

Briefing Document: The Fall of the World- The Eternal Condition of Eternity (Lesson 24) **& The Two Witnesses (Lesson 1)**

Sunday PM-August 23, 2026

Executive Summary

This briefing summarizes a study of Revelation chapters 11, 21, and 22. It examines the specific features of heaven and the transition into a detailed study of the "two witnesses" during the tribulation.

Key takeaways include:

- **The Nature of Heaven:** Heaven is described not as having "pearly gates," but gates made of single, massive pearls. These symbolize the wounds of Christ, as pearls are formed through the wounding of an oyster.
- **The Presence of God:** In the new Jerusalem, there is no physical temple and no need for the sun or moon because the glory of God and the Lamb provide constant light.
- **Eternal Service:** Believers are promised a life of priestly service, worship, and fellowship, characterized by a continual growth in the knowledge of God.
- **The Tribulation Interlude:** Between the major judgments of the tribulation, God provides "breathing room" or interludes. The account of the two witnesses in Revelation 11 serves as one such interlude to encourage believers that God remains in sovereign control despite the rise of demonic forces and global destruction.

Special Features of the Eternal City

The study highlights unique physical and spiritual characteristics of the new Jerusalem as described in Revelation 21.

The Gates and Streets

The gates of the city are not merely decorated with pearls; each individual gate consists of a single large pearl. The speaker notes the biological origin of pearls—created when an oyster is wounded—as a metaphor for the sacrifice of Jesus. Without the "wound" of Calvary, there would be no entry into heaven. Additionally, the streets of the city are described as pure gold that is as transparent as glass.

The Divine Light and Temple

Unlike earthly cities, the new Jerusalem has no temple. The reason is that God the Almighty and the Lamb are omnipresent, making a specific building for worship unnecessary. Furthermore:

- **No Celestial Bodies:** There is no need for the sun or moon because God's glory illuminates everything.
- **Open Access:** The gates are never closed, as there is no night and no threat from which to be protected.
- **Satisfaction:** The inhabitants of the city will experience total satisfaction, wanting for nothing.

Exclusivity of Entry

Entry into the city is strictly limited to those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life. Nothing that defiles, causes an abomination, or involves lies will be permitted to enter.

Paradise and Eternal Sustenance

The description of heaven continues into Revelation 22, focusing on the restoration of paradise.

The River and Tree of Life

A pure river of the water of life, clear as crystal, flows directly from the throne of God. Alongside this river stands the Tree of Life:

- **Completion:** The tree bears twelve types of fruit, symbolizing completion.
- **Monthly Yield:** It produces fruit every month.
- **Healing Leaves:** The leaves are for the "healing" or enhancement of the nations.

Physicality in Heaven

The document suggests that believers will have a physical, glorified experience in heaven, which includes eating. This is supported by the fact that Jesus ate in His glorified body after the resurrection. Eating in heaven is presented as a perfect experience that enhances the enjoyment of the eternal state.

The Nature of Eternal Service

The study identifies three specific promises regarding the eternal state in *Revelation 22:3: 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.*

1. **Removal of the Curse:** There will be no more sin or its consequences.
2. **Divine Presence:** God and the Lamb will be physically present with humanity.
3. **Active Service:** Believers will not be idle; they will serve God.

Specifics of Heavenly Service

Heavenly service is described not as menial labor, but as "priestly service." This involves:

- **Worship:** A continuous act of service and devotion.
 - **Growth in Knowledge:** Spending eternity plumbing the depths of God's overwhelming nature.
 - **Fellowship:** Engaging in the fullness of the community God is creating.
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Context for the End Times: The Two Witnesses

The focus shifts to Revelation 11 to discuss the "two witnesses." This section is framed within the broader context of the book of Revelation, which is the "revealing of Jesus Christ" and His return to judge the wicked and reward the righteous.

The Telescopic Nature of Judgment

The judgments in Revelation—the seven seals, seven trumpets, and seven bowls—are described as "telescopic," with each series leading into the next and becoming increasingly severe.

- **Interludes:** Between the sixth and seventh judgments of each series, there is a pause or "interlude."
- **Purpose:** These pauses allow humanity to "catch its breath" and remind the righteous that God is still on His throne.

The Bittersweet Revelation

In Revelation 10, John is told to eat a small scroll. It is sweet in his mouth but becomes bitter in his stomach. This represents the nature of God's final judgment: it is sweet because it results in the kingdom of God and the realization of heaven, but bitter because of the terrible fate of the unrighteous.

Divine Witnesses in the Tribulation

Despite the chaos of the tribulation—including wars, earthquakes, and the release of millions of demonic entities—God ensures His message is proclaimed through various witnesses:

- **John:** Through the writing of the Revelation.
- **The 144,000:** Jewish witnesses who evangelize the world.
- **Gentile Believers:** An innumerable group from every nation and tongue.
- **The Angel:** A supernatural being who flies through the sky preaching the gospel.

- **The Two Witnesses:** Two unique individuals who prophesy for 1,260 days (three and a half years) while clothed in sackcloth.

The "two witnesses" are symbolized as two olive trees and two lampstands standing before God. Their ministry occurs while the holy city is trodden underfoot by Gentiles for 42 months.

Scripture References (NKJV)

- **2 Timothy 4:7:** *I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.*
- **Revelation 21:22:** *But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.*
- **Revelation 21:23:** *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.*
- **Revelation 21:25:** *Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there).*
- **Revelation 22:1:** *And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb.*
- **Revelation 22:2:** *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.*
- **Revelation 22:3:** *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.*
- **Revelation 22:4:** *They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads.*
- **Revelation 22:5:** *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.*
- **1 Corinthians 2:9:** *Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.*
- **John 14:6:** *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."*