

The Story, chapter 31 (excerpts from Revelations 1, 4, 21, 22)

The apostle John was exiled to the Greek island of Patmos for preaching about Jesus Christ. One day, while he was worshipping, John heard a voice.

¹² I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³ and among the lampstands was someone like a son of man, ^[a] dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. (Revelations 1:12-13)

Thus begins the amazing revelation to John, a fantastic vision of the church, the spiritual battle between good and evil, and a glimpse of heaven and the future. John continues,

4 After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.” ² At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it. (Revelations 4:1-2)

³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴ ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ ^[a] or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

⁵ He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

⁶ He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life.

(Revelations 21:3-6)

In John’s vision, sometimes Jesus appeared as a lamb, sacrificed to take away the sin of the world, now alive and ruling from the throne of God. In his vision, John says,

¹⁰ And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God.

²² I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.

(Revelations 21:10, 22)

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22 Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ² down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ³ No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in

the city, and his servants will serve him. ⁴ They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵ There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.

(Revelation 22:1-5)

²⁰ He who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am coming soon.”
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

(Revelations 22:20)