

## Revelation Class 14 (Revelation 21-22)

“New Life”

### Recap:

Last week, we discussed the coming of Christ.

We correlated with the Old Testament, to read what the Jews will think, feel, and see  
As Jesus comes back to not only defeat the Anti-Christ, False Prophet  
But the army they had gathered that could range in the high millions if not billion  
Soldiers strong.



Not only would the blood reach a height of four-feet  
But would stretch to over 180 miles long.

Ezekiel prophesied that it'd take 7-months to bury all the bodies.

As we got into chapter 20, John gives us the picture of Satan bound by a nameless angel  
And cast down into the bottomless pit, in chains for the first time in his existence.

Jesus' Second Coming would user in what is known as a “millennial reign”  
Where he would set his throne on Earth  
The Church, ruling and reigning with him.



**Imagine:** A world with peace...

- from natural disasters and wars
- Diseases (living longer!)
- from the animal kingdom
- with God

Zechariah prophesied that in this time,  
People will cast down their idols purge everything  
that is keeping them from honoring the Lord<sup>1</sup>  
including judgement on all false prophets and teachers leading other astray!

**Can we imagine real quick...**

A world with not child molestation?  
A world where kids don't go hungry?  
A world united under King Jesus  
No more nasty politics, self-gain, racism, injustice!

And yet, we learned by continuing through chapter 20  
That after 1,000 years Satan would be released one last time  
For a certain amount of time, to tempt and drive people away from God.  
Those who are born during the millennial reign  
The Jews protected by God and those that wept and cried out to Jesus  
The Gentiles, those who didn't take the mark of the beast and survived  
Their kids and further generations, have a chance to choose Jesus for themselves  
And then the Satan will be cast out to the lake of Fire forever.



We ended on a sobering note, **AFTER** the 1,000 years...  
After Satan is finally judged and condemned  
The second resurrection happens... not only those who took the mark of the beast  
But people throughout human history, who rejected Christ, are brought to judgement  
Anyone's name who was not written was thrown into the same lake of fire.

The question may be... **will we witness this or anything else taking place on earth?**  
I don't know... There's no mention in Scripture other than the Church returning with Jesus.

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<sup>1</sup> Zechariah 13:1-9.

## But what if we do see the Great White Throne Judgement?

- What do you imagine will go through your mind if you see
- Your neighbors, your coworkers, family, or your worst enemies
- Thrown into the lake of fire.

It's a sobering thought... even after 1,000 years of being **WITH** Jesus.

## Revelation 21

**Revelation 21:1 (ESV), "Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea."**

Here is the conversation about this verse.

Created a **BRAND NEW** Heaven and Earth

*For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; and the former shall not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I create; for behold, I create a Jerusalem as a rejoicing, and her people a joy. (Isaiah 65:17-18)*

*Of old, You laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands. They will perish, but You will endure; yes all of them will grow old like a garment, like a cloak You will change them, and they will be changed. But You are the same, and Your years will have no end. (Psalm 102:25-27)*

*Looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat... Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for a new heaven and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. (2 Peter 3:12-13)*

### Note takers:

When Scriptures mention Heavens, it doesn't necessarily mean where God resides

- First heaven, blue sky
- Second heaven, night sky
- Third heaven, where God lives.

The idea for those who believe it is a BRAND NEW creation

Since it has been stained with sin, blood, and memories... God just wipes the slate clean

Allowing a New Creation to be remade.

**Isaiah 65:17 (ESV), "For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind."**

Peter described the newly created heavens and earth... where righteousness dwells.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 3:11-14, "Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless."**

On a practical note: You can imagine how the world will need to be bigger.

There is an estimation that over 117 billion people have lived on earth

We currently have 7.9 billion ... over the last 100 years, 6 billion people have been added.

Several studies suggest that the maximum occupancy is 7.7 billion...

And at this rate we are 32 years away from 10 billion people on Earth.<sup>2</sup>

Created a **by REMAKING** Heaven and Earth-

*"The ancient Greek word translated **new** here (kaine) means "new in character, 'fresh'." It doesn't mean "recent" or "new in time." This isn't just the next heaven and the next earth; this is the better heaven and better earth replacing the old."*<sup>3</sup>

The mountains that were demolished,

The islands that disappeared

The havoc that was brought about during the tribulation

The blood throughout the world

Cleansed and remade.

The argument is that what we see now,

Once he refurbishes it, it'll be better than ever before!

What about the population capacity? I don't know.

Created a New heaven and Earth **SYMBOLICALLY**

The idea here follows the genre of the book,

Since its symbolic, apocalyptic, this is John's best attempt to communicate what is going on

But in character, morals, erasing evil, getting rid of sin once and for all

Which plays into the next description... **and there was no longer any sea."**

The sea in ancient Israel symbolized trouble, threats, origins of where the Beast came from

Also symbolized the enemies of the Lord

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.theworldcounts.com/populations/world/10-billion-people>

<sup>3</sup> <https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/revelation-21/>

**Psalm 89:9 (ESV)**

**“You rule the raging of the sea;  
when its waves rise, you still them.”**

**Your question:** which one is it?

I don't know, it could be a mixture Brand New, remade, and symbolic

It's not a mountain I would want to die on

Whats a good mountain to die on?

**Luke 21:33 (ESV), <sup>433</sup> “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.”**

John continues his description...

**Revelation 21:2-3 (ESV), <sup>42</sup> “I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”**

Key takeaway's

If the Earth and Heaven are Brand New, the New Jerusalem is a call back to the old earth

It comes down from heaven, meaning that it is not made with human hands.

It is believed that this is where Heaven is contained.

**“All of heaven is currently contained in the new Jerusalem; it is separate from the present universe, which is tainted by sin. Believer who die go to the “heavenly Jerusalem” where Jesus has gone before them to prepare a place for them (John 14:1-3)”<sup>4</sup>**

You can imagine when Heaven touches earth

The splendor, the joy, the breath being taken away... as you see this bride walk down the aisle.

This is what God wanted since He created the Heavens and Earth back in Genesis.

He desired relationship... man's purpose for being created, to be in relationship.

**“This is the greatest glory of heaven, and the ultimate restoration of what was lost in the Fall. “I do not think the glory of Eden lay in its grassy walks, or in the boughs bending with luscious fruit-but its glory lay in this, that the ‘Lord God walked in the garden in the cool of the day.’ Here was Adam’s highest privilege, that he had companionship with the Most High.” (Spurgeon)**

**Revelation 21:4 (ESV), <sup>44</sup> “He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”**

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<sup>4</sup> John MacArthur, *Revelation 12-22*, Pg. 264

The idea here is that this is holy moment when God will minister  
He will be humanity to comfort them...  
The focus here is the comfort of God, not the remorse of the saints.

### **Can you imagine this moment... finally able to breathe?**

The person who had struggled with sin all their lives, and maybe shame  
The person who experienced abandonment and questioned if they were worthy of love  
The person who was falsely accused and imprisoned, losing their life  
The person who may be experiencing this without their friends, and family...  
The person who feels as if they missed out... why was I so ignorant!?!  
The person who battled depression and debilitating anxiety

Every tear... no rush...  
Every tear acknowledged by the Lord... ministered to... cared...  
Not shut down, not belittled for crying, not chastised...

Some commentators believe that the reason why there are no more tears  
Is that God will blot out the memories...  
Especially since we will have our new glorified bodies... [1 Corinthians 15:42–53](#)

this is more inferred since the Lake of Fire  
Is described as the a place of weeping and gnashing of teeth, fully remembering  
Continually weeping (Mat. 8:12)

Then we hear from God... This is one of the few times He has spoken

***Revelation 21:5 (ESV), “<sup>5</sup> 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.”***

The redemption of man goes beyond humanity  
Creation grows, as Paul states, and will benefit  
As God dwells with humanity

### **Before we move on...**

We can use our holy imaginations and see God using colors, creating something out of nothing  
Have you ever read the Genesis account and think, “what must that have looked like?”  
We get a front row seat of God doing what He does best...  
Hopefully he keeps away from creating spiders and rats this time...



But we have positive thoughts when it comes to God creating  
Some of us may be excited and hopeful...  
But the same effort and care God will show in that day  
He shows when He works in the heart of a person.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:17 (ESV), <sup>17</sup> Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.**

His creativity... His passion... His attention to detail...  
The measuring... the cutting... the chiseling...  
As He works in your heart... today...

**Revelation 21:6-8 (ESV), <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children.**

This will be done...  
Interesting to note that with the sea looking like glass  
God will be the source in to provide drink  
There won't be any other options...

Thirst has always been a symbol of spiritual need  
All humanity needs to do is receive...  
Because if they are needing... God will give water without cost.

Once again pointing that not all are God's children  
But those who place their faith and hope in Christ  
They will inherit the beauty of relationship with Him, his splendor, and his nourishment

Those who are not His children and not able to inherit these blessings  
are mentioned by some of their qualities in the next verse.

**Revelation 21:9 (ESV), <sup>9</sup> But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death."**

**Cowardly**

Isn't someone considered a wimp..  
But the person who chooses self, safety, and comfort, over Christ.

**"they fell away when their faith was challenged or opposed, because their faith was not genuine."<sup>5</sup>**

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<sup>5</sup> MacArthur, Pg. 272

## Unbelieving

Their disloyalty excludes them from heaven

## Vile

Detestable, wholly caught up in wickedness and evil

## Murderers, the Sexually Immoral, those who practice Magic Arts, the idolaters and all liars.

These characteristics can be seen throughout gender, nationality,  
Belief systems, political affiliation...

What is a sobering thought is that Jesus raised the bar of morality for believers

- Not only physical- we can murder in our hearts
- Not just physical- If we lust over a woman
- Immoral- even when no one is looking
- Magical arts- astrology, psychics, some argue overtaken by drugs (*pharmekia*)
- Idolaters- people or things taking the place of God in our lives
- Liars...

***Revelation 21:9-10, “<sup>9</sup> One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, “Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.” <sup>10</sup> 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.”***

The New Jerusalem is referred to as the Bride of Christ  
Because of it's occupants, being the Church.

***Revelation 21:11-14 (ESV), “<sup>11</sup> It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. <sup>12</sup> It had a great, high wall with twelve gates, and with twelve angels at the gates. On the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel. <sup>13</sup> There were three gates on the east, three on the north, three on the south and three on the west. <sup>14</sup> The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.”***

It shone with the glory of God...

She beamed from being with God... impacting her presence.

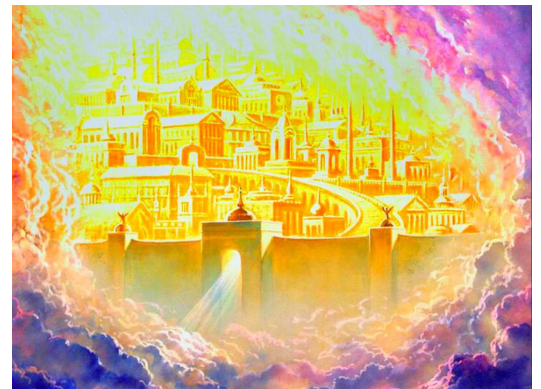
High wall...

Not to defend itself, but showed a boundary

Only the righteous could enter in...

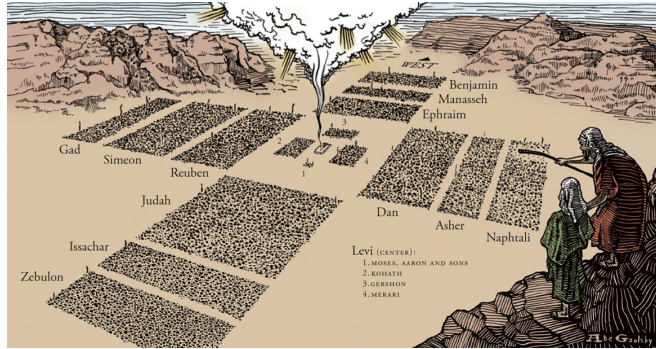
The names of the gates are to be celebrated for all eternity

The story of God and his covenant with His people.





The gates arranged how the tribes of Israel camped around the tabernacle.



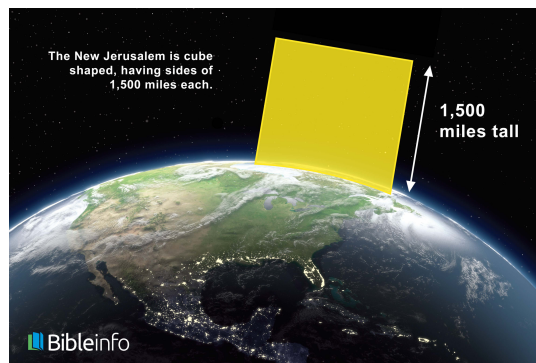
**Revelation 21:15-17 (ESV),** *“<sup>15</sup> The angel who talked with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city, its gates and its walls. <sup>16</sup> The city was laid out like a square, as long as it was wide. He measured the city with the rod and found it to be 12,000 stadia in length, and as wide and high as it is long. <sup>17</sup> The angel measured the wall using human measurement, and it was 144 cubits thick.”*

Looking like a cube

It will be around 1,500 miles on each side.

Comparative to the distance from Maine to Florida

Or a little less than the size of the moon.



*“Henry Morris, guessing that there will have been 100 billion people in the human race through history, and that 20% of them will be saved, calculated that each person would have a “block” with about 75 acres on each face to call their own. This is highly speculative, but illustrates the point that there is plenty of room in the New Jerusalem.”*

**Revelation 21:18-21** ... Describe what materials were used to build this Holy City

The materials used, in John’s day, only the rich would use.

Speaking of the value of this city.

Special note: many of the materials were like glass or transparent

Some believe that it was see through so that all could see it

**Revelation 21:22-27 (ESV),** *“<sup>22</sup> I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. <sup>23</sup> The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. <sup>24</sup> The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. <sup>25</sup> On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. <sup>26</sup> The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it. <sup>27</sup> Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life.”*

There will be no need for the sun  
As Jesus is physically present...  
We don’t know who the kings are, but they will worship

## Revelation 22

**Revelation 22:1 (ESV),** *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.”*

With no sea there is no hydrolic cycle, no rain!  
The water of life could be more symbolic than literal water.  
The constant flow symbolizes the constant flow of everlasting life  
From God’s throne to His people.

**Revelation 22:2 (ESV),** *“<sup>2</sup> 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.”*



We see the tree of life again... the first time being in Genesis

“Seeing the tree of life again points to a restoration of all things. “Now at last, almost at the end of the great drama of the Bible, man may return and legitimately enjoy the blessing which he was banished for illegitimately desiring.” (Preston/Hanson)<sup>6</sup>

<sup>6</sup> <https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/revelation-22/>

**Yielding fruit every month...** could indicate that time still exists  
Regardless there will be heavenly provision.

***And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations...***

Some commentators would stress that these leaves are like super vitamins.

The main idea is that life in heaven will be exciting, rich, and vibrant.

***Revelation 22:3-5 (ESV), “<sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. <sup>5</sup> 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.”***

We aren't told what the servants of God will do... but they'll serve.

This will be a place of tranquility, love, vibrance, health, and purpose.

Don't get the idea that you'll just sit on a cloud and play a harp all day

This creative God, will create new things... as we saw in Revelation 21...

Will we eat? Yes...

Will we fly? I don't know... we'll be like the angels.

Will we travel at the speed of thought?

Will we be able to go through walls like Jesus?

Will we be able to go throughout the universe? I don't know.

***Revelation 22:6-7 (ESV), “<sup>6</sup> The angel said to me, “These words are trustworthy and true. The Lord, the God who inspires the prophets, sent his angel to show his servants the things that must soon take place.” <sup>7</sup> “Look, I am coming soon! Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy written in this scroll.”***

The angel encourages John and then Jesus states  
that he is coming quickly.

A better translation would be suddenly.

Ever since the inception of the Church

They have all looked forward to Jesus coming back.

For almost 2,000 years, the church has been expectant

And if the Lord tarries, it will continue to be expectant of the Lord's return.

The blessing for the person who keeps the words...

That guards it...reads it... watches it...

Even though Revelation is interesting to read about what will happen in the future

The ultimate purpose of the book of Revelation is to reveal Jesus

That would propel each of us to Godly living.

**“God inspired Revelation for one purpose: to reveal the glory of His Son and call believers to live godly, obedient lives in light of His soon return. The purpose of Revelation is not to provide entertainment, but to provide motivation for godly living.”**

My prayer is that this study would send you off on the  
Longest journey every Christian needs to make  
**18 inches, the distance between the heart and mind.**

***Revelation 22:8-11 (ESV), “<sup>8</sup> I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I had heard and seen them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who had been showing them to me. <sup>9</sup> But he said to me, “Don’t do that! I am a fellow servant with you and with your fellow prophets and with all who keep the words of this scroll. Worship God!”<sup>10</sup> Then he told me, “Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this scroll, because the time is near. <sup>11</sup> Let the one who does wrong continue to do wrong; let the vile person continue to be vile; let the one who does right continue to do right; and let the holy person continue to be holy.”***

Of course as John tries to worship the angel again... he is told not to.  
He was instructed by the angel to not seal up, hide, not share with others  
About all that he had seen and heard prophetically.

Then he goes into let the one... continue.  
Including the ones who are choosing to do wrong.  
The idea behind that is when Jesus comes it’ll be suddenly  
That the person won’t have a chance to have a death bed confession

“If the warnings of this book are not sufficient, there is no more that God has to say.”  
(Walvoord)

***Revelation 22:12-13 (ESV), “<sup>12</sup> “Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done. <sup>13</sup> I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.”***

**“The rewards believers enjoy in heaven will be capacities for serving God; the greater their faithfulness in this life, the greater will be their opportunity to serve in Heaven (Matt. 25:14-30)... The knowledge that Jesus could return at any moment should not lead Christians to a life of idle waiting for His coming (2 Thess. 3:10-12) Rather, it should produce diligent, obedient, worshipful service to God, and urgent proclamation of the gospel to unbelievers.”<sup>7</sup>**

***Revelation 22:14-15 (ESV), “<sup>14</sup> “Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city. <sup>15</sup> Outside are the***

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<sup>7</sup> MacArthur, Pg. 298, 299

***dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.”***

Boom! Proof animals and pets exist in heaven!

Back in John’s day, dog’s were not domesticated.

They were scavengers roaming around in garbage dumps.

Thus to call someone was a dirty dog = someone with low character.

Jesus continues to reinforce the idea that those who place their faith in Christ

**Those who wash their robes...** the believers participation in the death of Christ

Soiled clothes= sinfulness

Will have access to the tree of life and have access to the holy city.

The symbolism of dogs, are those who are cast into the lake of fire.

### ***The Final Divine Invitation***

***Revelation 22: 16 <sup>16</sup> “I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star.”***

Jesus sends a divine invitation to

The beginning the end...

The One who fulfilled the promises in Scripture

Exulted one, being the morning star...

***Revelation 22:17-19 (ESV), <sup>17</sup> “The Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let the one who hears say, “Come!” Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life. <sup>18</sup> I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this scroll: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to that person the plagues described in this scroll. <sup>19</sup> And if anyone takes words away from this scroll of prophecy, God will take away from that person any share in the tree of life and in the Holy City, which are described in this scroll.”***

A divine invitation...

Now is the time to come to Jesus...

It doesn’t matter what you have done... come!

If you are spiritually needy...

One who wishes... hopes... wonders... if they are able to come to Christ

Yes, the free gift is for you.

Moses... Rejected and alone

Rahab... In the thick of sin

Peter... walked away from Christ

John... unlearned and untrained

God has pursued the underdog... he has pursued the rejected  
He has pursued the disqualified and have made them qualified  
And he continues today!

A warning was given... even as the canon was closed... a warning if anyone were to add  
Or take away from the prophecy.

***Revelation 22:20-21 (ESV), “<sup>20</sup>He who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am coming soon.”  
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.<sup>21</sup> The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God’s people. Amen.***

You ever think about your last words before you die?  
Last words are meaningful and Jesus’ final written recorded words...  
I am coming soon. Suddenly...

The grace, unearned, unmerited, favor, and blessing be with all God’s people...