

I. The Blessed Hope and the Final State (v 1).

- A.** Understanding the intermediate and the final state (see WCF 32.1-3).
- B.** Heaven and the earth passed away (Acts 17:31; Gen 7:19-23; 2 Pt 3:11-13).
- C.** The sea no more in the new heaven and earth
 - 1)** Not that there is an absence of water (22:1)
 - 2)** Rather this (as with most of the book of Revelation) is an symbolic unveiling of the consummation of the covenant of grace, which provide to the church a number of comforts:
 - a)** Understood within the context of Revelation itself (G. K. Beale, *The Book of Revelation: A Commentary on the Greek Text*, p. 1042)
 - b)** Understood within the context of biblical theology (a key principle of which is that eschatology is found in protology):
 - i.** There is a return to pre-diluvian [meaning, as in before the flood] state (Gen 1:9-10, 7:11, 10:25, 11:9; Rev 21:24).
 - ii.** To emphasize to us the immanence, or nearness, of God to His glorified creatures. (Gen 1:6-8; Rev 21:23)
- D.** The new heaven and new earth (1 Cor 15:44; Jn 20:19-20; Lk 24:37-43; 1 Jn 3:2)

II. The Church Triumphant in Glory (vv 2-4).

- A.** The Church triumphant as the Bride of Christ (Rev 21:2b, 21:9, 19:6-10; 1 Cor 11:7, 9)
- B.** The Church triumphant as the New Jerusalem (v 2a)
 - 1)** The holy city and dwelling place of God (v 3a; 2 Chr 2:6; Lk 15:17-18)
 - 2)** Consummation of promise of covenant of grace (v 3b; Jn 1:14; Gen 17:8; Ex 29:45-46; Ezk 37:27)
 - 3)** Demonstrating to us the unity of covenant of grace.

a) The twelve gates (v 13; Rom 9:4-5; Jn 10:9; Joel R. Beeke, *Revelation*, Reformation Heritage Books, p. 560)

b) The twelve foundations (v 14; Eph 2:19-21; Psa 11:3-4a).

- C.** The two great themes of the blessed hope for the Church triumphant
 - 1)** The immediacy of communion with the Triune God (vv 15-16; 1 Kgs 6:19-20).
 - 2)** The entire undoing of the curse (v 4; 1 Cor 15:25-26, 55; Rev 21:8; Isa 35:10; Jn 11:23-25; 1 Thes 4:13; Mt 13:42).

III. The Offer, Hope and Warning of the Gospel (vv 5-8).

- A.** The work of the ascended Christ (v 5a)
 - 1)** The Lord Jesus Christ is the Mediatorial King (Col 1:19-20; Jn 3:8; 2 Cor 5:17; Col 3:10).
- B.** The surety of Christ's work (vv 5b-6a)
 - 1)** The trustworthiness and truth of Scripture (v 5b; Jn 17:17)
 - 2)** The cross (v 6a; Jn 19:30).
 - 3)** The person and excellency of Christ (v 6c)
 - a)** He is the Alpha and Omega as true and very God (Jn 1:1; Ex 3:14).
 - b)** He is the Alpha and Omega as the Mediator (Heb 12:2).
- C.** The offer of the Gospel (v 6c; Isa 55:1, 3, 6-7)
- D.** The three-fold hope of the Gospel (v 7).
 - 1)** Hope Accomplished Col 2:13b-15; Rom 8:37)
 - 2)** Hope Awaiting
 - 3)** Hope Applied (1 Jn 3:1a)
- E.** The warning of the Gospel (v 8; Mt 10:33; Pr 8:7; 1 Cor 8:4, 10:20; Rev 21:27, 21:1, 20:13-14a)
- F.** Concluding Uses from the Text
 - 1)** We have comfort in the Ascension of Christ (Jn 14:1-3)
 - 2)** We have great comfort in the Return of Christ (v 1; Rev 1:9; Phil 1:21-23).
 - 3)** Because of the Past Resurrection and the Future Return of Christ, we know our present labour is not in vain (v 14; Titus 2:13-14; Psa 17:15).