

STUDY 11

Sunday 1st July 2018

Reading – Revelation 21 & 22

11. THE SECURITY OF THE KINGDOM

It is the last book of the New Testament that describes the consummation of the Kingdom of God. The gospels present the coming of the kingdom and Revelation the completeness of the kingdom.

1. KINGDOM COME, UNSHAKEABLE KINGDOM

We live in a world of uncertainty at all levels, but when we come to thinking about the ultimate future that is in store for us there are some wonderful promises that offer awesome security.

- Ponder for a few moments that unshakeable kingdom that is mentioned in Hebrews 12.28. What is the background to this statement, and how does it help us enjoy a positive sense of security in a world full of upheavals? What are some of the upheavals?

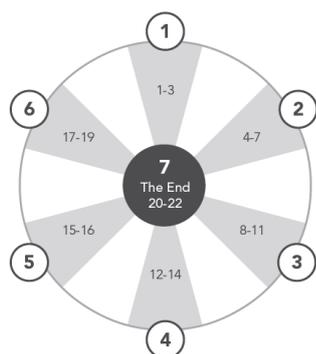
2. KINGDOM COME, UNSHAKEABLE KING

- In **Revelation 1** there are numerous pictures and declarations regarding the unshakeable King. Write down a list of affirming names and attributes of King Jesus.
- In **Revelation 4** there is the vision of the throne in heaven. What are the implications for us and in what way does it strengthen our faith?
- In **Revelation 5** – there is a sense of despair experienced by John that was quickly remedied with the awareness that Jesus is the one who can release the purposes of God in the world.

Again, how does this help us understand the true security of the Kingdom of God?

3. KINGDOM COME, UNSHAKEABLE JUSTICE

Throughout Revelation there are visions that include divine judgement – captured in 7 seals, 7 trumpets, 7 bowls.



What we have in Revelation are the events beginning with Christ's first coming through to his second coming. I see these events presented in parallel [Chapters 1-3; 4-7; 8-11; 12-14; 15-16; 17-19; 20-22]. There are 7 parallel visions in Revelation where we have different parts of that timeline being emphasised until we get to the final chapters where the final events are given greater detail. All powers that stand against God and his purposes will be dealt with – highlighted in the beast, the false prophet and also Babylon. Justice will be done and evil finally dealt with for the completion of the kingdom of God to come.

4. KINGDOM COME, UNSHAKEABLE PERFECTION

In Revelation 21 we begin to see the picture of God's new creation. God is not finished with the earth. Is that concept of heaven a surprise to you?

- We will be physical people in a physical environment that is perfect and complete. 1 Corinthians 15.35-49 helps us with an understanding of a resurrection body.
- The phrase 'no more' or something similar is repeated in Rev 21-22 – no more suffering, separation, sea, sorrow, shadows, sex, sanctuaries, sin. Find the relevant verses!

- We have the picture of the Holy City descending – the Bride, the wife of the Lamb. Note how it is descending from heaven to earth. The city is a perfect cube, and the only other place there is a perfect cube in the scriptures is the Holy of Holies! This city has ‘made in heaven’ stamped on it!
When Christ returns the present heaven will relocate to what will be the future heaven not ‘up there’ but ‘down here’. In the new creation, heaven will be joined to earth as never before.
- What parallels do you see especially in Rev 22 of this new creation with the initial Garden of Eden in Genesis?
The throne of God and that of the Lamb is at the centre of everything.
- The heart cry of God’s people should be the Aramaic word Maranatha which means ‘come Lord Jesus.’ Rev 22.20 *He who testifies to these things says, ‘Yes, I am coming soon.’ Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.*

C.S. Lewis in the final sentences of the Narnia tales: ‘All their life in this world and all their adventures in Narnia had only been the cover and title page; now at last they were beginning Chapter One of the Great Story...which no-one on earth has read, which goes on forever, in which every chapter is better than the one before.’

FOR YOUR NOTES