This judgement of the wicked dead is distinct from any other judgement that you may find in this book of the revelations. Distinct from the judgement in Matthew 25. That’s of living nations. It’s different in time, different in parties that were judged, different in basis of the judgement. There it’s of living nations as we’ve said as to whether they’re going to the millennium. This great white throne judgement is after the reign of Christ on earth for a thousand years. It’s the most awful tribu [sp?] the most awful court sea. The most awful asise [sp?] ever held. Christ throne is characterized by purity. White throne. And great the magnitude of it. The universal nature of it. When we read in verse 11 concerning the one that sat upon it, its Christ himself. John 5:22-27 states that all judgement has been committed in the hands of the son. You’ll notice that from his face the earth and the heaven fled away. That doesn’t mean complete annihilation of the earth and heaven. Between the passing of the millennial scene, the great white throne judgement is going to be set up before the entering in of the new heavens and the new earth. It’s a deeply solemn scene which merges into eternity. Notice all that is circumscribed and limited, earth and heaven. All of the passes away. Shows that the judgement is final and eternal because all that is bounded off such as earth and heaven has passed away. Here, the judged are the great and the small, the high and the low. The scene standing. It’s not on earth because that has fled away. They’re upheld by god’s power before the judgement throne. The power of god can do it. The sinner is now brought face to face with god from whom you may be sure he cannot escape. There are books and a book. The book in the singular is the book of life, it’s taken out first before these wicked to show that they’re unsaved. No one leaves the great white throne judgement as saved.
because no one but the unsaved are found before the great white throne. No one but the unsaved is found before the great white throne judgement. All the saved have been judged for rewards before. Their judgement for sin has been upon the lord Jesus Christ at Calvary. Book of life here is to show these before the great white throne judgement that they have the right to be at this particular judgement. They’re unsaved. They’ve never trusted Christ. Then what is the need for books? And the books in the plural are mentioned. There to show the number and the gravity of the sins of these wicked dead. For there are degrees of punishment just as for the blessed there shall be degrees of rewards. There will be degrees of punishment for the ungodly. Luke 12:47 - 48. The servant who knew little will be beaten with few stripes. The servant who knew more will be beaten with many stripes. The degrees are determined by these books which have in them all the deeds of the ungodly. They will be judged out of those things which are written in the books according to their works. Notice the sea gives up its dead. No one is said to escape or to enter eternal bliss. All will suffer their eternal doom. Hates gives up the souls and death which is used here, for the grave gives up the bodies in it. Then death then hades are cast into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is eternal separation from god in conscious never ending suffering from the presence of the lord. In verse 15 we read that they were not found written in the book of life. That’s the cause of their final doom and their eternal punishment. All those from cane to the end of human history were not found written in the lambs book of life are cast into the lake of fire. The manner of greatest importance for the present and for eternity is this. Is your name written in the book of life of the Lamb of God? Faith in Christ will put it there. Don’t just trust to hope so, but know so. In chapter 21, the eternal state, eternity, eternal bliss, and the New Jerusalem are set forth. In the first 8 verses we have the eternal state. And I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away and there was no more sea. And I john saw
the holy city New Jerusalem coming down from god out of heaven prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying behold the tabernacle of god is with man. And he will dwell with them and they shall be his people. And god himself shall be with them and be their god. And god shall wipe away all tears from their eyes and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow nor crying. Neither shall there be any more pain. Oh thank god for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said behold I make all things new and he said unto me right. For these rules are true and faithful. And he said uno me it is done. I am alpha and omega. The beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is the thirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcome shall inherit all things. And I will be his god and he shall be my son. But the fearful and unbelieving and the abominable and murderers and fornicators and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone which is the second death. In chapter 21 then, we have in the first 8 verses the eternal state. Earth and heaven will be completely purified. During millennium the earth is renovated. Now, there are a new heaven and a new earth. A new heaven for the church saints, a new earth for redeemed groups that belong not to the church. Both will be in glorious bliss. Both are populated with redeemed purified cleaned souls. Righteousness suffers in our day. In the millennium, righteousness will reign. In the eternal state, it will dwell. 2 peter 3:10 to 14. The sea is no more. The first heaven and the first earth are passed away, not annihilated. It gives so much more land space in the eternal earth. For the peoples on the earth. There was a literal old Jerusalem, there’s going to be a millennial earthly Jerusalem. But here is the mystical Jerusalem. It’s the abode of the bride. The one that comes down from god out of heaven. And notice it has an adjective. It’s not just any kind of Jerusalem. It’s the New Jerusalem. Babylon will see it as a city and as a woman. The holy Jerusalem is a city in a woman
in this chapter verses 9 and 10. The city is the home of the bride. We speak of Washington DC when often we mean our governmental representatives there. The church is seen as an adorned bride throughout all eternity. This stage is eternal. She is forever with the lord in that same fitting attire. Her honeymoon has no end. Many books have said they married and lived happily ever after. They got that theme from the bible. Here the honeymoon will never end. The church goes on in that blessed stage forever. The city is a mystical city. How glorious that god has placed this wonderful city and its hope before you and me. Oh friend, the glory of the eternal state is marvelous and wonderful. It is indescribable for believers. Now we have indicated the first 8 verses of chapter 21 tell of the eternal state. We read of god with men. That’s a manual in the most universal and complete sense. The tabernacle suggested is here. You notice it here. You dwell with them, the tabernacle of god is with men. Now the tabernacle in the Old Testament was moved about from one place to another. The saints will have access to all parts of god's creation. And in every part god will be tabernacling with them as a very present glorious companion. No doubt the recommunion, communication between the earthly and the mystical of the New Jerusalem. God will actually dwell with men. There’s going to be no change. There’s going to be no alteration. Whatever in the eternal state. Now were called upon to see the heartbreak and the heartache and the tears of those who mourn for loved ones. Out great hope is that god himself is going to wipe away every tear from our eyes. All sins effects are done away in the eternal state, thank god. The eye is the fountain of sorrow as someone has called it. The fountain of sorrow is going to be dry and that forever. The one on the throne is the father. The kingdom has been delivered over to him as we read in 1 Corinthians 15:24 when all things have been put under the feet of our lord Jesus Christ. Then the kingdom is delivered over unto god and our father. God is the source. He’s the beginning. He’s also the end of glory. For anyone that’s a
thirst god still offers them that one to come and take of the fountain. Yes. To take of the fountain of the water of life freely. And when he sinned could no longer go to the tree of life. But here all are invited. What an evangelistic invitation to take of the water of life freely. No one will thirst in eternity with god. That’s gods offer right now for the present. To you and me this very hour. But there’s another side of the picture for the ones who do not believe for them there’s eternal separation. What’s the meaning of the fearful? Anyone who has been afraid. No the reference is to those who have been afraid to accept Christ and bear the ridicule of the world. They’ve never made the decision for Christ. Not just believers who’ve been afraid at one time or another. No. it’s a certain fear that has had eternal effects and has kept them from eternal blessedness through trusting in Christ. They’ve never made the decision for him. They will suffer eternal punishment. The liars are those who have denied their sins and their need of Christ as savior. Now from verses 9 through 27 in these verses we have the beautiful description of what? Of the New Jerusalem. We have a symbolic description of the bride in all her eternal glory. Notice these words. and there came unto me one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and talked with me saying come here I will show thee the bride, the lambs wife. And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain and showed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem descending out of heaven from god. Having the glory of god. And her light was like a stone most precious. Even like a jasper stone clear as crystal. It had a wall great and high and had 12 gates, and at the gates 12 angels and names written on the gates which are the names of the 12 tribes of the children of Israel. On the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. The wall of the city had 12 foundation and foundations and in them the names of the 12 apostles of the lamb. And he that talked with me had a golden reed to measure the city and the gates of it and its wall. And the city
lyeth four square and the length is as large as the breadth. And he measured the city with the reed: twelve thousand furlongs. Its length, breadth, and height are equal. Then he measured the wall of it: one hundred and forty-four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of the angel. The building of the wall of it was of jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass. And the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones. The only way to describe it is by describing these very very precious stones known on earth. The first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald, the fifth sardonyx, the sixth sardius, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst. The twelve gates were twelve pearls: each one of the gates was of one pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass. And I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. And the city had no need of the sun neither of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God did light it. And the Lamb is the lamp of it. And the nations of them who are saved shall walk in the light of it, and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honor into it. And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day (for there shall be no night there). And they shall bring the glory and honor of the nations into it. And there shall no way enter it anything that defiles, neither he that work an abomination or make the lie, but they who are written in the lambs book of life. So we have the symbolic description of the bride in all her eternal glory, her relationship to Christ lasts from the millennial age into the eternal ages. In other words, the age of righteousness, the millennial age of righteous rule is wonderfully caught up enlarged merged into the eternal age of bliss. They have an elaboration in verses 9 and 10 on how the bride is made to see all this glory. The beautiful stones are known for their brilliance. You can look them up in any dictionary. And check out how they are brilliant stones. Indestructible in character and
wonderful in beauty. This city in verse 12 has walls that guard that separate glory of god within and without. There are thrones and fulfillment of Matthew 19:28 where our lord Jesus said in the kingdom the apostles would be seated on 12 thrones judging the 12 tribes of Israel. There will be those seated upon thrones judging the earth and all the earth will see the beauty of the glorified church. Now notice verses 16 and 17. The city is a cube. 1500 miles. And the gold speaks of divine righteousness. The jasper of divine glory, the stones of the city in verses 18 to 21 are beyond all description. Beautiful indeed. Just the closest approximation that language can make to that which is precious, which is brilliant, which is a delight to the eyes. John Keith said a thing of beauty is a joy forever. But there’s no temple mentioned in verse 22 because there’s free access to god for all. It’s immediate without any barrier. In verse 23 the city has no need of the sun nor the moon to shine upon it, for the glory of god lightens it. Indeed the lamp thereof is the lamb. Gods own glory is sufficient. And notice how in that beautiful verse. Verse 23, you have the picture of the tabernacle lighting in the outer court of the tabernacle, there was the light of the sun. In the holy place, the light of the lampstand in the holiest of all. There was need for nothing more than the dwelling presence of god. [Inaudible] the Shekinah glory. Gods own glory was sufficient in the holy of holies. And gods own glory is all sufficient and adequate in heaven. The church verse 24 will be the center of the government of the earth. Verse 25 tells us there’ll be no setting sun but full moon always. In the New Jerusalem where all the believing Christ now will go. The eternal day lasts forever. There’s no night there. And thank the lord in verse 27, we read there’s going to be nothing unclean or that makes an abomination or makes a lie. But only they that written in the lambs book of life. Sin is altogether excluded in all its hideous pitiful forms. Those neverending beauties of the New Jerusalem are indescribable. They beg a description but they are so, they’re true. Why? Because of the lord Jesus and his presence there. As moody used
to say heaven is a prepared place for prepared people. Christ is preparing the place. But are you prepared to enter the door to heaven as always as still on earth. Christ said I am the door. By me if any man enter in, he shall go in and out and find pasture. He shall be saved, and shall go in and out. And find pasture. The door to heaven we repeat is still on earth. The decision for Christ opens that door forever for any soul. We now come in our study to chapter 22. And the last portion of this wonderful book of the revelation. Chapter 22. 22 chapters to this marvelous book. We’ve finished chapter 21, now chapter 22 the first 5 verses of this chapter are linked with the description of the holy city in chapter 21. And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the middle of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, and yielded her fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. That is to keep them in proper health and strength. Not that anyone is sick there, but to minister to their wellbeing at all time. And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. They shall see His face, and His name shall be in their foreheads. There shall be no night there: and they need no lamp neither light of the sun, for the Lord God giveth them light. And they shall reign forever and ever. Closing words and messages are full and important. This chapter shows beautifully how that which was lost in genesis is regained in revelation. God completes the cycle of his truth. The first 5 verses then give us the further glories of eternal state. We read of the river of the water of life which speaks of the fullness of life and joy and the life beyond for those who have trusted Christ. In genesis the tree of life was mentioned first. River of life is referred to first. There are heavenly and and earthly stream of millennial blessing. Earthly Ezekiel 37:1 heavenly in this wonderful chapter. It proceeds from the throne of god. You notice it comes out of the throne of god and of the lamb. It
all flows from the blessed reign of god and Christ how refreshing. From the seat of his government and the fruits are available for the saints. The saints eat of it. The nations of the millennium are dependent on the city above for light for government for healing, and that glorious provision goes on throughout all eternity. Well some folk wonder about heaven. They say they’ve been very very busy here on earth and that’s how they’ve kept happy in the service of the lord. If heaven is a place where they have no service, they don’t know that they’re going to be happy there. They say. You will be happy. There will be service. We read that his servant shall serve him. We shall not be idle. There’s going to be an eternal unsullied service without failure. Without tiring. Without weariness. Thank god with fullness of joy. There’s not going to be any curse anymore. We’re going to seek gods face. We’re going to see the face of god, not only the face of god the son but the face of god the father. We’re going to see the Holy Spirit. We shall have his name upon our foreheads. We’re going to see god. We can we will see Christ of course as well. And we'll have his name on our foreheads that means there will be public acknowledgement that we belong to him. Were yet to be conformed to his blessed nature. And to reign throughout all eternity. Remember saints will never cease to reign as long as there will be subjects. We reckoned says Paul in romans 8 we reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that shall be revealed in us. Amen. Now we have the concluding words of the apostle john in verses 6 to 21. Very solemn. Let us read them very carefully. And he said unto me these words are faithful and true and the lord god of the holy prophet sent his angels to show unto his servants the things which must shortly come to pass. Must shortly be done. Behold I come quickly. Blessed he that keepeth the words of the prophecy of this book. and I john saw these things and heard them and when I had heard and seen I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed me these things. Then said thee unto me see
thou do it not, for I’m thy fellow servant and unto thy brethren the prophets and of them who keep the words of this book. Worship god. And he said unto me seal not the words of the prophecy of this book for the time is at hand. He that is unjust, let him be unjust still; he that is filthy, let him be filthy still; and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still; he that is holy, let him be holy still. And behold, I am coming quickly, and my reward is with Me, to give to every man according as his work shall be. I am Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last. Blessed are they that wash their robes that they may have right to the tree of life. And may enter in through the gates into the city for outside are dogs and sorcerers and fornicators and murderers and idolaters and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie. I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star. And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely. For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book. And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the tree of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book. He who testifieth these things saith, surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen. Three times in this chapter we are told that he comes quickly. Verse 7, verse 12, and verse 20. This links with chapter 1 verse 3. We are to keep the message. Yes. We are to treasure it. Of course. We are to preserve it. Yes. And we are to live in the glorious light of it. And John again as in the 19th chapter tried to worship the angel. But were not to worship the creature rather than the creator. Worship of the creature is never justifiable. But how pro man is to do it you see it on every side.
Hero worship, man worship, the cult of personality as they now call it. John is told not to seal up the words of the prophecy this book for the time is at hand. In Daniel the time was far off. So when the 12th chapter of that prophecy the last chapter, he’s told to seal up the prophecy, for it’s for a time far off. But not with John. No. he’s not to seal it up, the time is at hand. Here the time is shortly to come. We’re living in the time at the end and this age and especially now, were certainly near to it the fulfillment of these things in the 20th century. And John was were certainly nearer to it than John was else history has no meaning. No rhyme or reason. He living in the first century, we living in the 20th. We’re living in the time at the end and the prophecy is unsealed what’s the meaning of verse 11 about he that is unjust and he that is filthy and he that’s righteous. And he that’s holy. Let them remain just that way. Friends, as we’ve said again and again, it indicates that character tends to become fixed. You sow thought, you reap an act sow an act, you reap a habit, sow a habit you reap a character. Sow a character you reap a destiny. That’s an inexorable change, chain that only the grace of God can change. Yes, character tends to become fixed. It tends to become unchangeable. Tends to become stereotyped, congealed as one is found in that day so shall he be throughout eternity. Death of the coming of Christ fixed character and eternal destiny. The saints have the judgement seat of Christ. The nations have the judgement Matthew 25, the wicked dead appear at the great white throne judgement. Each will receive as his work is. In verses 14 and 15, we read about those who wash their robes. That means they’ve trusted the redemption of Christ. Not salvation by works here, the Authorized Version needs to be corrected by later manuscripts which are truer to the word of God, not those who do certain works because salvation is by washing the robes in the blood of the lamb consistent with chapter 7 verse 14. There’s some that are without, those that are excluded, those of revelation 21:8. The unbelieving ones are excluded in that day and it is eternal death. The
message is for the churches and yet how they’ve neglected this very message. It speaks of the soon coming of the lord. Christ is the root that connects him with Israel. He is the morning star that links him with the church. He is the root and the offspring of David the root of David means he is the ancestor the progenitor of David as deity. He is the offspring as coming according to the seed of David, connects him with Israel. The morning star connects him with the church. The Old Testament ends with Christ as the son of righteousness rising with healing in his wings the millennial blessing. The New Testament thank god ends with Christ as the bright and morning star that’s soon to dawn. He’s going to come forth for his saints before he comes with them to reign. Just as the morning star appears before the sun. The invitations in verse 17 are for the coming of the lord and for sinners to come to Christ. verse 18 warns us were not to add, were not to take away from the word of god, that’s a serious business and think of how many cults and sects there are who are everlastingly adding to the word of god such shall not go blameless. He is put what is needed here. God is left out of the [inaudible] what doesn’t belong here. What a rebuke that is to those who disdain this book to those who neglect it, to those who have no time for it. He that testifies these things says he comes quickly. Amen we say. The heart of faith says come Lord Jesus. The entire message of the book of revelation is from Christ personally a love letter to you and me comes quickly. Now if 1000 years are as one day, then it’s quickly. Hardly 2 days have gone by according to 2 peter 3:8. The amen is the answer of john as representing the church. You who are believers this hour are saying amen to more are saying it than ever before. More mean to say it. Oh may it come to pass. Come even so come Lord Jesus. The grace of the lord Jesus Christ be with us saints he says amen. The Old Testament if you look at Malachi closes with a threat and curse. God is going to come and smite the earth with a curse if they head not what was indicated by Moses in the law given at mount horeb. Malachi 4:6.
closes with a benediction of grace. There is a difference. Why the difference? Because between Malachi the last chapter and revelation the last chapter. Between those 2, Christ has come and lived and wrought and died and risen again. And he’s coming again. Oh Christ has come, died for sinners. That’s why there’s a difference. Friend. I ask you in all seriousness, are you still under the curse? Are you enjoying Christ’s boundless grace? The difference is trusting Christ. Believe on the lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved. Now is the time to decide for his grace. Our father, we shall never be able to praise thee in time, we trust and we know we shall know better how to praise thee in eternity. For this marvelous unveiling of the glorious person. The glorious coming rule of our lord Jesus Christ. No man, no group of men, all men the world over of all the ages and centuries and all the generations put together could never never have compiled a revelation like this. Even with the help of the holy angels. No this is of thee. All together of thee. And as we close the book, we say even so come Lord Jesus. And with the apostle john, we would also give this wonderful benediction. To all who hear the grace of our lord Jesus Christ be with you all. In his blessed name we pray. With thanksgiving. With deep heartfelt gratitude, amen.