BIBLE READING REPORT # 11

(*Based on Revelation Chapters 21-22)*

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**1. What is the line of the author’s argument?**

Revelation Chapter 21 presents a transformative vision of hope and renewal, depicting the establishment of a new heaven and a new earth following the final judgment. The author’s main argument in this chapter is that God’s ultimate plan culminates in the restoration of creation, where He dwells among His people, free from sin, suffering, and death. This chapter serves as a powerful conclusion to the apocalyptic narrative, emphasizing the fulfillment of God's promises to His faithful followers.

Revelation Chapter 22 serves as the concluding chapter of the Bible, encapsulating the themes of hope, restoration, and divine authority. The author’s main argument in this chapter is that God’s redemptive plan culminates in the establishment of an eternal paradise where believers will experience unbroken fellowship with Him. This chapter vividly describes the New Jerusalem, featuring the river of the water of life and the tree of life, symbolizing eternal sustenance and healing (Revelation 22:1-2). The imagery evokes the Garden of Eden, indicating a return to a state of perfect communion with God, free from sin and suffering.

**2. What is the issue the author is addressing?**

A significant issue the author addresses is the contrast between the old order of sin and suffering and the new reality that God creates. The chapter opens with John’s vision of a new heaven and a new earth, signaling the end of the former world that was marred by sin (Revelation 21:1). This renewal reflects God’s redemptive purpose, emphasizing that He will restore all things to their intended glory. The absence of the sea in this new creation symbolizes the removal of chaos and separation, reinforcing that God’s kingdom will be characterized by peace and harmony.

On the other hand, one significant issue addressed by the author in Chapter 22 is the urgency of heeding God’s word in light of Christ’s imminent return. The angel instructs John not to seal up the words of this prophecy, contrasting with Daniel’s instruction to seal his visions due to their distant fulfillment (Revelation 22:10). This directive emphasizes that the events prophesied are near and should be shared openly. The repeated declaration of Jesus’ imminent return “Behold, I am coming soon” (Revelation 22:12) serves as both a warning and an encouragement for believers to remain vigilant and faithful.

**3 . What is new to me?**

While reading this chapter the description of the New Jerusalem is the one that catch my attention. John portrays it as a beautifully adorned city, coming down from heaven, signifying the intimate relationship between God and His people (Revelation 21:2). Notably, there is no temple in this city because God Himself and the Lamb are its temple (Revelation 21:22). This highlights direct communion with God, eliminating any barriers that once existed due to sin.

Moreover, Revelation 21 emphasizes the promise of eternal life for those who overcome. The invitation to partake in the "water of life" symbolizes spiritual sustenance and fulfillment for believers (Revelation 21:6). In contrast, those who reject God face dire consequences, as indicated by their fate in the lake of fire (Revelation 21:8). This stark contrast underscores the seriousness of one’s choices regarding faith and obedience.

On the other hand in Chapter 22 the highlights that stark contrast between those who embrace God’s truth and those who reject is the one that caught my interest. The finality of judgment is underscored in verses that declare the fate of evildoers versus the righteous (Revelation 22:11-15). This serves as a reminder that individuals must make conscious choices regarding their faith and conduct.

**4 . What are some popular/repetitive themes or keywords that appear?**

The overarching theme in Revelation Chapters 21 and 22 is the fulfillment of God's redemptive plan through the establishment of a new creation, characterized by the New Jerusalem, where God dwells with His people in perfect harmony. These chapters depict the culmination of hope, restoration, and eternal life for believers.

Chapter 21 begins with a vision of a new heaven and a new earth, signaling the end of the old order marked by sin and suffering (Revelation 21:1). This transformation represents not merely a restoration but a complete renewal, where former pains are replaced by joy and peace. The imagery of the New Jerusalem descending from heaven symbolizes the intimate relationship between God and humanity, described as a bride beautifully adorned for her husband (Revelation 21:2). This portrayal emphasizes the covenantal bond between Christ and His Church, illustrating that the redeemed community will live in direct communion with God.

In this new creation, there is an absence of death, mourning, or pain, as God promises to wipe away every tear (Revelation 21:4). The removal of these sorrows signifies the triumph of good over evil, reinforcing the idea that God's justice prevails. Furthermore, the absence of a temple in the New Jerusalem indicates that God's presence will be fully realized among His people, eliminating any barriers that once existed (Revelation 21:22).

Chapter 22 continues this vision by introducing the river of life and the tree of life, which provide healing for the nations (Revelation 22:1-2). This imagery evokes themes of restoration and abundance, reminiscent of Eden's perfection. The final invitation to partake in the water of life underscores God's desire for all to receive eternal life freely (Revelation 22:17).