

Date: 17.06.2020

Time: 7.30pm

Prayer Meeting taken by: Rev Gavino Fioretti

Psalm: Psalm 122 (Scottish Psalter)

Scripture: Revelation 21:1-22:5

Outline: All things are new

a) Introduction

1. God's promise

2. God's work

3. God's presence

4. God's care

5. God's church

6. God's conditions

All things are new

- **Introduction**

God destroys sin and the author of sin and makes all things new.

New heavens and new earth: (21:1-8) we see the old creation is gone and the new creation here – some view the new heavens and new earth as being completely new and the old completely gone. Some see the new heavens and the new earth as being what was, but now purified from sin and wrong and made fit for God's presence. The Heavens and earth that are divided today will be brought together on that day.

New Jerusalem: (21:9-27) The new Jerusalem is not the place where we're going – it's who we are. It describes the church, the people of God, the Bride of the Lamb.

New Eden: (22:1-5) There was the tree of life in the old garden of Eden. In the new Eden, it will be available for the people of God as the curse is gone. This is not a literal garden, but a symbol of God-given, abundant, good, eternal life.

Chapter 21 of Revelation is one of the most encouraging chapters in the Bible. It shows our future as the people of God.

1) God's promise

We see the promises of God fulfilled.

Adam: A Saviour was promised to Adam. God fulfilled His promise. In the previous chapter, we say the enemy gone, the devil crushed by Christ. The purpose of Christ's work is the salvation of the world. His salvation is cosmic – not only are individual souls saved, but the world is healed.

Canaan: Canaan was the Promised Land – a place of blessing and abundant life – we see this promise fulfilled in chapter 21.

The prophets: The prophets described how the lamb and wolf would be together. The child and adder would be together without harm. Sin is removed from the scene. The earth is sanctified and purified. Sin will never be again.

We see here the promises of God fulfilled and the purposes of God revealed. We live to experience good in this world, but the good that's still to come is so, so much better – the good that's to come will not age, rust or decay.

2) God's work

It's God who is making all things new.

The place: This place is God's handiwork. When God does something, He does it well and perfectly. It will be so amazingly beautiful. It is the work of God.

The people: The New Jerusalem is from God. This is a reminder that the church is the work of God – we are people that He has made. He's chosen and made us to be His people. We've been born to a new hope – this is of God. Repentant hearts come from God. He makes us a new people.

3) God's presence

The temple: God will be with His people – the gulf between God and His people will be no more. At times, we experience this in part on earth – in God's Word, in worship, sharing in the Lord's Supper, in the presence of God's people. Then, we shall experience His presence fully. The new heavens and new earth will be the dwelling place of God. The temple of God is where He meets sinners. God's presence will be everywhere in the new Heavens and earth.

The throne: There is a throne – God rules over the new heavens and the new earth.

The place: There, we will see Jesus face-to-face. There will be no more doubts about His love, sufficiency or salvation. There, we'll love Him as He deserves. We'll see His beauty. He'll be with us. How our hearts will overflow on that day with worship when we see Him.

4) God's care

No more death: As we get older, we become more aware that earth is a mess. It's a valley of tears. We experience more and more the consequences of sin. But in the new heavens and new earth, sin will be defeated. Death will be no more. No more loss, sadness, death or mourning. Death will be in the lake of fire – there will be no more dying, but there will be eternal life.

No more enemies: There will be no enemies. No spiritual enemies. There will be no divisions. We'll finally be at peace.

No more sufferings: There will be no more suffering, pain or crying. God will wipe away every tear from our eyes. He'll comfort our every concern and care for us. This is a beautiful picture of our Heavenly Father caring for His children.

No more nights: There will be no tiredness. No more fear. No more sin, danger, plotting or malice. It's not pleasant being in darkness. There, the light of God will be all around us.

No more sea: The sea was dangerous and chaotic for the Israelites. There, there will be no more separation, no more danger, uncertainty, care or concerns. There will be perfection.

5) God's church

God's church is the New Jerusalem, in God's presence and with Him.

From God: God's church is from Him. The church of God is the bride of God's Son. We'll be presented as perfect to the Father. The work will be done, perfected, completed. The church will be beautiful, clear as crystal. It is precious. We'll be dressed in white, in Christ's righteousness. We'll be without sin – our battle with sin will be over and we'll be forever at peace.

Having the glory of God: God will share His glory with us; not that we will be worshipped – we will be worshippers of God. We'll have the radiance, perfection and purity of His glory. We'll have spotless beauty. The church reveals in part now, very poorly, the glory of God – then, there will be nothing to hinder that manifestation.

6) God's conditions

Sinners will not be there. Those with unforgiven sin, who are cursed will not be allowed in. the only way to enjoy God's work and presence is to be His people, His bride, forgiven in Christ.

If you're not one of His people, if you're living a life of sin, it's time to repent of sin, to admit to God your failures and to believe in Jesus and trust what He has done.