

Message# 136 - 4-25-2021 - Revisiting Revelation - And without are dogs

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Good morning everyone. Thank you for tuning in to the message this morning. Before we get into today's message, I've got a few things that I'd like to share with you.

First off, Jeff is reporting that he is recovering well from the lung he had to repair his collapsed lung. In fact, he was back working again this past week. So, praise God for that good report. Let's continue to pray that he will be fully healed and that this issue will not return again.

As to Chris. Many of you have written in and have asked for details concerning his situation. I have spoken with him pretty much every day for the last week or so and I asked him the other day if he cared if I shared more details and he told me it was fine. I have to tell you that I don't even know all the details concerning what happened. I don't typically ask many questions. If you write to me or speak with me, I don't typically ask a lot of questions. I kind of figure that if there is something you want me to know - you'll just tell me. Unfortunately, some people interpret that the wrong way - almost as if I don't care - but that's the exact opposite - I DO care - but I don't like to ask questions because I don't want people to feel compelled to tell me something. So - fyi - if you share something with me - keep that in mind. I don't typically ask a lot of questions - but rather - if there's something you want me to know - you'll usually need to initiate that part of the conversation. I view that as more of just minding my business.

My books

Anyway, I first heard of what happened with Chris - well - maybe about 3 years ago - and I did not get the information first hand. It came in the form of a prayer request. It is my understanding that Chris was married to a woman - who was not particularly excited about some of the ways Chris wanted to live his life. Things in regard to Kingdom Living, particularly. The woman - who is now an ex-wife - had a 25 year old son that was living with them - and apparently this young man has a serious drinking problem and when he gets drunk - he is very unpleasant - to say the least.

On this particular occasion, he was drunk, became belligerent and Chris asked him to leave. He asked him to leave *his* house - Chris's house. The young man hit Chris - and in trying to defend himself - Chris hit him back. We can discuss all day long whether Chris should have defended himself or just allowed the drunken man to have his way -

personally - I believe that Chris was within Biblical truth to defend himself. And, if you want to believe the other way - as in turn the other cheek - I'm not going to argue against that either. We'll get into that in just a minute.

So, because the ex-wife and her drunken son are apparently unbelievers - one of them - called and got the police involved. I was told that Chris hit the young man one time - on the eye-brow - and there was some blood. Of course, it takes very little injury to the eye-brow to bring blood. Beyond that - there was no damage done - in self-defense - to this young man. But, when the police came - the ex and the young man - witnessed against Chris and Chris was arrested. He was subsequently quote "charged" with some type of battery - I don't know the details there - and then - like they always do - they piled on a couple more for good measure - I think maybe a resisting arrest - or some type of disturbance - or something like that.

Now, it must be noted that the young man did not suffer any damages. No loss of anything - probably just his pride. But, because there is a system out there that makes a living off of - many times - making something out of nothing - a quote "case" was made - which in the end - did nothing but enrich the state.

Let's throw out all that's been said so far - and let's just assume that Chris did not act in self defense - he was totally in the wrong. There is still no justification for bringing an outsider into what was clearly a family matter. And again - there was no damaged party. The boy - young man - had a minor cut above his eye. Didn't require stitches, no hospital visit - nothing like that. But let's just say - for example - that Chris was totally in the wrong.

Punishment - for a wrong of this type - is not 6 months in prison. God's punishment is an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth. Jail is not in the equation with the Will of God. And since I said that - I want to make a quick observation here. I want to make a brief comment on what the quote "Will of God" means - at least as I understand it.

"An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth." In the case of theft, two times, four times, or even five times restitution for a theft - that is the Will of God. It's plainly written. It's in the Bible. That is the Will of God. In the case of an injured party - an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth. In the case of theft - two times, 4 times, or 5 times restitution. That's what God's Will is. That's what it means - I believe - when we talk about the phrase - the Will of God. It's what He wants for His Creation. It's how He has revealed to us - the way we are supposed to live on this earth.

Jail is not the Will of God. That's not an option. Jail is man's attempt at telling God that He doesn't know what He's doing - His Will is not good enough. The way He wants things done - is not good enough. So man, in his infinite - which is truly finite, fickle, stupid, *lack* of wisdom has determined that jail - which is a concoction of man - is a preferred method to God's Will. It is man's will.

What is a Last Will and Testament? It is typically, a written document, with thorough instructions - plainly written for anyone to see who reads it - it is a written document telling people what they are to do with items left after a man leaves this physical plain. It's not hidden. It's not a mystery. It's written, spelled out, this is what my will is.

I believe, the same applies to the phrase "God's Will." It is His Will that is written in a document - and you could say that it is also seen and confirmed in nature - it is put out there so that everyone can see what God wants - how God wants His Creation to do things. God says - do this do this do this - don't do this - don't do that - that is His Will. Friends, in my simplistic way of viewing things - I see it as simplistic and easy as that.

So, an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth. There was no missing eye. There was no knocked out tooth. There was no loss of money from missing out on labor. There was no damage done in this instance.

This should have been a classic case of "no harm no foul." Although the phrase "no harm no foul" apparently did originate from the game of basketball - some claim that it comes from something Used to indicate that a mistake or instance of misconduct should be excused because it has not caused damage.

Should we, as followers of Christ be fighting with each other? No. I do not believe that. But you know what, as much as I hate to say it, things like that do happen. And if they do, among believers, the argument or dispute must be settled in a court of believers NOT in a court of unbelievers.

Besides this issue with Chris, some other things have popped up in current events that we should touch on. I want you to turn to I Corinthians chapter 6 for a few minutes this morning. Let's begin in verse 1.

[1] Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unjust, and not before the saints?

We see right off the bat - we've already mentioned basketball - we may as well go ahead and include baseball - right off the bat - Paul is saying to the Christians at Corinth - how dare you - how dare you having a matter against another, go to law before the unjust and not before the saints?

This is a really huge deal a huge matter here. This is something - and we'll see this in just a minute - that taking a brother or a sister in Christ - before the unbelievers - is so serious - that God includes that act with the most grievous of sins. This is a really big deal. Verse 2.

[2] Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters?

I want you to keep your finger right here for a minute, and let's turn to Matthew 19. I want to show you - again - Fulfilled Bible Prophecy - right here. I Corinthians 6:2 once again proves that Bible prophecy was fulfilled - prophecy that the "churchmen" say is future - but this passage proves again - the fact that Bible prophecy was fulfilled in the first century - in the lives of the people that Christ spoke to. Matthew 19, let's begin in verse 1:

[1] And it came to pass, that when Jesus had finished these sayings, he departed from Galilee, and came into the coasts of Judaea beyond Jordan;

[2] And great multitudes followed him; and he healed them there.

[3] The Pharisees also came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause?

[4] And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female,

[5] And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?

[6] Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

[7] They say unto him, Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away?

[8] He saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so.

[9] And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.

[10] His disciples say unto him, If the case of the man be so with his wife, it is not good to marry.

[11] But he said unto them, All men cannot receive this saying, save they to whom it is given.

[12] For there are some eunuchs, which were so born from their mother's womb: and there are some eunuchs, which were made eunuchs of men: and there be eunuchs, which have made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven's sake. He that is able to receive it, let him receive it.

[13] Then were there brought unto him little children, that he should put his hands on them, and pray: and the disciples rebuked them.

[14] But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven.

[15] And he laid his hands on them, and departed thence.

[16] And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?

[17] And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.

[18] He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness,

[19] Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

[20] The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet?

[21] Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me.

[22] But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions.

[23] Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven.

[24] And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.

[25] When his disciples heard it, they were exceedingly amazed, saying, Who then can be saved?

[26] But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.

[27] Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore?

Alright, stop right there for a second. Who is asking the question? This is Peter. Peter is speaking to Christ - in the first century. They were talking to each other. And Peter was getting ready to receive some knowledge from Christ. This knowledge that Peter was getting ready to receive is called faith. Faith is a system of belief - and saving faith - the common faith that Jude talked about - is faith - knowledge - that is based on the truth of the Word of God. When we have faith - our system of belief based on the truth of God's Word - then we put our trust in that faith - and we can have confidence that we are on the right path. So Peter is asking Christ for an answer. Christ is speaking truth to Peter. Peter is adding this truth to his faith - his system of belief - which is also the faith once delivered to the saints - and Jesus said unto all of them - not just Peter - this was for all of them, verse 28.

[28] And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Read it again.

[28] And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Now, go back to I Corinthians 6, verse 2:

[2] Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters?

I Corinthians 6 was such a big deal because it was preparation for what was soon coming in their lives. Verse 3:

[3] Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?

[4] If then ye have judgments of things pertaining to this life, set them to judge who are least esteemed in the Ecclesia.

[5] I speak to your shame. Is it so, that there is not a wise man among you? no, not one that shall be able to judge between his brethren?

[6] But brother goeth to law with brother, and that before the unbelievers.

[7] Now therefore there is utterly a fault among you, because ye go to law one with another. Why do ye not rather take wrong? why do ye not rather suffer yourselves to be defrauded?

[8] Nay, ye do wrong, and defraud, and that your brethren.

Now we need to really pay attention to what's next, because the entire discussion in the verse 8 verses is talking about true followers of Christ taking their brothers and sisters before the courts of the unbelievers. Look at verse 9. This is how bad it is when believers go to the courts of the unbelievers.

[9] Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,

[10] Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

In this Corinthian Ecclesia, Paul said that those who would take their brothers and sisters to the courts of the unbelievers would not inherit the Kingdom of God.

Look at what this does to Romans 13. There is no possible way that someone can reconcile I Corinthians 6 with Romans 13 if the same people teach that Romans 13 is man's secular government.

[1] Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.

[2] Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.

[3] For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same:

[4] For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.

[5] Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake.

[6] For for this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing.

This absolutely cannot be man's secular government when I Corinthians 6 the same writer tells those people that if they take believers before the courts of the unbelievers - they were as bad as fornicators, idolaters, queers, etc. I've said this before - it's no wonder that people who use half their brain - when examining the things going on in quote "church" - when people who use half their brains come across passages like I Corinthians 6 and Romans 13 - when they are told that in Romans 13 - Paul is telling Christians to obey and submit to the Roman Caesars. It's ridiculous. It makes no sense whatsoever.

So, when the world looks at what happened with Jerry Falwell, Jr and Liberty University last year - who holds themselves out to be the number one quote "evangelical university in the world" - then Jerry Jr sues the university - then the university sues Jerry Jr., what a total laughingstock.

This is another glaring example of why I tell people constantly, if what you believe about the Bible - if your system of faith - your belief system - has been shaped or molded by any of these types of people - then you need to go back and reevaluate every single thing they have ever told you about the Bible. If they can't get I Corinthians 6 straight - and Paul makes it abundantly clear - How dare you?

Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unjust, and not before the saints?

Don't you know that the unrighteous will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Are you telling me that among all those so-called "Christians" at Liberty - "churchians" is by far the better choice of description - there's no one that could judge the situation between Jerry Jr and the university? That is just plain embarrassing and is another reason to distance ourselves as far away from the "churchian" theology as we can get.

The matter that Chris went through and has resulted in him being in jail - is not one in which the quote "state" should have even been involved in. And even still, when the state was involved in the matter - the actors should have looked at the situation and determined - no harm no foul - and should not have escalated the situation further. They did and this is the result.

I wish Chris would not have even been in that situation - but such is life sometimes. And, like I said, even if he were 100% totally in the wrong - and I do not believe he was - he should not be in a jail like he is today.

Wrong place, wrong time.

Speaking of another wrong place, wrong time. I want to share something else with you similarly along these same lines. The actors - all parties involved - do not represent anything that I believe has to do with true Christianity. But it does involve the courts of the ungodly, and I want to read this to you because I want you to hear what this quote "judge" has to say in the end.

The article is titled:

Judge Struggles Releasing Capitol Defendant Who Claimed He Was On 'Mission' From God

A federal judge overseeing several cases of defendants charged in connection with the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol ordered a defendant who thought he was on a mission from God released from jail on Thursday.

Sadly, if this guy's faith - his system of belief - was based on the truth of God's Word - he would never have been in Washington, D.C. on January 6th fighting for Trump. I'm not in the least presenting this article to you - as a sympathy note for this guy. What I want to get to is at the end of the article - because - it could potentially apply to people like you and me - and I want you to hear right from these people's mouths what they believe about God. Continuing.

Trump supporter Joshua Black, U.S. District Judge Amy B. Jackson ruled, will be subject to home confinement in Alabama (with exceptions for work, church and medical and legal appointments), GPS location monitoring, and would have to surrender all firearms in his residence.

Stop here again for a second. Look at the exceptions.

Work. More than likely they are expecting "work" with a corporation - a creature of the state - duly licensed, etc., etc., which ultimately means under the quote "authority of the state." So - an exception for quote "work."

Church. Again, more than likely an ecclesiastical corporation of the state - a creature of the state - duly licensed, etc., etc., which ultimately means under the quote "authority of the state." These judges, prosecutors, etc., would like nothing more than for these

people to attend quote “church.” Why? Because in quote “church” - those people are going to be told that God has ordained the state as supreme ruler of the world - and if you don't obey the state - God is going to damn you to a burning hell.

The next exceptions:

Medical. More than likely a state recognized AMA certified, licensed, creature of the state - under the quote “jurisdiction” of the court.

And last, and it goes without saying - legal exceptions. Officers of the court. Back to the article.

Jackson said she struggled with whether to keep Black detained, and said it was a very close call. But ultimately she said the government had failed to prove that there were no conditions or combination of conditions that would assure the safety of the community until trial, as required under the Bail Reform Act.

Jackson told Black, who said that “the Lord” wanted him to “plead the blood of Jesus” inside the U.S. Capitol, that she wouldn’t hesitate to lock him back up if he violated any of his conditions of release.

“If you think God wants you to do something to violate the court order, and you do it, I will revoke your bond,” Jackson said.

The government argued that Black’s conduct on Jan. 6 was “harrowing and repugnant” and that he “zealously participated in an infamous attempt to subvert the Nation’s democratic process based on his own misguided, false belief that the presidential election, and America, had been ‘stolen’ and that the Constitution allowed him to ‘abolish’ a ‘corrupt’ or ‘crooked’ government.”

So said, that this guy who either is a religious zealot, or they are just trying to make him out that way - but his zeal was not according to the truth. Listen to this. This is Romans 10:1-4

[1] Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.

[2] For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge.

[3] For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.

[4] For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.

Zeal, being zealous, is great. Being excited about something is great. But it has to be based on the truth. It has to be based on the righteousness of God. What we are reading here is an excellent example of zeal - but not according to knowledge. It's faith - it's a system of belief - but it's not based on the truth of God's Word. The article continues.

Black, the government argued, "was not simply an opportunistic or moderate participant in the Capitol attack," and was in fact "at the vanguard of the mob" by his own admission. Black's "belief that God commanded him to act contrary to his restrained instincts" suggests he "is willing to break the law — including participating in a violent breach of the seat of government and the disruption of the constitutional transfer of power — if he believes it is God's will," the government argued. The government argued that Black "presents an identified and articulable ongoing threat to others and the community," echoing language in a decision by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit that has allowed many Capitol insurrectionists to be released before trial.

Black's defense lawyer wrote that his client was not a risk of flight nor a danger to the community, that he treated officers with "respect and deference," and that he cooperated with the FBI. Black, his lawyer wrote, "advises that he will abide by whatever conditions of release the Court imposes and that, not only will he follow any Order of the Court, but that, God would never ask him to breach a promise that he made to someone including, most importantly in this context, the Court."

Judge Jackson told Black on Thursday that he was "going back to D.C. jail" if he violated any terms of his release "even if you assure me, with all sincerity, that that after much prayer and contemplation, that the Lord wanted you to do whatever you did." Black said that she "will not hesitate" to bring Black back if there's any violations of his conditions of release.

Jackson made clear that Black's religious and political beliefs were not a factor in her ruling on detention, but that his belief that he was acting in accordance with what God told him to weighed in favor of detention.

I believe that to be a typo. I think it should have been:

..in accordance with what God told him to weighed in favor OF detention..."

Then the judge ended her commands to Black with this:

"How you understand the Lord's will and how God might judge you in the hereafter is not my department. Your relationship with God is between you and your pastor and God," Jackson said. "My concern is the here and now, and how you behave."

As I read that article, I didn't read it thinking about this nut who thought it was a good, Godly idea to participate in the rally defending Trump, the CONstitution and all that. I was reading this article as if I was the one standing there - being accused of behaving contrary to the quote "laws of men" because my relationship with God absolutely has to do with the here and now. My relationship with God absolutely affects my actions in the here and now. Yes, I am concerned with the hereafter - but I'm 10 times more concerned with the here. What we do in the here - concerning the Will of God - what God wants from us in the here - has everything to do with the hereafter.

If our quote "religion" or "faith" does not affect our behaviour here and now - then what good is it? What difference does it make what we believe if our lifestyle - our way of living - is not causing us to live according to the Will of God - right now?

A couple of weeks ago, we were in Revelation 22 and I was trying to read through the rest of the chapter and I paused on verse 15, made a very brief comment and said that I would come back to it soon. I'd like to do that right now. Please turn with me to Revelation chapter 22. Let's quickly read through beginning at verse 1, then we'll stop after verse 15.

[1] And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.

[2] In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

[3] And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him:

[4] And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads.

[5] And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of

the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

[6] And he said unto me, These sayings are faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew unto his servants the things which must shortly be done.

[7] Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.

[8] And I John saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which shewed me these things.

[9] Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God.

[10] And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand.

[11] He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.

[12] And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

[13] I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.

[14] Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.

[15] For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.

When I was being raised in quote “church” - I was always taught that at the end of the book of Revelation, when the New Heaven and New Earth were supposed to be revealed, then everything was going to be great. Perfect peace. No sin. No wickedness, just perfection. I found this from christianity.com. This is what I was taught while in the quote “church” and my guess is - it's the same that most of you were taught. Quote:

A New Heaven and a New Earth in the Bible

Jesus shared this same reality with Nicodemus in their famous nocturnal conversation when he said, “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son. . .” (John 3:16). Though Jesus is contextually speaking of his love for all nations, not merely Israel, the word world (kosmon) infers that his love and sacrifice are not limited to mankind, but extend into all of the created order.

Genesis portrays, for us, a picture of a good world, in which the spiritual and physical realms complement and complete each other. Don't overlook the fact that "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1). The word "heavens" doesn't simply speak of the space and atmosphere over the earth, but rather speaks of God's space.

Before sin's entrance into our world, the physical and spiritual realms existed in harmony and there was no separation. This is demonstrated by God "walking in the cool of the day" with Adam and Eve and also in how the serpent spoke to Eve with seemingly no alarm on her part at all.

It seems that this conversation between humans and non-humans was not unusual at all. But this all changed in one bite. Man, and his disobedience, had ruptured God's good world in a way that mere mortals could never repair. The Apostle Paul would capture the weight of this tragic condition in Romans when he said,

For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation but we ourselves who have the first fruits of the Spirit groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for the adoption as sons. . . (Romans 8:23).

All of God's good creation, both man and the created order, is affected by sin's curse as Paul clearly points out. Therefore, why should we believe that God would purpose to restore only man, while relinquishing the physical realm for which we were made to destruction?

Peter signals to us that this is not the case when he writes of our "living hope through the resurrection" (1 Peter 1:3). My hope can be "living hope" when it is anchored to the resurrection of Jesus Christ. There will come a day when God will do for all of creation what he did for Jesus on that first Easter morning.

Redeemed saints are not destined to live eternally in an ethereal realm floating around with no purpose. Rather, we are guaranteed that the Maker will transform his world into the glorious place that it was intended to be when he first planted Adam in the garden.

When the last day finally comes, we will not fly away to him, but Christ will return to us as indicated in Revelation 21 when John observes,

“I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people and God himself will be with them as their God’” (Revelation 21:1-3).

What Does This Mean?

The new world to come is far more glorious than the one we presently know. However, there are great continuities between this one and the one we long for. It will be a world that we recognize and one in which all the things that we love will be present but no longer marred and twisted by sin.

We will work for all eternity but not for the love of or need for money but for the joy of work. And it is likely that our present gifts, abilities, and personalities will follow us to the other side only without the marks and motives of sin.

Can you imagine the sports, the arts, the music that no human ear has ever heard, the construction, the technologies, the research, the teachings which will be possible in the new world without the power or presence of sin?

And best of all, Christ will be at the center of it all. This is a world I can get excited about and for good reason. It is the one I was intended to occupy from the very beginning. And so, it will be. End quote.

So all of this is future and all of this is what the New Heavens and the New Earth means from Revelation 21. But wait a minute. Look at Revelation 22:14-15 again. This is supposedly occurring in the future New Heavens and New Earth that came down from heaven - in chapter 21.

[14] Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.

[15] For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.

For without what? Those that are outside the city. Those that are outside the New Heavens and the New Earth, the holy city. Living side-by-side in the New Heavens and the New Earth

are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.

How can this be? Because the New Heavens and the New Earth and the holy city, the new Jerusalem - are the names for the New Covenant. It is the Kingdom Age of Christ which was instituted in the first century. And today, outside the New Covenant, outside the New Heaven and the New Earth, outside the new Jerusalem, the holy city

are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.

Can you imagine the sports, the arts, the music that no human ear has ever heard, the construction, the technologies, the research, the teachings which will be possible in the new world without the power or presence of sin?

This does not make sense. This is why there's no mention of Revelation 22:14-15 when people like this talk about the New Heaven and the New Earth. It doesn't fit. So, let's just ignore it and hope that no one asks about it.

The book of Revelation is a history book. It is about the revealing of Christ as King of kings and Lord of lords. That's what it's about. It's a book that teaches us that when the temple in Jerusalem was destroyed AD70 - that fulfilled the prophecies found in Matthew 24. The coming of Christ occurred. He was revealed as the King and since that day - it has been the responsibility of every living, breathing creature to conform to His Kingdom. Gone are the days where God allowed the nations to walk in their own ways. Gone are the days where God allowed the Israelites to have kings like all the other nations. Those days ended. Christ is King. He is the Only King. His Laws are the Only Laws. His Courts are the only Courts allowed. His Judgements are the only ones allowed.

He allowed those things in the Old World. But because the book of Revelation is a completed, fulfilled history book - none of those things are allowed any longer. It is the Will of God for His Creation to obey Him, His Laws, His Judgements, His Ways - exclusively. He has defined good and evil. And we are to submit to His definitions and His alone.

The fact that we have the New Heavens and the New Earth, the new Jerusalem, the hly

Jerusalem - ascended down from heaven in Revelation 21 - and then we still see wickedness talked about in the same discussion as the New Heavens and the New Earth - should cause us to understand that the language is symbolic. It's the New Covenant - its the Kingdom Age - and right along with the New World - are still - they are outside of it of course - but you only get in by yielding to Christ - but they are still there.

That shows us again - that the teaching of Fulfilled Bible Prophecy is the proper way to teach and understand the book of Revelation.