

## PARADISE RESTORED

### Paradise Lost and Found – Part 6

Revelation 22:1-21

August 18, 2019

#### 1. Heaven is not a static model, but an active reality.

*Then the Angel showed me Water-of-Life River, crystal bright. It flowed from the Throne of God and the Lamb, right down the middle of the street. The Tree of Life was planted on each side of the River, producing twelve kinds of fruit, a ripe fruit each month. The leaves of the Tree are for healing the nations. Never again will anything be cursed. The Throne of God and of the Lamb is at the center. His servants will offer God service—worshiping, they'll look on his face, their foreheads mirroring God. – Rev. 22:1-4 MSG*

#### 2. Christians today are being groomed for future leadership roles in heaven.

*...and they will rule as kings forever and ever. – Rev. 22:5b GNT*

*...Jesus continued and told them a parable.... “There once was a man of high rank who was going to a country far away to be made king, at which time he planned to come back home. Before he left, he called his ten servants and gave them each a gold coin and told them, ‘See what you can earn with this while I am gone.’ ...The man was made king and came back. At once he ordered his servants to appear before him, in order to find out how much they had earned. The first one came and said, ‘Sir, I have earned ten gold coins with the one you gave me.’ ‘Well done,’ he said; ‘you are a good servant! Since you were faithful in small matters, I will put you in charge of ten cities.’ The second servant came and said, ‘Sir, I have earned five gold coins with the one you gave me.’ To this one he said, ‘You will be in charge of five cities.’ – Luke 19:11-13, 15-19 GNT*

*“The master answered, ‘You did well. You are a good and loyal servant. Because you were loyal with small things, I will let you care for much greater things. Come and share my joy with me.’” – Matt. 25:21 NCV*

#### 3. Our position and rewards in heaven will correlate to our choices on earth.

*“Look! I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me to repay each person according to what he has done.” – Rev. 22:12 HCSB*

*We must all stand before Christ to be judged. Everyone will get what they should. They will be paid for whatever they did—good or bad—when they lived in this earthly body. – 2 Cor. 5:10 ERV*

*For no one can lay any foundation other than the one we already have—Jesus Christ. Anyone who builds on that foundation may use a variety of materials—gold, silver, jewels, wood, hay, or straw. But on the judgment day, fire will reveal what kind of work each builder has done. The fire will show if a person’s work has any value. If the work survives, that builder will receive a reward. But if the work is burned up, the builder will suffer great loss. The builder*

*will be saved, but like someone barely escaping through a wall of flames. – 1 Cor. 3:11-15*  
NLT

*“Don’t collect for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal. But collect for yourselves treasures in heaven....” – Matt. 6:19-20*  
HCSB

#### **4. Scripture concludes with a plea for all to come to Christ.**

*“Blessed are those who wash their robes so that they will receive the right to eat the fruit from the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city. Outside the city are the evil people, those who do evil magic, who sin sexually, who murder, who worship idols, and who love lies and tell lies....” The Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” Let the one who hears this say, “Come!” Let whoever is thirsty come; whoever wishes may have the water of life as a free gift. – Rev. 22:14-15, 17* NCV

*...Jesus stood and shouted to the crowds, “Anyone who is thirsty may come to me! Anyone who believes in me may come and drink!” – John 7:37-38* NLT