person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit. He has also sanctified us or made us holy in His sight by that same Spirit.

Pull out your Bibles and put two place markers in your Bible, the first one in **Jeremiah 31:31-34** and the second in **Ezekiel 36:22-32**. These are the passages of Scripture I asked you to read at the end of Day 2.

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Who has made a **New** covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah? Remember that the Nation of Israel had a civil war: the 10 northern tribes were banded together and they became known as the House of Israel. The southern two tribes, Judah and Benjamin, had banded together and they became known as the House of Judah. The northern tribes were taken into captivity by Assyria 100 years before the southern tribes were taken into captivity by Babylon. The northern tribes were dispersed into different civilizations in the world and never returned to the land. This was the Assyrian's method of totally destroying a culture. The southern tribes returned to the land 70 years after they were taken into captivity. They became known as the Jews because Babylon had laid siege to Jerusalem in three different battles and in the final battle the Babylonians succeeded in taking the city completely. I am certain that this is bringing up some thoughts in you about "the ten lost tribes of Israel" who are present with the other two tribes in Revelation 7 at the end time. We will cover this in the last part of this study in the fall 2025. I will explain it to you then.

Thus, in **Jeremiah 31:31**, God says, "Behold, days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, . . ."

With whom is God making a new covenant? **With the houses of Judah and Israel**

How was the old covenant God made with the Israelites different from this new covenant? **Old Covenant was written on tablets of stone: this New Covenant was written on the human heart**

What did the Israelites do with the Old Covenant? **They didn't and couldn't obey it**

What were the Old Covenant's terms? Refer back to **Exodus 24:3**.

If you obey, you will receive blessing, if you disobey, you will receive cursing.

God had repeated the Old Covenant to the Israelites in the Book of Deuteronomy, written the last week of Moses' life, and just before the offspring of all who had come out of Egypt, entered the land. You can find this in some light reading (NOT!) in Deuteronomy chapters 28-30. Basically, in this passage of Scripture, God promises blessing for obedience to the Law and He promises cursing for disobedience to the Law. Again, see what Israel said to God concerning obedience to the Law in **Exodus 24:3**.

How is the New Covenant different as explained in **Jeremiah 31:31-34**?

God makes a covenant with the combined houses of Israel (these will include all the 12 tribes of Israel). He will put His law within them and on their hearts.

When will this take place? **In that day.**

What does the term “in that day,” mean?

How will God etch His law onto their hearts? (This is a thinking question.)

What is the result of this new covenant written on their hearts?

They will be careful to do all that is written on it.

What does the LORD mean when He says to the combined houses of Israel, they will have no need to say to each other, “know the Lord?”

b/c they will all know the LORD

Continue to read **Jeremiah 31:35-38**. How sure is God about Israel’s place in this coming day?

Absolutely certain as if the sun and the moon do not fail, then He will not fail in His watching over them

Why does God love these Israelites so much and is willing to put up with so much from them? If you don’t know, return to **Genesis 15:18**. Pay close attention to Abram’s descendants.

b/c they are Abram’s descendants

Okay, in a nutshell, this says, God will cause His Spirit to indwell the Israelites. What does this mean for you and me? We are Gentiles. How can we (the Gentiles) possibly be included in the New Covenant? If you are struggling with this, then go back to **Genesis 12: 3** to have assurance and place your answer below.

We are the families who will be blessed by Abraham’s descendants

What are some names used for the Holy Spirit that relate the Spirit equally to the other two Persons of the Trinity? See **1 Corinthians 6:11, Romans 8:15, John 14:16.**

His Spirit

The Spirit of our God, the Spirit of Adoption, the Helper, another Comforter, are some of the names used for the Holy Spirit.

What are His characteristics, His divine attributes? See **1 Corinthians 2:10-11, Psalm 139:7, Genesis 1:2, 1 John 5:6, Luke 11:13, Romans 8:2, and Isaiah 40:13.**

The Spirit who searches out all things: He is omnipresent, He stirs up the waters, the Spirit bears witness because the Spirit is Truth, the Holy Spirit is good and is a gift from the Father to us because we ask Him for the HS, He is the Spirit of Life which sets us free from the law of sin and death.

What are the works done by the Holy Spirit that can only be done by God? See **Genesis 1:2, 2 Peter 1:21, Luke 1:35, John 16:8, John 3:5-6, John 14:16, Romans 8:26-27, and 2 Thessalonians 2:13.**

He was involved in Creation, He speaks through men to prophesy, the HS came upon Mary, and the power of the Most High overshadowed her, He will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment, one must be born of water and the HS to enter the Kingdom of God, He will be sent to be our Helper and be with us forever, He helps our weaknesses, the Spirit of God intercedes for us with groaning too deep for words, He searches the hearts of men, and intercedes for the saints of God according to the will of God.

See the following verses that speak to the Holy Spirit being equal to the other Persons of the Trinity? **Acts 5:3-4, Matthew 28:19, 2 Corinthians 13:14.**

Now, what does it mean that God will cause His Spirit to indwell those who believe?

Before we go on to study Ezekiel, I would like you to turn to **Romans 11:1-32.** Please just read this. Below I have listed my thoughts as I read through this passage of Scripture once again.

1. God is not done with Israel. God has not rejected His people.
2. God always reserves Himself a remnant of His people. They of the remnant in the latter days, will be the ones saved in the end.
3. God has known from the dawn of time those who are presently the remnant, These He will protect until that day.
4. Salvation has come to us, the Gentiles, because the Jews (as a nation, not individually) have rejected Him. God will make the Jewish people jealous of the Christians and they will desire the same relationship with God as we have. We make them jealous by knowing more about their faith than they do.
5. We, the Gentiles, are the wild olive and we were grafted in among them and became partakers with them of the rich root of the olive tree.
6. Jews were broken off of the olive tree because of their unbelief.
7. If the Jews do not remain in their unbelief, they will be grafted in again into the rich root of the olive tree.

Ezekiel 36:22-32

Please read the Ezekiel passage now and list what you learn about the Jewish people and what you learn about the Gentile world in regards to the removing of the old heart and the giving of the new heart.

These are some of my takes from this passage:

1. God acts because of His own Name concerning the Israelites for they certainly have profaned His name on the earth and to the Gentiles.
2. God will vindicate the holiness of His great name so that the Gentiles will see Him as Truth.
3. God said He would take the Israelites who have been dispersed in all the nations of the world and will gather them in their own land. Has this happened to the Jews for the second time?
4. After point three above, then He will sprinkle clean water on them and they will be clean. He will cleanse them from all their filthiness and from all their idols.
5. He will give them a new heart and put a new spirit within them.
6. He will remove the old heart of stone and give them a new heart of flesh.
7. He will put His Spirit within them and cause them to walk in His statutes and they will be careful to observe His ordinances.
8. There is an implication made here that Israel will live in the land that is theirs a second time and God will not let them know the disgrace of famine ever again (which means God is pleased with them at this future time).
9. When the Jews finally fully realize their ways are evil and their deeds are not good in God's sight, then they will know they have rejected their Messiah King. And on that day, they will all with one accord (as a nation) cry out to Him to return and He will return on that day.

Day 4

Is the Millennial Kingdom (MK) the Kingdom of Heaven? Revelation 20 with cross-reference to Isaiah 60

We are going to begin our connection of Revelation to the kingdom that we studied on day one in **Revelation 20**, where there is mention of the Millennial Kingdom. Here the criteria for being in "Heaven" is where the LORD chooses to be," checks out. However, the criteria for: "no sin present" does not. The reason for the latter is because there will be some survivors from the Great Tribulation who will enter the Millennium saved, but still in their sinful bodies. These will have children and their children will have children in the Millennium. Those children will still be in sinful

bodies and there will be those of them who do not side with the LORD Jesus Christ during this time. As hard as it is to believe, there will be rebellion on the earth when Jesus Christ reigns for a thousand years from His throne in Jerusalem. Those who do not rebel will come to salvation just like you and I did. The only difference will be in the visibility of the person of Jesus Christ; everyone in this time period will actually see Jesus on the Throne in His Temple ruling on the political throne of His Father David.

Please read **Revelation 20**. Write down below, what things you learn about the Millennial Kingdom.

I will also write what I have learned from this passage concerning the MK. during this time of the Millennium:

1. Just prior to the MK, the angel with the key to the abyss takes a hold of the dragon, ha-Satan, or the serpent of old, the devil, and chains him in the abyss for 1000 years. During this time of the MK, ha-Satan is not allowed to roam the earth and deceive the nations, but sin in men will still be active and there will be those who will reject the Messiah and will rise up against Him.
2. Then John saw thrones set up. These might have been thrones of the 24 orders of the priesthood, the 12 apostles, the 12 tribes of Israel, hard to say.
3. Judgment was given to those who sat on the 24 thrones. What or whom are they judging? In context "then" occurs next and John only talks of the tribulation saints here who will come back to life and reign with Jesus Christ. This does not say anything about those Believers who went before the tribulation saints (church saints) that include the New Testament saints and those who were raptured. And what about the Old Testament Saints? Could those who went before also be included in those who will reign in the MK, and just not mentioned here? After looking into this and reading several commentators, I'm more confused than ever. I believe we have found before and will find again verses elsewhere in Scripture that point out that all Believers will reign with Christ on the earth during the Millennial Kingdom. That means you and me! Regardless, all who reign with Christ in the Millennial Kingdom on this earth will be priests of God and of Christ.
4. The rest of the dead did not come to life until after the MK. Who is the rest of the dead, here? Us, specifically, or all the rest of Mankind and us, or just the

- rest of Mankind who will stand in judgment after the Millennial Kingdom? Where are all of these people in the meantime of the thousand-year reign of Christ on the earth? In storage somewhere? Perhaps in Hades, the temporary holding of those awaiting judgment? I must think about this more, since some have the thought that we are in some holding tank somewhere awaiting our resurrection.
5. The judgment on the rest of the dead will occur after the Millennial Kingdom. This means they will be resurrected then, after the Millennial Kingdom is over.
 6. All those who will take part in the first resurrection, the second death will have no power over. If you will remember from another lesson, the second death is the Lake of Fire.
 7. After the one thousand year reign of Christ, ha-Satan will be allowed to come out of the abyss and freely gather all those together who are rebellious against the LORD and they will ready themselves for battle on the broad plain of the earth that surrounds the camp of the saints and Jerusalem. This time it will be all over again quickly as fire will come down from HEAVEN and will consume all of them.
 8. After this ha-Satan will be thrown into the Lake of Fire where the beast and false prophet have been for the past 1000 years. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.
 9. Then, the Great White Throne Judgment is carried out. All those whose names are not in the Lamb's Book of Life are thrown into the Lake of Fire.

One more thing before we go onto day 5 and the New Jerusalem: when Jesus prayed, "Your Kingdom come, Your will be done," to which kingdom do you think He was referring?

So, I ask you one more time, is the Kingdom of Heaven, Heaven? And/or is the human heart cleansed of sin God's dwelling place, and therefore Heaven?

Please read **Isaiah 60**. What you will find in Isaiah 60 is the best commentary in the Old Testament on the Millennial Kingdom and also **Revelation 20** and **21**.

Day 5

The Eternal Order, The New Jerusalem, Definitely Heaven on Earth, Revelation 21-22

Please read **Matthew 25:31-46**. Here we have in the Scripture what we have played out in **Revelation 6-20**. You can read none of these verses, some, or all of these as you would like so that you can get a flavor and feel of what is in store for the earth dwellers during the Great Tribulation. We will study this in the last part of Revelation when we cover these passages.

At this point in our study, I think we are aware enough to know that when we die, we are not going to just be disembodied spirits, but we will have some kind of body. It may not be our final body to live in eternally in the Eternal Order or the New Jerusalem, but it may be some kind of intermediate body. I think we also realize that the heaven that we may experience initially is maybe temporary and there is a day at the end of the Millennial Kingdom when God will do away with the old Heaven and the old earth and He will bring in the new heaven and the new earth and we will be placed into the New Jerusalem to live out eternity with our God. We are headed for what God has desired all along: He will dwell with us in unencumbered fellowship on this earth. In a very real sense, Heaven will come down to Earth and we shall forever be with the LORD. I don't know about you, but I know about me and this type of thinking is absolutely new to me. For the rest of this day's lesson, I want to focus on the Eternal Order and what is in store for us in the New Heaven and New Earth or the New Jerusalem. Honestly, I believe that the New Heaven will be the atmosphere around the New Earth. There will be a complete replacement of the New Earth and the atmosphere surrounding it. We no longer will have any pollution. Much more importantly than this, there will no longer be any sin. This new earth will be a perfect environment very similar to the Garden of Eden, including the opportunity to walk in unencumbered fellowship with our God. Here we will dwell inside the New Jerusalem. There will be no Temple because the LORD Jesus and the Father will be the Temple. There will be no sun, no moon, because the LORD Jesus and the Father are the eternal Light. Remember, what happened in the Beginning? "Then God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light." Jesus was the Light of the World. In 1 John 1:5, John says, "This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that **G O D is L I G H T**, and in HIM is no darkness at all.

Please read **Revelation 21 and 22** and answer the following questions.

What did John see in **Revelation 21:1-2**? What is conspicuously absent in **21:1**?

What happened to the first heaven and the first earth in **Revelation 21:1**?

How was the holy city, the New Jerusalem described in **Revelation 21:2**? Does this remind you of the Shekinah Glory at all?

What did John hear from the throne in **Revelation 21:3**? Does this imply that there is a throne in the New Heaven even though there is no Temple, as we learn later on?

All that God has desired all along in dwelling with Mankind has come to fruition. All of His work to protect Mankind from His holiness, and to protect Himself from their sinfulness has finally come.

He's here!!! He's here!!! He is finally here!!!

She's here!!! She's here!!! She is finally here!!!

Can you feel the excitement? The Bridegroom and the Bride have finally come together for the marriage.

What does He who sits on the throne say in **Revelation 21:5-8**? This does imply that there is a throne in the New Jerusalem even though we know there is no building called the Tabernacle.

What will there not be in the Eternal Order according to **Revelation 21:4**?

Everything will be fine in the Eternal Order. We will have perfect and sweet peace at all times. God has wrapped up all things and we will rest in the knowledge that He is good and has judged all men rightly. What does He write in **Revelation 21:6**? Write it below in bigger than normal letters!

What does the above cost? What did it cost you? What did it cost the Father?

What do the words Faithful and True imply?

What do the words the Alpha and the Omega mean?

He says in **Revelation 21:7** that the one who overcomes will inherit all. At this point how did the one who overcame overcome? Was it by trusting in himself? Does God ever expect for us to make it if we only rely on our human strength? What have you

learned about the LORD Jesus Christ and the authority and the power that have been given Him by His Father? If you need to be reminded, check out **Matthew 28:16-20**.

There were some who saw Him on the last day before He ascended into Heaven and they were doubtful. What did Jesus do and say to them? Are you doubtful? He says this to you, "All authority has been given me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Then John gets a glimpse of the Bride in Revelation 21:9. The angel who takes John to see the Bride calls her the "wife of the Lamb." Not only will we be co-heirs with Him, we will be called His wife.

Then John gets carried away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain. What did John see in **Revelation 21:10**? What is evident about the holy city according to **Revelation 21:11**? Are you reminded of the Shekinah Glory here?

How many gates were there going into the city? Tell me what you can about the gates and the walls of the city.

Let's talk about the measurements of the city. How is the city laid out?

What is the shape of the city itself? What were the measurements of the Holy of Holies? What was the shape of the Holy of Holies?

What was the purpose of the Tabernacle in the Tent of Meeting or the Temple? Why is there no Tabernacle in the New Jerusalem according to Revelation 21:22?

Why is there no sun or moon?

Will there be nations in the New Jerusalem according to Revelation 21:24? Will there be kings? What does this say about who will be ruling in the New Jerusalem? Will everyone be a king kind of ruler or will some of us rule at a local level? Will this

mean that the different nations in the New Jerusalem will have their own culture and identity?

What river runs from the Throne of God in Revelation 22? What is on either side of the tree of life?

How many different fruits are there on this tree or does this single tree bare one fruit for one month and another fruit for another month? What purpose do the leaves of the tree have? I ask you again, will there be nations in the New Jerusalem?

Will the “curse” still be active in the New Jerusalem? What is the “curse?”

Will those in the New Jerusalem be able to see God’s face according to Revelation 22:4? Why or why not?

What will be on the foreheads of those in the New Jerusalem?

Can you believe all that Jesus has prepared for you? Please take a moment and just bask in His kindness to you. If you would like to write something down in thanksgiving to Him, do so.

Why does the angel tell John not to seal up the words of the prophecy of this book? See **Revelation 22:10**.

How will Jesus come to the earth the second time and what will He bring with Him according to **22:12**?

What are the names God uses to describe Himself in the rest of chapter **22**?

Who are those who have been given the right to eat from the tree of life and enter into the city?