

They All Lived Happily Ever After

Revelation 21-22; Coast Community Church; Pastor Earl Miles; 6-11-2023

Question: Why do fairytales often end with something like “*they all lived happily ever after*”?

1. Because God has put this desire in our hearts.
2. Because there really is a hope of living happily ever after!

In these chapters we have *familiar extravagant terrestrial symbolism* pointing to *unfamiliar incomprehensible heavenly realities*!

1. Heaven on Earth (21:1-8) *What is pictured here?*

- The end of the fallen world.
- The people of God pictured as a city in a wedding dress!
- The presence of God among His people.
- The end of sin and all its consequences.
- The reward of life to all those trusting Jesus.
- The punishment of those who refuse mercy in Jesus.

Focus: *The Presence of God* (21:1, 3-5, 7, 22-23; 21:3-5)

Joy Giving: First miracle of water into wine (John 2)

OT Pictures of Heaven on Earth – Isaiah 11:6-9; 25:6-9

2. The Glorified Community (21:9-27) *What is pictured here?*

- The glory of God enjoyed by His people.
- The gold and jewels speak of precious value.
- The gold and jewels also speak of amazing beauty.
- The size speaks of the abundance of God’s mercy and grace (countless multitude).
- The low wall and open gates speak of security.
- The twelve gates speak of easy access.
- The twelve tribes and apostles speak of the universal body of Christ, both Jew and Gentile.
- God's glory and presence permeates all there is and fills the heart and experience of the redeemed. (no temple, light everywhere)
- There is nothing that threatens or hinders the enjoyment of God in all His glory. (no darkness, no closed gates)
- The Cube of the Holy of Holies is the Cube of the New Community [city is the same in length and width and height) and the Cube of Perfect Love (Ephesians 3).

Focus: *The People of God* (21:2; 22:14, 21)

Parable of the Landowner (Matthew 20:1-16)

Parable of the Mustard Seed and Leaven (Luke 13:18-21)

3. The Life-Giving Throne (22:1-5) *What is pictured here?*

- Eden 2.0
- The river of life that satisfies our thirst.
- The tree of life that satisfies our hunger and keeps us healthy.
- The beatific vision that transforms us into His image and makes us truly and forever happy.
- The rule of perfect love because the Lamb who died for us rules on the throne.
- We will reign with Christ because He will pursue His glory in our happiness and we will pursue His glory in our happiness in Him.

Focus: *The Rule of God* (21:5, 22-26; 22:17)

Parable of the Treasure in the Field (Matthew 13:44)

Parable of the Pearl of Great Price (Matthew 13:45-46)

4. **The Sudden Return (22:6-21)** *What is pictured here?*

- Behold Jesus comes suddenly!
- And He comes as Judge.
- The Lord Jesus makes it clear that the kingdom would not come right away (parable of the talents, minas, etc.).
- And the Lord Jesus said that we would know when we see certain things that His return is near (fig tree).
- But that still His return would be sudden and to some degree unexpected.
- Therefore all people and all Christians of every generation are to be prepared at all times for His sudden return!
- John the Baptist: *Are You the Christ?* (Luke 3:9; 7:19-20) He will come to judge!

Focus: *The Justice of God* (21:8, 27; 22:11, 12, 15, 18-19)

Parable of the 10 Virgins (Matthew 25:1-13)

Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30)

Parable of the Sheep and Goats (Matthew 25:31-46)

Parable of the 10 Minas (Luke 19:11-27)

5. **The Free Offer of the Gospel (22:17)** *What is pictured here?*

- The invitation to life in and through the Lamb.
- By the Holy Spirit through the Church as a whole and through individual Christians who have tasted and seen!
- The threat of justice and the promise of glory is the motivation for the invitation of mercy and satisfaction in Jesus!

Focus: *The Mercy of God* (21:6, 27)

Parable of the Two Men Praying (Luke 18:9-14)

Parable of the Dragnet (Matthew 13:47-50)

Parable of the Wedding Feast (Matthew 22:1-14)

OT Invitation – Isaiah 55:1-3