

Prayer

The book of Revelation largely deals with prophetic things TO COME. However, the present Church Age is described as the things which ARE.

In Revelation 1:19, we are given an inspired outline of the contents of the book.

Slide # 1

Revelation 1:19 – Inspired Outline

Revelation 1:19 (NKJV)

19 “Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

- “have seen” – Past (Vision of Christ) – ***Ch. 1***
- “which are” – Present (Church Age) – Ch. 2-3
- “after this” – Future (Post-Church Age) –Ch. 4-22
- - Scene in heaven –Ch. 4-5
- - Tribulation – Ch. 6-18
- - Second Coming – Ch. 19
- - Kingdom – Ch. 20
- - ***Eternal State – Ch. 21-22***

Revelation 21 and 22 deal with the eternal state and, in doing so, present a great contrast between the eternal home of the lost, which is the lake of fire, and that of the saved, which is the New Jerusalem. Whereas the lake of fire will be a place of conscious, unending torment, the New Jerusalem will be a place of unending joy. While mixing in final warnings about the lake of fire for those who persist in unbelief, Revelation 21-22 is largely a description of the eternal dwelling place of the saved.

Last time in Revelation 21:15-21 we saw the emphasis on an outside view of what is the **MAKEUP** of the city, with the emphasis on it being a golden city, a measured city (city, gates, and wall) and its manifold colorful foundations, making it a place where extravagant beauty abounds.

Today in Revelation 21:22-27, John is given an inside view of the city, and the emphasis is on the presence of God, its illumination, social activity in relation to it, and what is absent from the city.

Revelation 21:22 (NKJV)

22 But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.

In the context of the eternal state, John saw no temple in the New Jerusalem. There is no sanctuary here – no localized place of worship.

Now that is a major change. Historically, the presence of a temple was a MAJOR factor in Israel's experience.

First there was Solomon's Temple – built by Solomon. Then there was the rebuilt temple completed after the Babylonian Captivity, which was called "Zerubbabel's temple" and then became known as "Herod's Temple." There will yet be what is called "The Tribulation Temple" in the days of Antichrist. This will be followed by what is called "Ezekiel's Temple" in the Millennial reign of Christ. It is called "Ezekiel's Temple" because he prophetically dealt with it at length in Ezekiel 40-48. But we might more properly call this "Messiah's Temple" because Zechariah was clear that He will build it in conjunction with His Second Coming.

Slide # 2**Zechariah 6:12–13 (NKJV)**

12 Then speak to him, saying, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, saying: "Behold, the Man whose name is the BRANCH! From His place He shall branch out, And **He shall build the temple of the LORD;**

13 Yes, **He shall build the temple of the LORD.** He shall bear the glory, And shall sit and rule on His throne; So He shall be a priest on His throne, And the counsel of peace shall be between them both." '

In addition, during His earthly ministry, Jesus referred to His body as a temple (Jn. 2:19-21). Today, during the Church Age, the body of the individual believer is referred to as a temple (1 Cor. 6:19), as is the local church (1 Cor. 3:16), as well as the universal church (Ephesians 2:21-22).

Also note that prior to the Eternal State there has always been a temple in heaven, as seen consistently throughout the book of Revelation (cf. Rev. 7:15, 11:19, 14:15, 17, 15:5-8, 16:1, 7).

In reference to God's people, the temple consistently refers to a SPECIAL DWELLING PLACE of God. The main thing about the OT temple was the Holy of Holies, where God's presence dwelt in a very special localized way.

Slide # 3**Psalm 27:4 (NKJV)**

4 One thing I have desired of the LORD, That will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the LORD All the days of my life, **To behold the beauty of the LORD, And to inquire in His temple.**

In the OT, only the priests could enter into the temple proper, and only the High Priest could enter the Holy of Holies, but only on one day of the year – that is, the day of atonement. Access was very limited. In the NT, access is much greater. We have spiritual access and are invited to come boldly.

Slide # 4**Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV)**

16 Let us therefore **come boldly to the throne of grace**, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 10:19 (NKJV)

19 Therefore, brethren, **having boldness to enter the Holiest** by the blood of Jesus,

Today we have unlimited spiritual access right into the holy presence of God, but we are still limited by our flesh – we must still “***draw near***” (Heb. 10:22). We come into His intimate presence via prayer and faith, but not physically, directly, immediately. We are still hindered by our flesh.

So the “localized” special presence of God has been realized throughout redemptive history in various ways at various times.

But in the New Jerusalem things will be different. Then there will be no localized temple and no mediating realities.

Rather, the ***Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple***. This connection of God Almighty and the Lamb serves to show the equality of God the Father (Lord God Almighty) and the Lamb. Being the temple of the New Jerusalem applies equally to both of them.

The cities of the world have been known for their houses of worship, but this city has no centralized place of worship. And the reason is that God’s PRESENCE engulfs this entire place. It pervades the entire city. God intimately indwells the whole city, even as He did in the Holy of Holies in the OT temple. Hebrews 12 calls this place “***the city of the living God.***” (Heb. 12:22) This place is defined by God!

In effect, the entire city is the Holy of Holies. There is no limiting factor now. The immediate presence of God abounds throughout the entire city. He is the TEMPLE. In other words, the PRESENCE of God, which was the main idea of the temple, is fully realized throughout this entire city (cf. Rev. 21:3).

No longer is God distant in any sense. No longer is access limited in any way. God's people now have immediate, intimate, full, and personal access to the most sacred, holy, and intimate fellowship with God that is possible. They literally are living in God's house with God!

Slide # 5

Revelation 3:12 (NKJV)

12 He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name.

"In light of this absence [no temple], the promise to the overcomer in 3:12 is one of permanent citizenship in the Holy City."

– **Robert Thomas**

God's presence will be intimate with this city and with everyone in the city.

Footnote: The idea of New Jerusalem not having any temple is a major distinction from the Millennial Kingdom, which will still possess a temple as the major attraction for the whole world (cf. Ezek. 40-48).

Revelation 21:23 (NKJV)

23 The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light.

Once again we have this coupling of God and the Lamb, once again showing their equality.

Throughout the Bible, God's most intimate presence is consistently spoken of in terms of "***unapproachable light***."

Slide # 6

Daniel 2:22 (NKJV)

22 He reveals deep and secret things; He knows what is in the darkness, And **light dwells with Him.**

1 Timothy 6:16 (NKJV)

16 who alone has immortality, **dwelling in unapproachable light,** whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen.

The city of the New Jerusalem will no longer have need of the sun or the moon to shine in it: Throughout history, idolaters have worshiped the sun and the moon – especially the sun. The **ninth plague** that God brought on Egypt was Darkness (Ex. 10:21-29), which was a judgment on their supposed sun god.

We meet on SUNDAY because when Constantine brought state and church together, a combination of the pagan religions and Christianity was meshed together. The Sun-day had previously been a special day in honor of the Sun god, but now, under Constantine, Sun-day was set aside to worship Christ, but the title for the day was retained.

Now does that mean we shouldn't use the designation? I wouldn't get hung up on that. I don't think that is the issue. In our day – it is simply a means of communicating a particular day of the week – namely the first day of the week. However, I share this to make the point that throughout history worship of the sun has been a major part of idolatry.

It is fascinating that on **creation week God waited until the 4th day** to create the sun, moon, and stars. But on the very first day God said, "Let there be light," and He divided the light from the darkness.

Now this has been a problem for the puny minds of people who have such a small view of God as to think that without the sun, moon, and stars there could be no light. But this is no problem for God. You say, but then how did God light the earth those first three days? I don't know – perhaps it was some form of temporary light, or perhaps God's glory was the source of the light - but I know it was no problem for God (cf. Gen. 1:3-5, 14-19).

To prove the point, we see in our text today that God is going to do away completely with the need for the sun and moon in the New Jerusalem, and His own glory will light the place (cf. 21:11). This is underscored again in Revelation 22:5.

Prophetically, Isaiah 60 looks forward to this time. In speaking of Zion (the City of the LORD – v. 14) it says this:

Slide # 7

Isaiah 60:19–20 (NKJV)

19 “The sun shall no longer be your light by day, Nor for brightness shall the moon give light to you; But **the LORD will be to you an everlasting light, And your God your glory.**

20 Your sun shall no longer go down, Nor shall your moon withdraw itself; For **the LORD will be your everlasting light**, And the days of your mourning shall be ended.

Note again the union of the “*glory of God illuminated it*” and “*The Lamb is its light*”. Again, this stresses the **absolute deity of Jesus** Christ, who is the Lamb. Jesus is the light of the world (Jn. 8:12), and He is the Light of the New Jerusalem.

In the **OT Temple**, the outer court was illuminated by the sun in the daytime and the moon by night. The sanctuary was illuminated by candlelight where the sun and the moon did not penetrate. But the holy of holies was illuminated only by the Shekinah glory of God.

So also in the eternal home of the saints – the New Jerusalem – the entire city, which essentially is the eternal holy of holies, will be lighted by the glory of God alone.

Footnote: Note that the CITY is specifically in view here. It specifically says the city has no need of the sun or moon. But it does not specifically say there will be no sun or moon or that they will have no function outside of the city. Many scholars think that the sun, moon, and stars will still have a role in the eternal state.

This does not necessarily mean that there will be no sun or moon (which may still furnish light for the outlying areas), but only that they will not be required for light within the city. – **Charles Ryrie**

The Bible makes it clear that the stars and other components of the cosmos will never pass away (e.g. Psalm 148:1-6).

- **Henry M. Morris**

Slide # 8

Psalm 148:3–6 (NKJV)

3 Praise Him, sun and moon; Praise Him, all you stars of light!

4 Praise Him, you heavens of heavens, And you waters above the heavens!

5 Let them praise the name of the LORD, For He commanded and they were created.

6 He also established them forever and ever; He made a decree which shall not pass away.

Revelation 21:24 (NKJV)

24 And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it.

Here we have just a little glimpse at life in eternity, which raises more questions.

Who are these nations, who are these kings, and what is it that they bring into this city?

To start with, note that these are “the nations of those who are saved.” Only **SAVED** people will have access to the holy city of New Jerusalem. So these people were all saved in history at some point along the way.

Note that in Revelation 21 there are three special categories of people that are mentioned which interface with the New Jerusalem.

Slide # 9

- 1) The **bride, the Lamb’s wife** (the Church), is intimately tied to the city, with the names of the apostles on the foundations – v. 9, 14.
- 2) The names of the **12 tribes of Israel** are inscribed on the gates, emphasizing access (coming and going) – v. 12.
- 3) The **nations** (Gentiles) have access (coming and going) – v. 24, 26.

Remember the book of Revelation is the capstone of all previous revelation. It assumes you have studied the previous 65 books, and it builds on that foundation, tying all the major themes of Scripture into a glorious consummation in reference to the eternal state.

In 1 Corinthians, we have what is called “The Resurrection Chapter” – namely 1 Corinthians 15. Here Paul gives a timeline of resurrection order in relation to the kingdom.

Slide # 10

1 Corinthians 15:22–24 (NKJV)

22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.

23 But each one in his own order: **Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ’s at His coming.**

24 Then comes **the end**, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power.

Slide # 11

Three Resurrection Phases:

1. “Christ the firstfruits”
2. “afterward those who are Christ’s at His coming”
 - a. Rapture.
 - b. Second Coming
3. “then comes the end...”

Just as a sizable amount of time (at least 2000 years) exists between number 1 (Christ’s resurrection) and number 2 (those who are Christ’s at His coming), so likewise a sizable amount of time (at least 1000 years) exists between number 2 (those who are Christ’s at His coming) and number 3 – the resurrection at the end.

So how does 1 Corinthians 15:50 relate to the kingdom?

Slide # 12

1 Corinthians 15:50 (NKJV)

50 Now this I say, brethren, **that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God**; nor does corruption inherit incorruption.

What is in view here is the Father’s eternal kingdom and not the Millennial kingdom of the Son (cf. 1 Cor. 15:24). Before the kingdom of the eternal state there must be a transformation of all the saints living in mortal bodies in the millennium because flesh and blood cannot inherit that eternal phase of the kingdom.

This is what Paul alludes to when spelling out the order of the resurrections in 1 Corinthians 15:22-24 and ties the last phase to the end when the Son delivers up the kingdom to the Father. Thus, only saved people with glorified bodies will inherit the eternal kingdom (cf. Rev. 20:4-5).

The word “nations” (Gk. “ethnos”) can mean “people,” but most commonly it is translated as **Gentiles**.

“Gentile” seems to imply “non-Jew” in a generic way. Whereas “nation” carries the broader and richer idea of people groups with different cultures in different lands outside of Israel.

-Dr. Michael Vlach

It would appear that, in view here, are those who were saved in history who were not a part of either Israel or the church (21:12-14). They will be represented in this group called “nations.” Thus, we see a distinction of roles between people groups will evidently be maintained throughout eternity (cf. Heb. 12:22-24).

Racial identities will continue (Revelation 5:9; 7:9), and this involves a genetic carryover from the old body to the new. – **Randy Alcorn**

Slide # 13

Just as people do not lose their gender or individual identities when they become believers, neither do people lose their ethnicity or the significance of it. It is part of who they are. Jesus himself will always be an Israelite, a descendant of David. So both unity and diversity exist with the people(s) of God. Part of the beauty of the coming kingdom is the diversity among God’s people(s).

– Dr. Michael Vlach

Note also that it appears subordination of ranks will continue to be a part of God’s program throughout eternity. Evidently, not all will be kings on the earth. There must be distinction. What is involved in them being kings? We are not told. Is this part of the reward for being faithful?

But also note that while Revelation 21:24 speaks of the kings of the earth, in 22:5 we find that the citizens of the New Jerusalem will reign forever and ever. The question is: who are the citizens of New Jerusalem reigning over? One answer is that the kings of the city (the New Jerusalem) will reign over the kings of the earth, while the kings of the earth will reign over the kingdom citizens. There is a lot yet to be revealed!

However, I would note that the kings of the earth do seem to represent a different category than the citizens of the city proper as found in the Church and are distinct from the tribes of Israel.

The saved of the nations will walk in the light of the New Jerusalem, indicating a radiant, far-reaching light, and certainly, as they enter the city, they will experience it in full. And walking in its light implies that they will walk perfectly in harmony with the holiness of this light.

And then it specifically says that the kings of the earth will “**bring their glory and honor into it.**” The older manuscripts simply read that they “will bring their glory into it” (cf. LSB). However, we quickly note that in verse 26 it does combine glory with honor that are brought into the city by the nations.

Their glory (Gk. *doxa*) is the idea of that which is excellent or full of splendor. All that is glorious in the new earth, in keeping with cultural contributions, will be brought in worship.

These representative leaders from the new earth will bring their BEST in terms of worship to the city. What this entails specifically, we are not told, but it does give us a feel that this will involve social life with bustling activity involving the highest form of worship they can contribute.

The nations outside the city bring the best of their culture into the city, all for the glory of God. – **Dr. Michael Valch**

Revelation 21:25 (NKJV)

25 Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there).

This introduces a related parenthetical thought. The kings of the earth will have access, bringing their glory into the city, implying the constant activity of coming in and going out of the New Jerusalem.

Thus, the gates will never be shut by day, and by the way it's always day because there is no night there. This is a way of saying the gates will be open 24/7, as we would say. They are always open. Never will there be a “**We’re CLOSED**” sign. No one will ever be told to come back later. Access is always available. Never will there be a barrier preventing entrance.

The gates eternally open speak of security. All is safe here. There is no danger. There is danger in the night in particular, but not so here. Everything is done in the light – there shall be no night there.

Often children are afraid of the dark, and so a night light is required.

As a young child, I stayed over for the first time at a friend's house. When we went to bed, there was no nightlight as I was accustomed to having. I was terrified! I conceived of how to sneak out of the house and run back to my own farmhouse a mile or so away. Eventually I fell into a fitful sleep and awoke to the precious reality of LIGHT.

There will be no FEAR there - “there shall be no night”.

Although there will be no “night” in the city itself, there will continue to be day and night in the cosmos as a whole (Revelation 20:10), as well as “months” on the new earth (Revelation 22:2).

– **Henry M. Morris**

But note that in context, the gates being continually open are related to the thought of the kings of the earth bringing their glory into it.

Slide # 14

Isaiah 60:11 (NKJV)

11 Therefore your gates shall be open continually; They shall not be shut day or night, **That men may bring to you the wealth of the Gentiles, And their kings in procession.**

Revelation 21:26 (NKJV)

26 And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it.

The same essential thing was said in verse 24. In the Bible, whenever something is repeated, an EMPHASIS is being brought out. In verse 24 it says the kings of the earth will bring their glory into the New Jerusalem. Here in verse 26, it says the nations shall bring their glory and honor into it.

Glory refers to what is excellent, denoting the best of what can be contributed from the new earth as a form of worship. It expresses the HIGHEST of adoration and esteem. It exalts God for WHO He is as God!

Honor is the idea of the VALUE attached to something. To honor God is to affix reverence and value to Him because of WHO He is. It recognizes His supreme importance! It esteems Him as having supreme value! It sees Him above all and values Him above all.

In effect, the worship center of the whole New Creation will be the New Jerusalem. The emphasis here is on worship. God pervades this place, and this is where the people who inhabit the new earth will come to bring glory and honor, indicating worship.

“The glory and honor of the nations ... refers to the choicest of their treasures, whatever they may be.” – **Robert Thomas**

Slide # 15

The chief end of man is to
**GLORIFY GOD &
ENJOY HIM
FOREVER**

We were created for God, and the greatest joy will be to enjoy His intimate presence in the New Jerusalem!

Slide # 16

Psalm 65:4 (NKJV)

4 Blessed is the man You choose, And cause to approach You, That he may dwell in Your courts. **We shall be satisfied with the goodness of Your house, Of Your holy temple.**

Psalm 84:2 (NKJV)

2 My soul longs, yes, even faints For the courts of the Lord; **My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.**

Note the preposition “**into**,” as seen in verse 24 and again in verse 26, indicates penetration into the city. They will actually come into and move about in the city.

Tribes, peoples, and nations will all make their own particular contribution to the enrichment of life in the New Jerusalem.

– **Randy Alcorn**

Revelation 21:27 (NKJV)

27 But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

The resurrected saints will all share in the glories of the New Jerusalem (cf. Heb. 12:22-24).

The true Church (the bride of Christ) is there.

Saved Israel is there.

Saved Gentiles are there.

But there is a BUT right here! But is a contrast word. In contrast to those who will have access to the New Jerusalem are the lost who have not been cleansed from their sin. They will never enter into this beautiful city, which is characterized by the glorious presence of God.

Defiles: means to make unclean, impure, or profane. Jesus taught that defilement before God is an inward matter of the heart.

Slide # 17**Matthew 15:18–19 (NKJV)**

18 But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man.

19 For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.

So, according to Jesus, what is defiling is evil thoughts, immoral desires, and actions. Anything contrary to God's holiness is defiling.

Abomination: Refers to that which is deeply offensive and repulsive to God. It carries with it the idea of a foul thing that causes moral revulsion.

Jesus referred to self-righteous hypocrisy as an abomination (Lk. 16:15). The flagrant claim of claiming to be God by the Antichrist is called the "abomination of desolation" (Mt. 24:15). That which is abominable is a desecration of that which is sacred. Detestable practices such as idolatry or perverted sexual practices are called an abomination before God.

A lie: God hates lying (Prov. 6:16-19). A lie is that which stands in opposition to God's truth.

John wrote 5 books, namely the gospel of John, 1,2, and 3rd John, and the book of Revelation. Consistently, John shows that those who promote a lie are not saved. And when John says this, he is saying one of two things. Either the person is lying about their relationship with God, saying they are a Christian when they are not, or they are promoting a lie about the person of Christ, misrepresenting His person.

Slide # 18

1 John 2:4 (NKJV)

4 He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

1 John 4:20 (NKJV)

20 If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?

Revelation 3:9 (NKJV)

9 Indeed I will make those of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not, but lie—indeed I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you.

Liars end up saying to Jesus on judgment day, "Lord, Lord," and Jesus in effect, will call them LIARS, saying, "I never knew you; depart from Me" (Mt. 7:21-23). Liars lie about their relationship with the Lord, claiming to be God's people when in fact they are not. They are the Judases among us. They are the tares among us. And they are with us to the end. In the end God will sort it all out, but be assured that if you are lying about having a saving relationship with the Lord that you will never see the New Jerusalem!

The other thing LIARS (according to John) do is misrepresent the person of Jesus Christ.

Slide # 19

1 John 2:22 (NKJV)

22 Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son.

When the Jews in John 8 refused to accept Jesus as He revealed Himself to be, Jesus told them that they were of their father the devil who is the father of lies (Jn. 8:44, 55).

People are either characterized as being in the liar camp or in the camp of truth. Either they align with the truth as found in Jesus or they don't.

Slide # 20

John 18:37 (NKJV)

37 Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is **of the truth** hears My voice."

You are either of the truth or of the lie!

Slide # 21

1 Timothy 2:4 (NKJV)

4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the **knowledge of the truth**.

2 Thessalonians 2:10-11 (NKJV)

10 and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did **not receive the love of the truth**, that they might be saved.

Jesus Christ alone is THE TRUTH! All else is a lie and a part of Satan's deceptive system. In the end, you either identify with the truth or with the lie.

John 14:6 (NKJV)

6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

The issue of whether one is a liar or not is prominent in John's mind. It is a major issue brought up in all three warning passages in Revelation 21 and 22 (Rev. 21:8, 27; 22:15).

Slide # 22

Rev. 21:8 “**all liars** shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire...”

Rev. 21:27 “...there shall by no means enter it anything...causes...**a lie...**”

Rev. 22:15 “But outside are...whoever **loves and practices a lie.**”

But note what is being said here. Only those who are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life can enter in. Earlier we saw that those not written in the book of life are cast into the lake of fire (Rev. 20:15). Here the reverse is stated – only those written in the book of life will have access to this city. All others will be barred.

This book of life is mentioned 6 times in the book of Revelation (3:5, 13:8, 17:8, 20:12, 15, 21:27). Here it is specifically designated as “the Lamb’s Book of Life.” This book uniquely belongs to Jesus and in it are the names of all those who belong to Him.

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (Jn. 1:29). This emphasizes Jesus as Savior! There is no other way in.

Slide # 23

Acts 4:12 (NKJV)

12 Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is **no other** name under heaven given among men **by which we must be saved.**”

Ephesians 1:7 (NKJV)

7 In Him we have **redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins,** according to the riches of His grace

Salvation is all of grace – it’s all of the Lamb! When He died on the cross, the last thing He said was, “It is finished!” “Jesus paid it all – all to Him we owe!” This is the truth all true believers have embraced! We are all going on the GRACE plan – God’s Riches At Christ’s Expense!

Jesus is referred to as “Lamb” only twice in the O.T. (Isa. 53:7, Jer. 11:19) – only twice in the gospels (Jn. 1:29, 36), only once in the book of Acts (Acts 8:32), and only once in the epistles (1 Pet. 1:19). However, in the book of Revelation He is referred to as Lamb **28 times**. At the end of the day, it’s all about the Lamb and whether we accept Him as our Savior!

But note what the text indicates – those who are written down in the Lamb’s book of life are characterized by a changed life. Their orientation is not one toward defilement, abomination, or a lie. This is the main point he is making. And this destroys the false doctrine of “**Easy Believism**” that says you can believe without it changing your life.

Yes, we are saved by faith alone, but if it is a saving faith, it is a life-changing kind of faith. As my mentor John Whitcomb would say, “When we believe in Jesus, we never recover,” meaning we are forever changed. In theological terms, that is called “regeneration.” We are now a new creation in Christ. We now have godly desires because we have the Holy Spirit wed with our spirit living inside of us.

Slide # 24

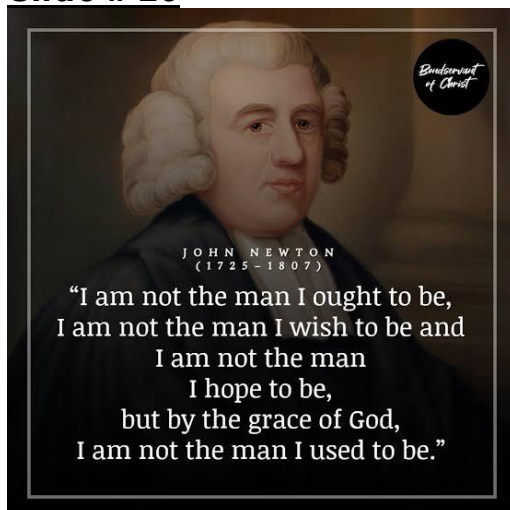
Hebrews 10:14 (NKJV)

14 For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.

Both are true! You can’t claim just half of this verse. It all goes together. Those saved by faith in the one offering of the cross are positionally perfected forever. That is your position forever. But the last part is also true – God is now at work in your life and you are being sanctified in your walk. Sanctified means “being set apart”. Little by little, God is changing you. As the Bible says, “He who has begun a good work in you will complete it” (Phil. 1:6).

John Newton the author of the song “Amazing Grace” wrote:

Slide # 25



Antony Simon was a converted Jew who lived in Israel and served as a pastor/evangelist to the Jewish people. He wrote:

The Jewish holidays are known as the HIGH HOLY DAYS. One of the high holy days is Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement). For weeks leading up to this day you will see people busily doing good deeds of repentance. They commonly say to each other...***“Hatimah Tovah”*** (May you finish with a good signature) In other words, ***“May your name be written in the book of life”***.

Jewish people believe that on this day God measures them by weighing their good deeds against their bad deeds for the past year. By doing good, they hope to have enough good deeds to outweigh their bad deeds so their name will be inscribed in the book of life. If their good deeds are equal to their bad deeds, they can have their names written in a neural book in hopes that the next year they will do better and have their name then written in the book of life. If they have done more bad deeds, their name is written in the book of death.

Then they observe Yom Kippur by fasting and prayer, hoping to ensure that their names are written in the book of life.

“Whenever someone says to me, ***‘Hatimah Tovah’*** I reply, *‘My name is written in the Book of Life. Not because of my good works or my fasting, but because of the atoning sacrifice ...of our Messiah Jesus’*. People think I am crazy.”

The book is not a “good works book of life” but the LAMB’S BOOK OF LIFE. We are not there because of our good works, but rather because of Jesus finished work on the cross! It’s all about the LAMB!

Peter in 1 Peter 1 says we have been redeemed “with the precious blood of Christ” (1 Pet. 1:18-19). 1 John 1:7 says “the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.” All we do is receive Him by faith!

Slide # 26

Romans 3:25-26 (NKJV)

25 whom God set forth as a propitiation [satisfactory payment] **by His blood, through faith**, 26 to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has **faith in Jesus**.

The bottom line is this...

Is your name written in the Lamb's book of Life?

Have you received Jesus as your Savior and risen Lord?

Slide # 27

2 Corinthians 5:20–6:2 (NKJV)

20 Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, **be reconciled to God.**

21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be **sin for us**, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. [GRACE]

1 We then, as workers together with Him also **plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain.**

2 For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you." **Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.**

When I enter that beautiful city and the saints all around me appear, I hope that someone will tell me, 'It was you who invited me here.'

– ***Corrie Ten Boom***

You are invited!

Receive the grace of God!

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord!

Then you can be assured that indeed your name is written down in the Lamb's Book of Life and that you too will share in the glories of the New Jerusalem!

It is a prepared city for a prepared people.

Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation!

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved!