



REVELATION

Understanding the Apocalypse

Radical Word Bible Study

Episode 38

August 13, 2026



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REVELATION: Understanding the Apocalypse

Revelation 2026

Opening Comments

- **Check Hard Drive capacity.**
- **Switch to PowerPoint (slide 2) once timer reaches zero.**
- Welcome to episode 38 of the Radical Word Bible Study.
- I am Rick Lancaster, and we are coming to you live from our temporary podcasting studio, a bedroom in my daughter's house in Amarillo, Texas.
- We are waiting for our stuff to arrive with the movers.
- We have been busy looking at trucks and RVs and hope to get moving on both soon.
- It might be a little rough tonight, but we will get it done.
- We are streaming this Bible Study live on Rumble, Facebook, and YouTube.
- The podcast version of this Bible Study can be found anywhere you go for podcasts.
- It is listed under Radical Word Bible Study with Rick Lancaster wherever you get your podcasts.
- Radical Word Bible Ministries is an outreach ministry of Calvary Chapel French Valley.
- If you are interested in staying up to date with what is happening at The Radical Word, click the link in the description for this video.
- Also, I publish a daily devotional that I send out by email.
- I will include a link to that as well.
- Today is Thursday, August 13, 2026.
- Let's open with a word of prayer.

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- Turn to **Revelation 21** as we continue a series: **REVELATION: Understanding the Apocalypse.**

Teaching

• **REVELATION: Understanding the Apocalypse**

- Last time I said that there are things in the Christian faith that we do not have answers to.
- One of those mysteries is heaven.
- Heaven is a real place – mentioned at least 600 times in the Bible,
- Even with all those times it is mentioned, we can't really say what it is going to be like.
- It is natural for us to be curious about heaven – Bible teaches that we will live there forever.
- We should be curious about where we will be for the rest of eternity.
- Eternity is another of the things I am curious about.
- How will we perceive the passage of time?
- There is something about eternal life that resonates in the human heart. **Ecclesiastes 3:11**

¹¹ **He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end.**

- God made us for eternity.
- If we are saved by Christ, we become heirs of a promise. **1 John 2:25**
- ²⁵ **And this is the promise that He has promised us—eternal life.**
- God always keeps His promises.
- Eternal life is not just life everlasting; it is existing in heaven in a perfect glorified state.
- That should add to our sense of peace as we go through life.
- No matter what happens, whether good or bad, eternal life in heaven awaits us.
- Whether we go through life in perfect health or struggle with debilitating illness or injury; we will forever exist in perfection in heaven with Jesus.
- This life might be filled with turmoil and conflict; eternal life will be never-ending peace.
- Whether this life is marked by pain, suffering, and loss; eternal life will be fullness of joy.

- We will not understand fully what heaven is like until we get there, but we should be striving to get a taste of it here in this life. **Romans 15:5-6**

⁵ Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, ⁶ that you may with one mind *and* one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- The better we know God and the closer we walk with Jesus, the more we will taste of the blessings of heaven.
- Jesus said in John 14 that He was going away to prepare a place for us. **John 14:1-3**

¹ Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. ² In My Father's house are many mansions; if *it were not so*, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also.

- Not only should the promise of heaven add to our peace; it should add to our confidence as well.
- Jesus promised that He would come back and get His followers and bring them to heaven.
- If anyone ever asks you if you are going to heaven; tell them with confidence, yes!
- If they ask you how you can be sure of that; simply respond with because Jesus promised and He never breaks His promises.
- Whenever life challenges you and starts to bring you down remind yourself of Jesus' promise; I am coming to get you and bring you to heaven and you will be with Him there forever.
- Revelation 21 gives us a description of what John sees of this place we will enjoy forever.
- Revelation is a record of a vision John received while he was in exile on the small island of Patmos.
- He was exiled because he wouldn't stop talking about everything he saw and heard while he was with Jesus.
- He kept preaching the truth of the gospel and so the Romans sent him away to rot on Patmos.
- As terrible a place Patmos might have been, it didn't dampen John's faith. **Revelation 1:10**

¹⁰ I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet...

- Life will try to get you down, but the Holy Spirit lives in you and will help you to get into the Spirit no matter what your circumstances are.
- When we struggle to do that, and we all might struggle from time to time, it is a sign that our faith needs to grow.
- And until Christ comes to get us, our faith needs to keep growing.
- John, in his vision, has seen the church age, from the time Christ first walked on the earth, to the Rapture.
- Then He was shown the Tribulation Period, a time of horror, and judgment that lasted seven years.
- He was then given a vision of, at least the beginning and end, of the Millennium – a 1,000-year time of perfect peace, prosperity, and righteousness on the earth.
- In the last chapter, God dealt forever with Satan and rebellious mankind.
- Do you wonder, like I do, how long it took for God to show all that to John? Maybe it's just me.
- John sees what comes after the Millennium
- **Revelation 21:1**
- This is the beginning of what is known as the eternal state, or the eternal kingdom.
- First thing John sees is a new heaven and earth, previous had passed away.
- The Greek word for new is *καινός* (*kainos*) and means recent in time.
- That tells us that the new earth is not a remake of the old earth but is something brand new.
- At the beginning of the Millennium the earth was changed and restored back to the state it was when Adam and Eve walked in the Garden of Eden before sin entered the world.
- Even the nature of animals changed so that they coexist peacefully with each other and with humans.
- This has always been part of God's plan.**2 Peter 3:7**
- ⁷ But the heavens and the earth *which* are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.**
- The day of judgment and perdition is referring to the White Throne Judgment.
- The term “had passed away” in verse 1 means to cease.

- Peter tells us something about what happened. **2 Peter 3:10**
- ¹⁰ **But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.**
- If you are curious, like me, you want to know how that is going to happen.
- Well, we are not told, but there is an interesting verse in Colossians speaking of Christ that might give us a clue. **Colossians 1:17**
- ¹⁷ **And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.**
- The NASB and ESV render the word consist as hold together.
- The sense of that verse is that Jesus is holding the creation together.
- We know there is enormous power in every atom in the universe.
- We see that in nuclear power or nuclear weapons.
- Imagine what would happen if all the energy of all the atoms of the entire universe were released all at once.
- If Jesus is holding all creation together, maybe it all passes away when Jesus simply stops holding it together.
- All of creation was corrupted when sin entered through Adam and Eve.
- It was not just humans affected by sin; all creation is groaning under the effects of sin.
- Earthquakes and volcanoes are a consequence of sin affecting the creation of God.
- Even the seas – hurricanes born in the warm waters of the ocean.
- Notice – ‘no more sea’ – it is going to be a totally different creation.
- John doesn’t give us any details about how the heavens and new earth are created, they just appear.
- They may be created in the same way the first ones were; God spoke them into existence.
- John sees something else.
- **Revelation 21:2**
- Unusual – a city descending from heaven – not built on the earth, but in heaven.
- This city will not be built by people, but by God Himself. **Hebrews 11:9-10**

⁹ By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as *in* a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; ¹⁰ for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker *is* God.

- For thousands of years, God's faithful people have been waiting for this perfect, holy city.

• This is probably the fulfilment of the promise Jesus made. **John 14:3**

³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also.

- The city will be glorious and radiantly beautiful, like a bride adorned for her wedding.

• God will have a special relationship with this city. **Isaiah 54:4**

⁵ For your Maker *is* your husband, the LORD of hosts *is* His name; and your Redeemer *is* the Holy One of Israel; He is called the God of the whole earth.

- That verse in Isaiah is referring to the Jews and so it foreshadows their presence in the holy city in Revelation 21.
- There are many places in the Old Testament where God's relationship with the Jews is described like a marriage.
- That includes their unfaithfulness to Him being called adultery.
- The whole book of Hosea emphasizes that point.
- The reference to a bride being prepared also speaks to our presence there. **2 Corinthians 11:2**

² For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present *you* as a chaste virgin to Christ.

- As Christ-followers, we are the bride of Christ.
- This is one of the aspects of our faith that ought to give us great peace and confidence.
- You already have a place reserved for you in heaven.
- Jesus promised to come and get us and take us to be with Him in heaven. **John 14:1-3**

¹ Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. ² In My Father's house are many mansions; if *it were not so*, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also.

- If you believe that it should help you to be at peace in whatever circumstance comes your way.
- Hardships, pain, suffering, illness, injury, and even death cannot take that promise from you.

- Anytime life tries to depress, oppress, or suppress you, just remind yourself that Jesus will be coming to take you home to be with Him in heaven forever.
- If anyone asks you if you are going to heaven, answer with confidence, yes.
- If they ask you how you can be sure of that, tell that Jesus promised and He never breaks His promises.
- We'll talk more about this city later.
- **Revelation 21:3**
- John hears a loud voice from an unidentified source, probably an angel.
- The voice announces the arrival of a great and beautiful city descending out of heaven.
- The city is described as a tabernacle or tent, which is an interesting word to use because the description is very much like that of a city.
- It suggests the tabernacle in the wilderness in Exodus where God first promised to dwell with His people.
- God has always desired a more intimate relationship with people.
- We first see that in the Garden of Eden. **Genesis 3:8a**
- **⁸And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day...**
- This is most likely the first pre-incarnate appearance of Christ Jesus in the Bible.
- Adam and Eve hid from Him, not because they were surprised by Him being there, but because they were ashamed of their nakedness after eating the forbidden fruit.
- In the New Jerusalem, we will once again walk with Jesus in the cool of the day.
- "They shall be His people" means everyone in this city will be God's people.
- No matter where we live in the world, we are surrounded by people who are not God's people.
- And because they are not God's people, they do things that are contrary to the ways, will, or Word of God.
- How amazing it will be when everyone around us is one of God's people.

- What will make that even more amazing is that no one around us will have a sin-nature tempting them to sin.
- It is hard to imagine what that might be like.
- It goes on to say that God will be their God.
- God will be their only God.
- Today, while we live with our sin-nature, there is always a tempting to allow something or someone else to rise to place of worship in our heart.
- We can be easily distracted by things that are not God and give to them what belongs only to God.
- It can be so subtle that we don't even realize it is happening until God or one of His representatives points it out to us.
- In New Jerusalem, God is the only God and there will be no temptation to be distracted by other things.
- **Revelation 21:4**
- We aren't really told what heaven is, but what it isn't. **Skip Heitzig** "We lack the words to fully describe heaven and we have no frame of reference for full understanding it."
- One of the wonders of heaven is that every source of tears will be gone.
- Everything that causes people to cry today will not be in heaven.
- The first thing mentioned is there is no death in heaven.
- That makes sense because there is no sin in heaven.
- Death is the direct result of sin. **Romans 6:23**
- ²³ **For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**
- Once we have our glorified bodies, the sin-nature is eliminated and there is no temptation to rebel against God in any way.
- Once sin is gone, there is no death.
- Death is the ultimate consequence of sin, but it also manifests in everything that leads up to death.
- All pain, sorrow, and crying over the hurts and troubles of life are never to be experienced again.
- We shouldn't let verses like this pass with some amount of reflection on what it means to us personally.

- No one goes through this life without experiencing things that cause pain, sorrow, and crying.
- And everyone will eventually be touched by the pain of losing someone you love.
- As we encounter those things, we must reflect upon this verse, because it promises a future eternity devoid of those things.
- It won't make those things easier, but it can help us to endure them, and it gives us hope.
- It also comforts me that God knows those things are hard. **Psalm 56:8**
⁸**You number my wanderings; put my tears into Your bottle; are they not in Your book?**
- In those dark days of walking through the valley of the shadow of death, remember, Jesus is with you.
- He sees every tear and feels every hurt and He is in heaven preparing a place where you will never feel that way again.
- Instead of tears... **Psalm 16:11**
¹¹**You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.**
- That sounds pretty amazing to me.
- I have heard people suggesting heaven is going to be boring.
- That verse suggests just the opposite.
- We don't have enough information to know what about heaven cause joy or pleasure, but I am guessing that it will be awesome.
- John hears God speak from the throne.
- **Revelation 21:5**
- One of the first questions we have on this verse is what throne is being referred to?
- The throne in Revelation 4 is where all activity seems to be focused, and the One seated there is God the Father.
- If it is the Revelation 4 throne, then this is God the Father.
- And then in Revelation 20 is the White Throne of Judgment where all unbelievers are condemned forever.
- We are simply told that God is seated on the White Throne, but is it God the Father or God the Son?
- In the next verse we see a description that is used for Christ Jesus also.

- This reminds us that the Trinity, while being three Persons in One God, they share qualities and are of the same nature.
- We won't get an answer to that question on this side of eternity, but that is okay.
- The One seated on the throne says He makes all things new.
- This and the next few verses are for John and those who will read this letter.
- John was on the island of Patmos for sharing the gospel of Christ.
- For almost two thousand years people have lived and died for Christ.
- No matter how bad things might be, God makes all things new.
- The word new, means something previously unknown.
- In the same way God created everything from nothing, He can bring new things into existence by His Word.
- We simply must trust His perfect timing and wait for His grace as we wrestle with the difficulties and trials of living in a fallen world.
- God then tells John to write everything he has seen and heard down.
- These words are true and faithful.
- As we study the book of Revelation, we come across things that are hard to understand, and maybe even hard to believe.
- And because of those things some people avoid the book of Revelation.
- Some churches and pastors even avoid teaching and preaching it.
- The problem with that is that the words are true.
- They are true whether we understand or believe them.
- They are true whether we are afraid of them or believe them.
- The words of this book are an integral part of the whole counsel of God.
- Without this book, you don't have the end of God's plan of redemption for the world.
- Every time we approach this book, we must do so from the perspective of this verse; the words are true and faithful.
- Since the words are true, we must strive to understand them.
- But even if we don't understand these words, they are true, so, we must believe them.

- We can believe something is true even if we don't understand it fully, or at all.
 - There are many about God that the Bible says are true that I don't understand.
 - Like, God existed before He created the universe.
 - Does that mean that only heaven existed before the universe?
 - We know God created the angels.
 - What was before all of that?
 - I don't need to understand any of that to believe God is real, heaven is real, and that something came before all of that.
 - The things described in the book of Revelation are real and true.
 - Believe it even if you don't understand it.
 - It also says that these words are faithful.
 - That means they are trustworthy, or worthy of your full trust.
 - You can trust that there is a place in heaven for you and that in heaven God will wipe away every tear.
 - You can trust that God has a plan to deal with all the evil in this world and when the time comes, it will be complete.
 - There are promises throughout this letter, including a couple in the next couple of verses that you can trust fully.
 - Because God said it, you can trust it.
 - God continues speaking to John.
 - **Revelation 21:6**
 - God tells John that it is done.
 - He didn't say it will be done, He said it is done.
 - God is speaking to John two thousand years in the past about things that will happen in the future as if they have already happened.
 - That is a declaration of God's absolute sovereignty.
 - If God says something is going to happen, there is no power in the universe that can prevent it from happening exactly the way God says it will.
 - Jesus said something similar from the cross. **John 19:30**
- ³⁰ **So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.**

- Jesus' last words on the cross were to say He had finished the work God had sent Him to do.
- He had finished the work of salvation.
- From that moment on, salvation is available to everyone who will believe that.
- God then says that He is the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last.
- These same titles were also used for Jesus, reminding us that Jesus and the Father are One.
- Alpha is the first letter of the Greek alphabet and Omega is the last letter.
- There is nothing before or after God, or outside or apart from God.
- The next promise is not for people in heaven, but for us today.
- **Revelation 21:6b**
- People in heaven will not need the water of life, they already have eternal life.
- We need this life-giving water as we travel through this dry and weary land.
- This is the water Jesus promised the woman at the Samaritan well.

John 4:10

¹⁰ Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water."

- She didn't understand what Jesus meant.
- She thought He was talking about the water from the well. **John 4:13-14**

¹³ Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."

- Jesus later clarifies what the water of life signifies. **John 7:37-39**

³⁷ On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. ³⁸ He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." ³⁹ But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet *given*, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

- It is the Holy Spirit who is the source of the water of life.

- Once we put our faith in Christ, the Holy Spirit takes up residence in our life.
- He provides a never-ending source of spiritual life and power.
- One of the aspects of our faith is that the more faith we have, the more the Holy Spirit does through us.
- This is one of the ways we can tell if someone has the Spirit of God in them; does their life produce spiritual life?
- Are they growing in faith and are they helping others to grow in their life?
- Our verse tells us this water of life is given to him who thirsts.
- To be saved someone must come to the point where they realize they need to be saved.
- That was a struggle for me; I didn't believe I needed to be saved from or to anything.
- God, in His mercy and grace, did eventually break through the hardness of my heart and helped me to realize how thirsty I was.
- And then, God kept His promise and gave me the Holy Spirit as I placed my trust in Christ.
- The world is a hard place and is constantly trying to draw us away from God.
- God calls us to be faithful and overcome and then makes a promise to those who do.
- **Revelation 21:7**
- What does "shall inherit all things" mean?
- What are the things we shall inherit if we overcome?
- It doesn't say.
- Paul gives us a little more information. **Romans 8:16-17**
- ¹⁶ **The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,**
- ¹⁷ **and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him*, that we may also be glorified together.**
- This still doesn't tell us what we will inherit but it elevates the idea of it into the heavens.
- Throughout history, believers have suffered great want, often as a direct result of their faith in Christ.
- For people with nothing, knowing that an overwhelming abundance awaits us in heaven might give us the strength to endure to the end.

- That verse ends with a promise of an intimate relationship.
- And for you ladies, God will treat as His daughter.
- This is what we were created for.
- This is the relationship that Adam and Eve enjoyed in the Garden before the Fall.
- We can't really imagine what this is like, but our hearts should long for it.
- This section ends with a description of those who will not be in heaven.
- **Revelation 21:8**
- Verse 8 might be a little terrifying if you have ever committed one of those sins.
- But it is not referring to isolated acts, but the consistent direction and pattern of life.
- Notice the second one – unbelieving – in the end, God sees only two groups of people, not good and evil, but believing and unbelieving.
- Everyone on earth is guilty of one or more of these sins.
- The thing that makes true Christians different from the rest of the world is that the blood of Christ covers our sins.
- We will continue to sin because we have a sin-nature that is always looking for an opportunity to express itself, but the Holy Spirit in us is fighting to help us resist temptation.
- Paul talked about that struggle. **Galatians 5:16-17**
- **¹⁶ I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.**
- I am thankful to be covered by the blood of Christ.
- I know I am going to heaven.
- But because of the high price that was paid to get me there, I want to try to live a life that is worthy of that privilege.
- I know I won't do it perfectly, but I keep trying to do it better.
- Jesus deserves nothing less.
- God ends this section with a reminder of the eternal destiny of those who aren't allowed into heaven because they refused to believe in Christ.

- The Lake of Fire is the only place in the universe where people who reject God's offer of salvation can go.
- It is a place of eternal torment and suffering.
- God is a gentleman; He will not force anyone into heaven or hell; you must choose it for yourself.
- To choose heaven, one must choose to put their trust in Christ.
- If someone chooses to reject Christ, they have chosen to be separated from God for all eternity in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone.
- We have talked about this before, but the second death is spiritual separation from God.
- The first death is physical separation of the soul from the body.
- John's vision focuses on the glorious city.
- The first description is just a bit strange.
- **Revelation 21:9-10**
- The angel says he will show John the bride, then John sees a city.
- That connects us back to verse 2. **Revelation 21:2**
- ²Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.
- The city and its occupants are linked, described as one.
- If there is more to it than that, it is a little unclear.
- **Revelation 21:11**
- Verse 11 says the city has 'the glory of God.' **John Walvoord**
"As the glory of God is the sum of His infinite perfections in their manifestations, so the New Jerusalem reflects all that God is."
- This city will reflect God's glory like nothing on earth ever has, except for Christ.
- There are some perplexing descriptions of this beautiful city.
- The jasper that we know today is an opaque stone of various colors.
- It is most commonly seen as a light green.
- Here it is described as clear as crystal.
- What gives jasper its variety of colors are the impurities found in the stone.
- Clear as crystal tells us there are no impurities in this amazing city.
- Next is a description of the wall of the city.
- **Revelation 21:12-13**

- The walls are huge, which makes sense because the city is huge.
- The gates have the names of the twelve tribes of Israel.
- We are not given the list of the names of the twelve tribes which might suggest that it is the twelve sons of Jacob.
- It would be interesting to study all the places where the list of the twelve tribes is given.
- They are all the same.
- Some include Joseph and Levi.
- Some leave out Levi and replace Joseph with Manasseh and Ephraim.
- And there are others also, each having some significance based on where it is being described.
- Next come the foundations.
- **Revelation 21:14**
- Again, no names are given.
- Eleven of the twelve are universally accepted.
- It is the twelfth one that is debated.
- Was it Matthias, who was chosen to replace Judas Iscariot or was it Paul who came later.
- We're not told, so it isn't something we should be dogmatic about.
- Both 'twelve tribes' and 'twelve apostles' – New Jerusalem will be the home of both Jews and Gentiles redeemed from all ages.
- **Revelation 21:15-16**
- This city is massive – 1,500 miles squared – slightly smaller than the moon.
- Some believe is cube-shaped, others say it is a four-sided pyramid.
- That is 3.375 billion cubic miles.
- It is estimated that about 110 billion people have lived on earth throughout history.
- This city could house as much as 100 times more than that.
- The wall is pretty impressive as well.
- **Revelation 21:17**
- 1 cubit is about 18 inches, which would make the wall about 216 feet tall, and possibly that thick as well.
- Next is a description that is not easy for us to imagine.
- **Revelation 21:18**

- Somehow, in heaven, gold is clear like glass.
 - I am very curious about that because when we think of gold, it is always shining yellow metal.
 - We figure it out when we get there.
 - **Revelation 21:19-21**
 - Verse 21 is where we get the idea of the ‘Pearly Gates.’
 - Giant pearls and transparent gold – heaven is different – gloriously different.
 - Then John looks for something he doesn’t see.
 - **Revelation 21:22**
 - John is writing over 20 years after the temple in Jerusalem was destroyed by the Romans.
 - When it was destroyed Jews, even ones like John who had believed on and received Christ would have felt a sense of loss.
 - The temple was a symbol of God’s presence among men. **J. Vernon McGee**
- “It was a testimony to the presence of God and the presence of sin. Where sin existed, God could be approached only by the ritual of the temple.”**
- The temple, and churches also, are meant to focus our attention on God and remind us of our need for redemption from sin.
 - The fact that there is no temple in the New Jerusalem was a symbol that there was no sin in the city.
 - It also meant that people will not need to be reminded of God’s presence; they will be able to see Him.
 - If there is no temple or churches, I will be out of a job.
 - I guess I’ll be sweeping the streets of gold; that’s okay with me.
 - God and Christ’s presence in the city has another effect.
 - **Revelation 21:23**
 - Jesus spoke about this. **John 8:12**
- Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”**
- If you follow Jesus in this life, you will have spiritual light today, and will forever walk in His glory.
 - **Revelation 21:24-27**
 - This is the world God wanted from the beginning. **J. Vernon McGee**

“God has apparently accomplished His original purpose with man – fellowship. He now has a creature who is a free moral agent who chooses to worship and serve Him eternally.”

- In that eternal kingdom that we call heaven, the glory of God’s presence illuminates the world
- How does that relate to us today, on this side of eternity?
- In the eternal kingdom God’s presence will be realized by everyone.
- No one will be blind to it, or ignorant of it.
- Today, there is no temple in Jerusalem where someone can go and draw near to the presence of God.
- But God didn’t leave this world without a witness of His glory.
- Instead of a single temple in Jerusalem, He built millions of temples and spread them around the globe.

• Apostle Paul said **1 Corinthians 3:16**

¹⁶ Do you not know that you are the temple of God and *that* the Spirit of God dwells in you?

- Every time anyone comes near to you, they are approaching the presence of God, the Holy Spirit who lives in you.
 - In the New Jerusalem, God’s presence, His glory illuminates the world.
 - When someone comes near you, are they getting a glimpse of the glory of God, can they see God at all?
 - The glory of God is the sum of His infinite perfections.
 - Can they see anything that is God in you? They should! **Romans 8:29**
- ²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.**
- The more we become like Jesus, the more of God’s glory shows out of our lives.
 - The glory of God is in all of us – how much is getting out?
 - You might be thinking, I don’t know – I don’t know what the glory of God looks like.
 - As Christians, when we do what we know is right, God’s glory shines forth.
 - But it doesn’t have to be a great heroic act for God’s glory to shine.
 - Being kind to those you don’t need to be kind to – saying please and thank you to tellers and waitresses.

- Being generous, gracious, and merciful – letting people in who want into the lane you are in.
- Being loving to your spouse and children glorifies God.
- Rarely will we have a chance to do some great act of heroism that brings much glory to God.
- For most of us, it will be small, humble acts of everyday kindness, simple acts of goodness, and common acts of faith and obedience.
- A truly glorious life is one walked in faithful fellowship with Christ

Matthew 5:16

¹⁶ **Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.**

- Let's go out and let our light shine!
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- **Switch to last PowerPoint slide.**
- **Closing Comments**
- If you have any questions, please connect with me.
- You can email me at rick@radicalword.com.
- You can also connect with me on social media.
- If you are listening to the podcast and would like to tune in to the live stream, you can go to radicalword.com and click on one of the links at the top of the page every Thursday at 7:00pm CST.
- Let's close with a word of prayer.
- God bless you all. Until next time, go be radical with Jesus.
- -
- **Stop recording.**
- For those of you watching the live stream, thank you for your participation.
- I will stay online for a few minutes if you have any questions or comments.
- Have a radical week with Jesus.
- **Switch to Post Stream scene.**
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