

*The last letter is Tawv – Numerical value is 400*

*Means absolute truth, perfection, mark, sign, covenant*

*Tahv is the final letter in the aleph bet. It is the final letter in the word Emeth which means truth.*

*The final truth is that this is all going to happen. Don't guess about where you will be. Y'shua is the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Him. He is the gate, He is the light. He is the bread of life and the living water. The world has no truth in it. Y'shua is the truth and the truth is that Y'shua is coming soon. Ask Him to be your King.*

This is the last chapter of the book of Revelation and of the Bible and there is a direct connection between the last and the first, the first and the last, the alpha and the omega, the beginning and the end. In the beginning we have the Garden of Eden. The plan of creation was a relationship with God, in a place with God, that had abundant life and complete joy. Within Eden there is rebellion and brokenness and the rest of the Bible points at that concept we've spoken about so many times called Tikun Olam, the restoration of all things.

Eden was a place where God visited with people. He walked with them in the cool of the day. He came and went. The difference between the Garden of Eden and the New Jerusalem is that the old heaven and the old earth have passed away. This is a new heaven and a new earth and now we don't have the garden of Eden. We have the garden of God. God doesn't come and go. He is here all the time and He is the direct source of abundant life and complete joy with no sin to separate us because nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Revelation 22** And he showed me a <sup>[a]</sup>pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb.

Dr. Baruch tells us that the favorite word of Yochanan in the book of Revelation is **“Throne.”** It is a very important word. All of the water of the river of life, clear as crystal proceeds from the throne of God and of the Lamb. It is the vertex, if you will, of the source. **Throne indicates, not implies, but indicates authority.** So, life is going out from the throne from the top, from God, to all creation under His authority. *Being an overcomer in the Kingdom of God, in the Garden of God, is being someone who surrenders and submits to the Kingship, the rule, the authority of God almighty. That is the difference between who enjoys the garden and who is on the outside.*

Notice that there is a oneness between God and the Lamb. There is no separation. The Lamb submitted to God the Father. He is God and He is the image of the invisible God. But **He showed us life by being the lamb and giving His life.** God always reveals how we can be His if we're not too proud to follow Him.

**<sup>2</sup> In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.**

In Eden there were two trees. **What tree isn't in the garden of God?** The tree of the knowledge of good and evil is not in the garden of God. **Only the tree of life is in the garden of God.** The people in the garden of God have full knowledge of good and evil and have submitted themselves to the rule of God and the Lamb by the power of the Holy Spirit. There is no need for that tree because the choice has been made. Perfect love requires perfect freedom. Perfect freedom requires a choice. Those in the garden of God are surrendered to the rule of God. The choice is made.

Somehow this tree of life is in the middle of its street and on either side of the river. There's a tree in Maui called a Banyan tree. It was imported to Lahaina in 1873 from India. This tree has one root system,

but 12 trunks and takes up a whole city block. I wonder if the tree of life is like that? If it has multiple trunks.

This tree of life bears 12 fruits and yields its fruit every month. The number **12 should automatically make you think of Israel** and the 12 tribes. Finally, **Israel will bless the nations.** The leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

Theory – at some point there is a rapture. A time when Messiah says come, the trumpet blows and His sheep answer the call. There will be people who come to Christ in the last 3.5 years of the tribulation and they will not have glorified bodies. The leaves are for those people. They are considered the “sheep nations.” There will be no sickness in the garden of God. A better translation of the leaves is for the health of the nations.

Theory aside, the fruit of the tree of life and the leaves for health will happen all the time. There isn't a season for life. It will be all the time.

**<sup>3</sup> 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.**

There is no more curse, death as a result of sin. Sickness, brokenness, etc as a result of sin. Why? **The throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it.** Rebellion brings the curse. There is no rebellion. His servants shall serve Him. That is an existence without rebellion against God and it will be bliss.

**<sup>4</sup> They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads.**

This is from the priestly blessing. There is a connection between the face of God and being blessed. **May the Lord bless you and keep you. May His face shine on you and be gracious unto you. May the Lord look upon you with favor and give you Shalom.**

His name shall be on their foreheads. In other words, **God's character is on our every thought. Think of the Shema.** *You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and strength.* Deuteronomy 6 says, wear it as frontlets between your eyes. Your every thought will be the love of God and the life in God.

**<sup>5</sup> There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.**

There is nothing but good news here. Light reveals. God's light reveals all. There is nothing unknown. Every mystery will be revealed. The light reveals. We will know the truths of God. There will be no need for the sun and the moon in the presence of God, the Lamb, and His throne. Why? They shall reign forever and ever.

**<sup>6</sup> Then he said to me, "These words *are* faithful and true." And the Lord God of the <sup>[b]</sup>holy prophets sent His angel to show His servants the things which must shortly take place.**

The end of Revelation summarizes everything we've been studying. **These words are faithful and true. All the words of God are faithful and true.** Notice the importance put on the prophets. The prophets Yochanan is talking about are all of the major and minor prophets of the Old Testament. What God has spoken forth has to happen. **The Holy, or set apart, prophets, showed His servants what must take place.** Look at the position of those who understand what God is talking about. **They are servants. Not generals,** not kings, not elders, not pastors, not bishops, not apostles, not popes, not presidents. **The servants of God understand His words.** It is critical to study the prophets.

These things **happen quickly,** not soon, not tomorrow or the next day, but short order. When these things start to happen, they will happen quickly. It could be another 1000 years, but when they happen they are

going to happen quickly, bam. We need to be ready now for whenever they start to happen. Jesus says in Matthew that we should watch and guard ourselves for this time. We need to be ready for all of this because it is going to happen and when it does it will happen quickly. Now the time to get ready is at hand and **we get ready for it by studying the prophets.**

Pool of Siloam - - -temple worship

<sup>7</sup> “Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed *is* he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.”

Again, this book is a book of prophecy. See the importance of prophecy.

<sup>8</sup> Now I, John, <sup>[c]</sup> saw and heard these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who showed me these things.

This is a Hebrew idiom. I saw and heard. I heard and saw. Yochannan is telling us that he saw these things very clearly. The result is that he worships. The source of the revelation compels the human to worship and the angel says stop, don't give worship to me. This is what separates God's angels from the angels now in the lake of fire. They wanted to be worshipped. This one doesn't. He is a servant. All worship belongs to God.

<sup>9</sup> Then he said to me, “See *that you do not do that.* <sup>[d]</sup> For I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God.”

The angel reveals that he is a fellow servant of God the King, and he is of your brethren the prophets. Worship God. Prophecy should always point to worship.

<sup>10</sup> And he said to me, “Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand.”

**Do not seal up the words. This is the opposite of what Daniel was told.** In order for us to rightly interpret the book of Daniel we need the book of Revelation and vice versa. We need Ezekiel, Daniel, Isaiah to understand Revelation fully and we need Revelation to understand Ezekiel, Daniel, and Isaiah fully. Daniel means, God is my judge. God is judge. **It doesn't matter what anyone thinks but God. He is judge and through judgment comes blessing.** Prophecy is a forth-telling from God and He gives us prophecy so we can be ready for what He has planned.

<sup>11</sup> He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him <sup>[e]</sup>be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still.”

There are two approaches. We can do things that are unjust and filthy, or we can be righteous and holy. **We can only be righteous and Holy through the work of the lamb of God seated on the throne.** Either way it is final. However we are when we die or when judgement day happens that's what holds. If we accept the Lamb's work for us then we become the righteousness of God in Him. If we reject Him and His rule and His authority we stay filthy forever.

<sup>12</sup> “And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward *is* with Me, to give to every one according to his work. <sup>13</sup> I am the Alpha and the Omega, *the* <sup>[i]</sup>Beginning and *the* End, the First and the Last.”

**Think again back to the seven churches. I know your deeds. I know your works. The purpose for Jesus to come back is judgment. Judgment is a measure of our work. But our work has to be the work of the Lord. If you did it for the least of these you did it for me.** And they replied that they didn't even know they were doing it because the identity of the servant took on Christ. *We don't*

*work for salvation. We take on the identity of Y'shua and our "work" isn't a matter of earning a reward. He says, My reward is with Me. The reward of the work is that we are more like Jesus. Our work is a measure of our identity in Jesus.*

**<sup>14</sup> Blessed are those who <sup>[g]</sup>do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.**

Blessed or happy are those who do His, God the Father's, commandments. What are the commandments? Love God, Love others, make disciples. **The commandments of Torah are not different from the commandments of Y'shua. If anything Y'shua made the Torah more restrictive because He said that if you murder or commit adultery in your heart you've done it. This is about living the Torah after salvation because of your love for Yahweh.** This has to do with the wedding contract. If you love me you will obey my commandments. We can't be the bride if we don't love the groom enough to commit to the ketubah wedding contract.

Who says He is the gate? Jesus is the gate. He said I am the gate. There are 12 gates of the city. They are connected to the 12 tribes, but the 12 gates are all open because of the gate Y'shua. They are open because of Him it is always light.

**<sup>15</sup> <sup>[h]</sup>But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie.**

Outside – Those who enter, enter through a gate connected to Israel and Israel is her King. Salvation is from Israel, but only because of Y'shua. We talked about those on the outside in chapter 20, but it is the "anything but Jesus" mentality. Sorcerers are those who also push drugs. The light and the truth go together. There is no darkness in the city of God. **No lie can enter.**

**16** “I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star.”

**Yochanan is giving this revelation for the churches.** Y’shua sent His messenger for the benefit of the churches. Y’shua came out of David. You have to see this as **the fulfillment of the Psalms.** *The Bright and Morning Star is another connection to the tribe of Judah and it confirms Y’shua’s eternal kingship.*

**17** And the Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let him who hears say, “Come!” And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.

**The Spirit of God is the person of God that brings order. He was with God in the beginning. The Spirit of God hovered over the waters. He has to be part of the invitation. He has to be part of life giving water. He is the breath of God, the person of God, that gives life.** Isaiah 55 is a reference here. **The redeemer comes back and brings tikun olam. The repair of the world. The restoration of all things.** *That process of sanctification and order and life comes through the Holy Spirit now too. If you want repair in your life you need Y’shua to send you the Holy Spirit, the Ruach Ha Kodesh to breath life into you, quicken you, and empower you into life in Christ.*

**18** <sup>[1]</sup>For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, <sup>[2]</sup>God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; **19** and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God<sup>[3]</sup> shall take away his part from the <sup>[4]</sup>Book of Life, from the holy city, and *from the things which are written in this book.*

*The warning here is not to turn this into a lie. Don’t tamper with the word of God. Don’t add to it and don’t take away from it. What we’ve tried to do here is explain things, exegete things. We don’t want to add*

or subtract. I've made sure to try and tell you when I'm interpreting something or have an idea that is purely from me. ***The Jewish viewpoint is critical, because without it we lose a lot from this book. And if we don't know the major and minor prophets we have the danger of adding stuff that isn't there.*** Lot's of people interpret this book by adding things to it. There have been accusations against presidents and popes, and replacement theology, and all sorts of wild stuff. The best thing to do is take it literally except when it is meant to be symbolic and when it is symbolic know that the Old Testament prophets usually explain the symbols. **These things are meant to be known and understood so we can be ready.**

<sup>20</sup> He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming quickly."

Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

<sup>21</sup> The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be <sup>[m]</sup>with you all. Amen.

The kingdom of God comes after the judgment of God. The judgment of God eliminates everything that goes contrary to His holy, perfect, pure, loving will of God. That is the end.