

Westminster Larger Catechism

Question 90

Halifax, 13 September 2009

Q. 90 What shall be done to the righteous at the day of judgement?

- A. At the day of judgement, the righteous, being caught up to Christ in the clouds, shall be set on his right hand, and there openly acknowledged and acquitted, shall join with Him in the judging of reprobate angels and men, and shall be received into heaven, where they shall be fully and forever freed from all sin and misery; filled with inconceivable joys, made perfectly holy and happy both in body and soul, in the company of innumerable saints and holy angels, but especially in the immediate vision and fruition of God the Father, of our Lord Jesus Christ, and of the Holy Spirit, to all eternity. And this is the perfect and full communion, which the members of the invisible church shall enjoy with Christ in glory, at the resurrection and day of judgement.**

Introduction:

As we begin today, I want to remind you once again of what we have seen will happen on the day of judgement.

- Christ will return from heaven,
- Christ will summon the whole world before Him.
 - Everyone will come, whether they want to or not—
 - both the righteous and the unrighteous will come...
 - even the dead will come, being brought forth from their graves in that day.
- Christ will judge every person.
 - He will separate the righteous from the wicked,
 - and He will give to each their final sentence of blessing or of condemnation.

Last week, we looked at the terrible punishment that will be brought upon the wicked in that day.

- We saw in Matthew 25, that their judgement will be very severe—
 - Not only will they be cut off from the comfortable presence of God,
 - but they will also be afflicted with torment night and day forever and ever in soul and body.
- Although we may struggle to see the justice of such extreme measures in our present fallen condition;
 - on that day, we will clearly understand the justice of it all.
 - Not only will He clearly convict them of their sin, making their evil to be seen in its true character,

- but also He will reveal His glory, showing the injustice involved in sinning against one so great and noble.
- I spoke to you about the importance of accepting this hard doctrine, even though you may struggle to see the justice of it now.

But today I have a much more pleasant subject to speak about... a subject that is much easier for us to accept... namely,

- “What shall be done to the righteous on the day of judgement?”
- The blessings to the righteous are so marvellous that they are impossible for us to fully grasp—
 - but we can at least get some idea of them as God has revealed them to us by His Spirit in the word that is given to us.
 - As Paul said in 1 Cor 2:9:
 - "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him. But God has revealed them to us by His Spirit."
 - That which is in store for us in heaven (or hell for that matter) is not at all something that we can know apart from Divine revelation.
 - But happily, He has revealed something of heaven to His holy apostles and prophets,
 - and they have recorded this for us in the Scripture.
- And one such place where this Spirit-given revelation about heaven is presented to us is in the book of Revelation.
 - John, the aged apostle on the Isle of Patmos was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day when the Lord presented a great vision to him of the future...
 - Much of what he saw was to occur in the very near future,
 - but He also saw what was going to occur at the very end of the world.
 - He sees the city of man (which is referred to as Babylon) raised up to be destroyed and brought to eternal destruction,
 - And he sees the city of God, the New Jerusalem brought to glorious perfection by the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.
 - Back in chapter 4 &5, Jesus Christ, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, is seen to have conquered sin for His people by becoming the Lamb who was slain,
 - giving Himself as a sacrifice.
 - And the great outcome of His work for His people—the final result of what He will do—is given to us in Revelation 21:1 – 22:5.
 - It is here that we are enabled to see what the final outcome of the salvation of the visible church will be.

- Please listen now as I read to you starting with Rev 21:1:
- READ> Rev. 21:1 – 22:5

I wonder if you happened to notice how this passage refers to Jesus Christ?

- He is not here called “the Lord” or “the Christ” or even “the King”.
 - He is called “the Lamb.”
 - Seven times He is referred to as **the Lamb!**
 - This speaks of Him as the One who was sacrificed to take away our sins.
 - He is the Lamb who was slain to take away the sin of the world.
 - It is because He was slain that the church is able to attain the glory of heaven that is spoken of in this passage!
 - In heaven, we will never forget what He has done for us as the Lamb.
 - We will know Him as the one who gave Himself fully for us in order that we might receive the ultimate blessing of living in glory with Him forever and ever as His bride!
- This passage presents to us the ultimate communion that the church has with the Lamb who was slain.
 - She is taken as His bride and so is brought into the very household of the Triune God by marriage.
 - Through Christ her husband, she has the most intimate communion which brings to her perfect beauty, happiness, and fruitfulness.
- Obviously, we will not be able to consider all the details of this glorious passage.
 - But we will rather consider what happens to the invisible church as His bride—the bride of the Lamb.
 - First, we will look at the presentation of the bride to the Lamb.
 - Second, we will look at the union of the bride with the Lamb.
 - Third, we will look at the provision for the bride from the Lamb.

I. The Presentation of the Bride to the Lamb

- A. You all know about that special moment at a wedding when everyone in the congregation is assembled and after the entire wedding party has taken their places at the front of the church.
 1. And then the music rises and the congregation stands and there, at the back of the church, stands the bride, beautifully adorned for her husband!
 - This is the wonderful moment when the bride is presented as the one who has been chosen by the groom to be his wife,
 - presented as the one he has chosen to love and to cherish and provide for as long as they both shall live.
 2. This presentation of the bride is not just something that is done in our culture.

- In the time of Christ,
 - It was the custom for the bride to be gloriously arrayed.
 - The groom would go and take her from her father's house...
 - And then there would be a procession through the streets to the house he was providing for her where the wedding feast would be held.

 - And even a thousand years before the day of Christ, we have Psalm 45 that speaks of the bride beautifully arrayed and brought to her husband.
 - It says:
 - Ps 45:13-15: The royal daughter is all glorious within the palace; Her clothing is woven with gold. She shall be brought to the King in robes of many colors; The virgins, her companions who follow her, shall be brought to You. With gladness and rejoicing they shall be brought; They shall enter the King's palace.

 - This is that special moment when she is presented in all her beauty before all her friends and relations as the one chosen by the groom.
 - They bring gifts and joy to the occasion.
 - It is a glorious moment for them both as he delights in her beauty and shows her off to all his friends as the one he has chosen to share his life with.
- B. My brothers and sisters, it is hard to believe, but this is what Jesus Christ is going to do with the whole church that He has redeemed!
1. He is going to gather us all together and He is going to present us as His glorious bride that He has chosen to live with Him forever and ever!
 - a. John sees a vision of that great day.
 - He sees her coming down from heaven as a bride adorned for her husband.
 - That is what it says in verse 2!
 - Rev 21:2: Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.
 - In verse 9, John is summoned by the angel to come and look at her in all her beauty...
 - The angel seems to say, "just look at her!":
 - Rev 21:9-10: Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, "Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife." And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, having the glory of God.

TRANS> This is the day of the church's open presentment as Christ's chosen bride!

- She has been very ordinary in this world, but on that day, everything will change.
- b. You see here that she is no ordinary bride.
- She is an entire city—a great city, a holy city, the New Jerusalem.
 - This may not be the most flattering thing to say about a bride,
 - but she is so big that John has to be taken up to a high mountain to get a view of all of her.
 - But in this case, her size is glorious!
 - This is the language that is used to refer to whole church of God,
 - all the elect of God for whom Christ died, joined together,
 - all those who have been redeemed and sanctified by the blood of the Lamb out of every age and nation of the world .
2. And her coming down out of heaven is her presentation on the last day, the day of judgement, when Jesus returns to the earth in all His glory.
- a. This ties in with what we have seen in previous sermons...
- The whole church will go up to meet the Lord in the air when He returns,
 - and then the whole church will come down from heaven with Him to the earth to live with Him forever.
 - We have seen that the bodies of the dead will be raised and that those who are alive and remain will be caught up together to meet Him as He comes to earth.
 - This was explained clearly in 1 Thessalonians 4 where we are told:
 - 1 Thes 4:16-17: “For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.”
 - And you will remember that the word “meet” that is used here is a word that means “to meet as an escort or a procession” as was done at the Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem.
 - or as was done when there was a wedding procession in Jesus’ day when the bride would “meet” the groom and then accompany him as he made his way through the streets to the place he had prepared for them to live.
- b. John 5 tells us that the wicked will also be raised at this time,

- but it appears that they will not be caught up in the air—only the chosen bride will have that privilege.
- Although 1 Thess 4 does not mention the wicked at all,
 - Matthew 24:40-41 shows that the wicked will be left when the righteous are taken to meet the Lord.
- And in Matthew 25:1, you have the parable of the ten virgins that shows how the five unprepared virgins are excluded from the procession...
- And the discourse that begins in Matthew 25:31 shows that Christ's judgement will be a distinguishing judgement in which Christ will separate the sheep (the chosen bride) from the goats on His left hand.
 - It shows how He will openly acknowledge and acquit the righteous,
 - displaying their righteousness while at the same time openly exposing the wicked and sentencing them to condemnation.
 - The church is vindicated and the wicked are condemned.
- And so here in Revelation 21 the picture is filled out.
 - We get the marvellous picture that the elect are presented as a bride now gloriously arrayed for her husband!
 - Her true beauty that she has from the work of the Spirit in her is now fully brought out...
 - and she is seen to be gloriously prepared for her husband!
 - She is radiant for Him!
 - Full of beauty, decked out with perfect righteousness!
- You see also that Revelation 21 does not fail to mention that those who were never converted to Christ will be rejected.
 - They do not make up His bride.
 - Rev 21:8 shows that they are rejected because they have not been made holy...
 - Rev 21:8: "But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."
 - This is the terrible judgement that we explored in the sermon last week that befalls all those who are not in Christ.
 - As Rev 21:27 shows, it is those who are not written in the Lamb's Book of Life that are excluded.
 - They have not been redeemed by Him and so must be cut off.

C. But now I want you to take a look at the beauty of the Bride as she is presented on the last day!

1. Oh, brothers, and sisters, we are told something so wonderful here!

- In verse 2, we are told that she is “prepared for her husband!”
- It is so amazing, but she will be seen to be *just right for her husband!*
 - For *this* husband!
 - This is us—sinful people that we are!
 - She who was once full of sin will, by the grace of God, be suited to Him as His bride!
 - to Jesus in all His glory!
 - He will not be ashamed to have her as His bride because she will be perfected and adorned for Him by His gracious powerful working!
- This is His work of sacrificial love that is spoken of in Ephesians 5:25-27:
 - Eph 5:25-27: Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.
 - He has given Himself for her to perfect her!

2. Look at the names by which she is called in verse 2...

- These names are reflective of what she is by the grace of Jesus Christ.
- a. First, she is called “the holy city.”
 - She comes as one who has now been fully transformed by God—now made perfectly holy—without spot or blemish.
 - If you are among those who have been redeemed by Jesus Christ, you have been given the Holy Spirit as a pledge or as a down-payment of more to come.
 - The blessed Spirit has caused you to be born again.
 - By that new birth, you have been radically changed so that God’s law is written on your heart and so that you desire to serve Him and so that you begin to bring forth fruit.
 - But on the day you are called up to meet Christ in the air,
 - you will receive the **full** blessing of the Spirit.
 - Then you will be made perfectly holy so that you will love as He loves and be holy as He is holy!
 - It is hard to imagine!

- You struggle with your sin now—but then you will be flooded with pure holiness through and through!

TRANS> So on the day the Bride is presented to Christ, she will be a holy city.

- That is the first name she is given in verse 2...
- b. Secondly, she is called “the New Jerusalem.”
 - Jerusalem means “possession of peace,” or “foundation of peace.”
 - She is the one who has been reconciled to God by the blood of the Lamb.
 - Jesus is the one, who, by His cross, has fully taken away all her sin.
 - Jerusalem is therefore established on a foundation of peace,
 - Jerusalem is the place where sacrifices were offered to atone for sin until Jesus came...
 - And it is the place where at last He Himself was offered...
 - And now the Bride is called New Jerusalem because she is reconciled to God in perfect peace.
 - Although our sin is completely pardoned as soon as we are justified,
 - this total forgiveness is brought to its fullest light when the bride is presented to her husband and openly received by Him on this great day at the end.
 - When at last He takes her to Himself!
- c. So here, you see, in these two names, the twin promised blessings of God’s covenant brought to perfection through the blood of the lamb.
 - The promise of holiness and the promise of forgiveness...
 - Does the scripture not say:
 - Heb 10:16-17: "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them," then He adds, "Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."
 - By the blood of the covenant we are made holy and we are pardoned.

TRANS> This, my brothers and sisters, is the bride of Christ, now glorified, now prepared for her husband!

- And now I want you to see:

II. The Union of the Bride with the Lamb.

A. This is the most marvellous thing of all!

1. We have spoken about communion with Christ in glory in our Catechism studies!
 - Well this is the consummation of that communion!

- We are given to the Son of God to be His wife—to live in communion with Him forever!
 - In verse 9, the whole church is called *the Lamb's wife*.
 - Nothing could be greater than this blessing!
 - He is the Son of God and we are to become His wife!
2. In verse 3, John speaks of this blessed communion:
- Rev 21:3: And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.
 - Do you see what this is saying?
 - It is saying that God Himself is going to live with us!
 - Just as the groom takes His bride and brings her into the inheritance of His Father, so Jesus will bring us into the inheritance he has with His Father.
 - Do you recognise this promise—that God will make us His people and will dwell among us?
 - I hope it is familiar to you!
 - This is the essence of God's covenant promise found in every dispensation.
 - This is the link that ties God's dealing with His elect together in every age!
 - It is the promise that was made to Abraham—
 - I will be God to you and your descendants after you, and you shall be my people!
 - It is the promise that was made to Israel through Moses and represented by God establishing His tabernacle in the midst of His people, promising to dwell among them.
 - It is the promise that was made to David, promising that His seed would reign forever amidst His people.
 - It is the promise that the prophets echoed when they told of the coming of Christ—that God would dwell among them and that they would all know Him.
 - It is the promise that is announced when Jesus Christ appeared and John said:
 - John 1:14: And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.
 - This verse literally says that He *tabernacled* among us.

- Before God's presence was seen in the shadows of the tabernacle, but now in the person of Jesus Christ revealed in the flesh...

TRANS> But here in Revelation 21, that tabernacling of God is brought to its climax!

3. My dear brothers and sisters, this is about God taking His elect people, defiled, sinful, ruined by the fall,

- and bringing them into His very own household in glory to behold and live in that glory constantly!

- That is the whole work of redemption.

- The whole church is united to Jesus Christ in holy matrimony and so are brought to live in His inheritance in the house of His Father!

- We, who are mere creatures, made of the dust of ground, and who are fallen creatures, ruined and defiled by sin...

- are actually taken and redeemed and sanctified and brought to live in God's house with Jesus as our husband forever and ever!

- We are brought into our Father's house where there are pleasures forever more.

- The Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit have been here in perfect harmony all along,

- and now God, in His amazing grace, has brought us to share in that glory through Christ our husband—

- to behold that glory and to live gloriously in that glory forever and ever.

- Verse 7 says,

- "He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son."

- The Bride is joined to the Son of God in marriage and so becomes God's son in Him—part of His family!

B. And now joined to Him, she actually becomes that which reflects His glory.

1. Just look at how her beauty as the Lamb's wife is described here...

a. The angel who speaks to John in verse 9 is elated when he calls John to come and look at her in her glory and perfection!

- It is as if the angel is saying—

- "Just look at her!"

- "She is God's workmanship!"

- The angels have seen the whole thing from the start to the finish...

- From the first promise in the garden of the seed of the woman
 - until the day when the angels gathered to sing praises to the Son of God who lay in the manger at His nativity...
 - to the day when they beheld Him on the cross and then received Him after He had completed His work and beheld His resurrection and told the disciples that He was risen!
 - These angels have seen all the factions and all the difficulties in the church until...
 - at this last day,
 - they see this bride gloriously arrayed and now joined to her husband, having become perfected in beauty!
- b. Just look at what the angel shows John of the beauty of the Lamb's wife!...
- 1) We are told in verse 11 that
 - v. 11 "having the glory of God, her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal."
 - Don't ask me to describe this—it is glory that is beyond our understanding!
 - It is the radiance she has when she is joined to Jesus!
 - You see what this glory is...
 - It is the glory of God that has risen upon her!
 - She is filled with the glory of God.
 - She is now, through union with Christ, the perfect image of God.
 - 2) We are told in vs 12 that she has twelve great gates—perhaps showing her openness to her husband who comes into those gates as Psalm 24 describes!
 - No longer is she shut up to him in coldness as the Old Jerusalem was when He came to earth.
 - Now she is open to receive Him.
 - Unlike the old Jerusalem that shut herself off to Him and received strangers, she is now here for Him alone,
 - not as one who feels herself constricted by this, but as one who only has eyes for Him.
 - 3) We are told in verse 14 that she has a wall with 12 foundations with the names of the apostles on them...
 - She is established on the word of the apostles who declared to us the saving work of Jesus Christ.

- It is upon the foundation of His sacrifice that she stands in all her glory!
 - Verse 17 tells us that this wall is over 200 feet high!
 - Her foundation is solid and secure so that she is firmly established forever!
 - There is no possibility of falling.
 - Nothing can spoil her beauty and her devotion to Him.
- 4) And you see how she is perfect in symmetry and proportion as the angel measures her...
- and that she is immense in size, made up of people from every nation and tongue...
 - a great multitude that cannot be numbered—like the sand of the sea and the stars of heaven in number.
- 5) This description goes on.
- She is shown to be made up of the finest materials...
 - Her immense gates are made up each of single pearl!
 - Her streets are made of pure gold!
 - But notice in verses 19-20 that she is of twelve precious stones...
 - These are like the stones that the high priest wore on his breast when He went into the holy place to atone for sin.
 - These stones represented God's people at that time—each tribe.
 - And the priest represented Jesus Christ,
 - with His bride upon His breast, near to His heart as the one He offers up sacrifices for.
 - And now she is there adorning Him as precious stones!
 - She is there, being beautiful for Him, near to His heart!
2. You see in verses 22-24 that the glory that is seen in the wife of the Lamb is indeed the very glory of God Himself.
- a. It says:
- Rev 21:22-23: But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light.
 - This is amazing because you see here that the city, the bride, the redeemed church, is so mingled with Christ that she is seen to be one with God.
 - She is the city and now the whole city that she is, is said to be a temple,

- and God Himself is said to be that temple.
 - So what is this saying?
 - Is the temple the bride, or is the temple the Lord?
 - The answer is “yes.”
 - The temple is the Lord joined to His bride in full communion so that she shines forth with the radiance of His glory!
 - She is His image!
 - Do not misunderstand!
 - This is not suggesting that we become God—not at all—
 - The creature cannot become the creator—never ever at all!
 - We cannot become infinite and eternal—
 - but this is saying that we shall become the perfect image of God through union with Christ in glory!
 - It is exactly as it is when you hold up a photograph and say,
 - “This is Bill.”
 - It is not that Bill has turned into a photograph;
 - It is rather that the photograph represents Bill—it is Bill’s image, so you say, “This is Bill.”
- b. This reminds us that from the beginning we were created in the image of God.
- Now an image of something is supposed to look like the thing that it images.
 - It is not the thing itself,
 - but it is a reflection of what it images,
 - like an image in a mirror,
 - or an image that is painted in a portrait.
 - It is a piece of artwork that captures something of the beauty of the thing it images to show forth something of that beauty.
 - This is what we were created to be... the image of God.
 - And this is what we will shall finally become in glory when we have full communion with Jesus Christ.
 - His glory will be seen upon us, filling us, and making us fruitful.
 - His bride will be fruitful in His house, bringing forth glory through her union with Him!

- c. And verse 24 shows that we will behold the glory of God in each other once we are perfected as His image...
 - You have the bride looking at herself and knowing God as she has now seen His image in herself.
 - Verse 24 says,
 - Rev 21:24: “the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth shall bring their glory and honour into it.”
 - You see that they are both glory-gazers and glory-givers.
 - These are the nations who make up the bride,
 - and who walk in the light of the glory of God that is seen in the bride...
 - They know Him who is invisible through His image.
 - They delight in each other and delight in bringing glory to God continually for each other.
 - They live together blessing each other continually and loving each other with the love that is just like God’s love.
 - He permeates the entire city, His bride is radiant with His glory.

TRANS> But how is it that the Lamb’s wife is able to do this and how will she be able to keep doing this?

- John tells us, and this is the third thing I want you to see...

III. The Provision of the Bride from the Lamb.

A. The glory and the happiness she has all comes from Him!

1. In 21:5-6 we are told that **God** is the one who makes all things new.
 - It is all by His grace and powerful work that this fallen ruined sinful world will be completely transformed to be a holy bride for Jesus Christ.
 - It is by His work alone from start to finish, for He is the beginning and the end.
 - It is by His decree and purpose that all this was done...
 - It is by His almighty power and grace that it has been accomplished.
 - In verse 6, He is described as the one who gives the fountain of the water of life to Him who thirsts...
 - This is the fountain from which Israel drank in the wilderness...
 - This is the fountain that Jesus promised in John 4 that would spring up into everlasting life...
 - This is the blessing of the Holy Spirit that He gives to His own to fill them with beautiful life as God’s image—
 - so that they are holy as God as holy,

- so that they are perfect as He is perfect,
- so that they love as He loves.

2. This fountain is further spoken of in chapter 22—

- In the first two verses, it says:
 - Rev 22:1-2: 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 its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.
- a. Here you see that the fountain proceeds (this is the Holy Spirit) from the Father and the Son...
 - The fountain comes forth from the throne of God and the Lamb who is here seen as fully equal with the Father...
 - And the fountain brings life—it brings forth the tree of life that gives life to the nations and that brings healing to them.
 - The image of God was damaged, but these trees of life restore the nations to show forth the glory of God as they were created to do.
- b. This is true communion with God!
 - Communion is when God gives to us life by the Spirit that produces fruit in us and then we give back to Him fruit that He delights in as His image.
 - 1) And because we are forever united to Him, verse 3 tells us that there is no more curse and no more sin...
 - Rev 22:3: 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.
 - Isn't that marvellous?
 - We will be constantly supplied from God and the Lamb in the midst of us so that we serve Him—perfectly—without sin!
 - We try to serve Him now as those who are redeemed, but we find that sin is always present with us...
 - but then!
 - His throne will be in our midst...
 - He will rule among us completely and perfectly!
 - We will be constantly ruled by Him—not by anything else!
 - As His wife, we will submit to Him and we will do nothing but His will.
 - Oh the beauty of such a bride!
 - It is hard to even imagine a world of perfect love without any sin at all!

- 2) Verse 4 adds that His name will be on our foreheads—
 - That means that we will be His—only His!
 - Just as the first woman was called by her husband’s name in Gen 5 and as even today brides take their husband’s name,
 - so we will take our husband’s name in that great day.

- 3) Verse 4 also says that we shall see His face...
 - We see Him as He is—
 - without all the distortions that sin causes us to have now...
 - We will see Him as He is... face to face so that we know Him... and delight in Him as our constant happiness...
 - beholding the glory He has had with the Father from all eternity!

- 4) And verse 5 says that we will live in this glorious light of His presence forever—
 - reigning with Him as His bride and queen, resplendent with His glory!
 - This is a blessing that will never cease... that nothing can spoil!

B. My brothers and sisters, you see that we have none of this on our own!

1. You are nothing apart from your redeemer, Jesus Christ...
 - You are nothing apart from Him as the Lamb—the Lamb that was slain for our sins.
 - It is by that sacrifice that all of these blessings flow to those who come to Him for salvation.
 - You cannot have any of this without Him.
 - Those who are not in Him are cast into the lake which burns with fire and brimstone.
 - It is the second death.
 - They have no way to recover themselves.

2. But you need not be among them!
 - No, my dear friends, Jesus calls you to come to Him for eternal life...
 - This marvellous, glorious life is the life that He gives to His bride when He takes her to Himself to live in His house.
 - He will provide for her forever in His house.
 - He will give her everything she needs for beauty!
 - He promises to do it!
 - You can be sure of Him because He has already given Himself as the sacrifice that atones for our sins.

- He calls you to come to receive this life that He promises...
 - Hear His personal call at the end of Revelation 22.
 - In Rev 22:12-17, He says:
 - "And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last." Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie. "I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star." And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.
- What could possibly make you hesitate?
 - Do you think you have something better than this?
 - Do you deceive yourself into supposing that these are just idle tales?
 - Do you dream that you can somehow achieve something worthwhile without him?
 - Or is it just that your sin is so precious to you that you refuse to turn from it for all this?
 - If that is so with you, then I don't have any more to say to you...
 - Go on and enjoy your sin and pride—it will not last long!
 - God will be fully vindicated when He casts you into the Lake of Fire.
- But perhaps you are here and you just feel that you are too far gone for Him to ever have you?
 - Is that the reason you do not come to Him?
 - That is ridiculous!
 - He is the Son of God who bore the pains of Hell on the cross for sinners!
 - He knows how far gone we all are apart from Him...
 - That is why He took such radical measures.
 - Are you going to defy Him in this?
 - Are you going to say that He did not go far enough to deal with your sin?
 - That is ludicrous!
 - That is even blasphemous!
 - The cross is enough!
- Come to Him, and He will give you this wonderful life as His bride—forever and ever.
 - He is the Lamb that was slain for His bride.
 - He will complete His work in her!