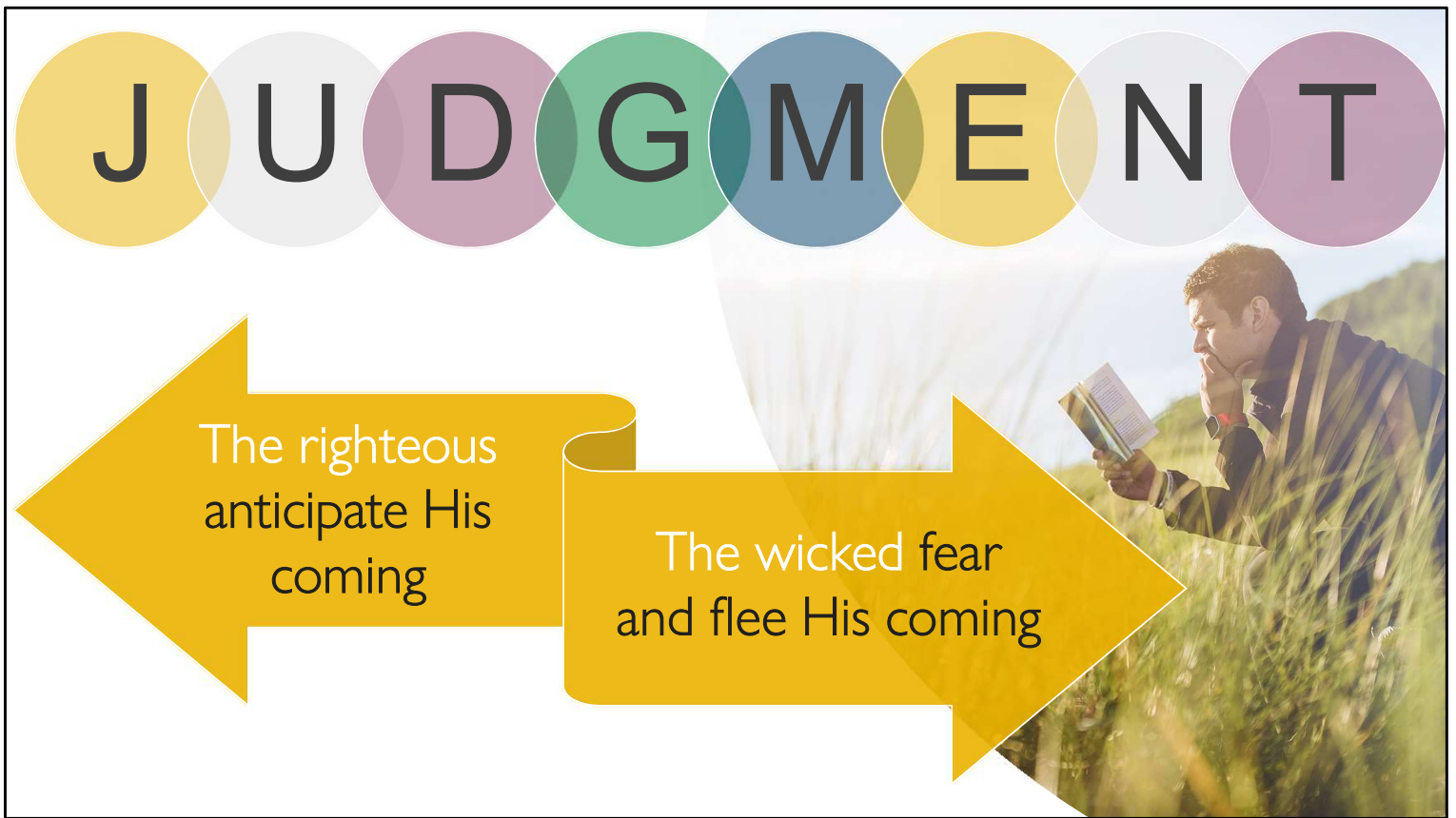




– an uncluttered approach –

SIMPLIFYING **REVELATION**

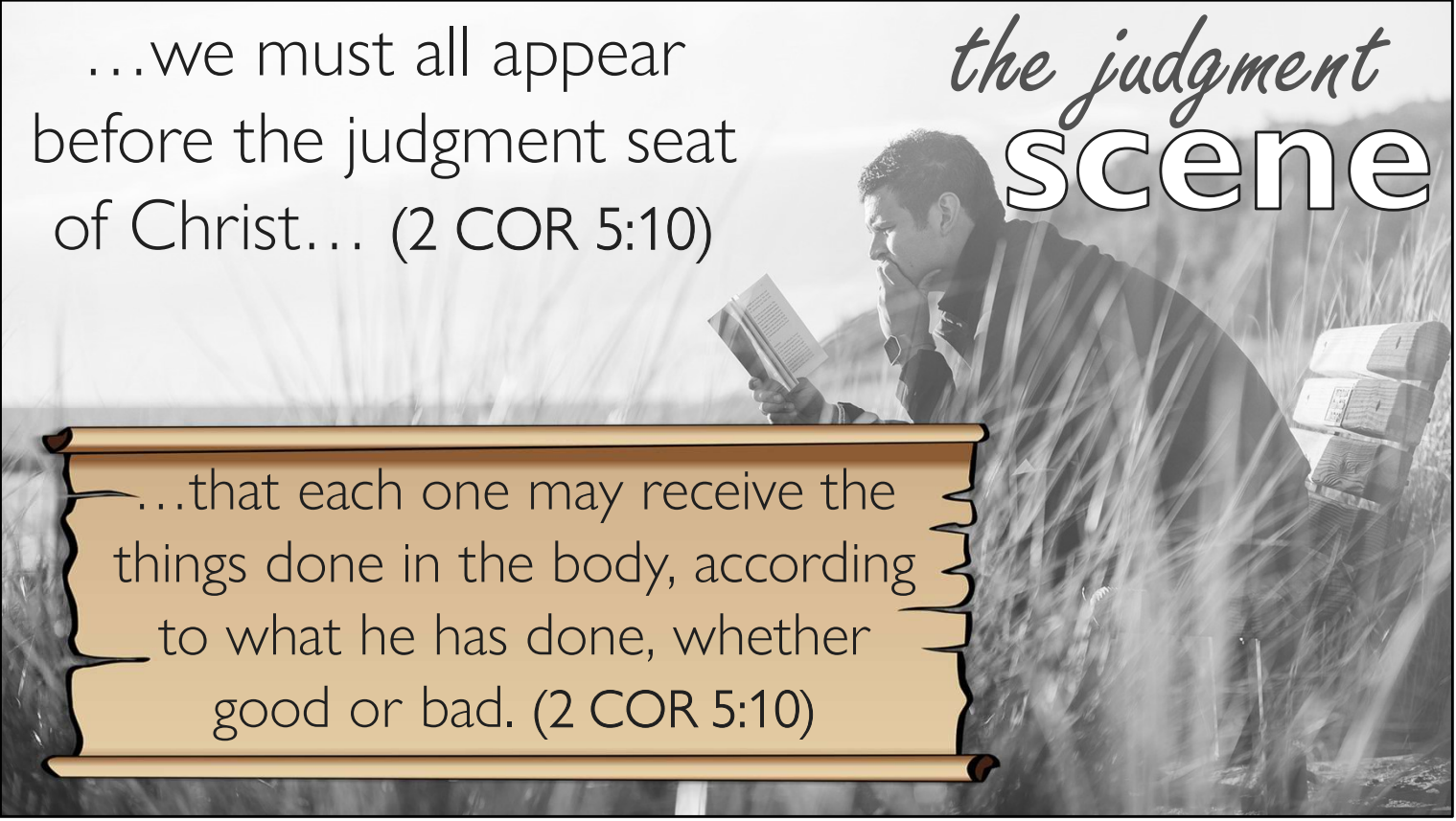
- With the beast, the false prophet and the devil having been cast into the lake of fire (Rev 20:10), and thus being eternally defeated; the time has come for the judgment of mankind.
- We've seen the judgment on previous occasions in the book, but none have been with the same marvelous detail as this account.
- We pick up now at 20:11...



- Read 20:11-15
- V 11 – John saw a great white throne, upon which the Lord sat. It is His judgment seat.
- There are **2 DIFFERENT RESPONSES** to the Lord’s coming.
 - The righteous desire His coming. It is a time of recompense upon those who persecuted them. It is a time of reward and victory.
 - The wicked are terrified at His coming. It is a time of destruction. They are subject to the wrath of God; the beginning of eternal torment.
- The wicked in our text (v 11) are pictured trying to flee away from the Lord, but they could not.

...we must all appear
before the judgment seat
of Christ... (2 COR 5:10)

the judgment **scene**

A man in a dark suit and tie is shown in profile, reading a book. He is standing in a field of tall, thin grass that is slightly out of focus. The background is a bright, hazy sky. The overall tone is contemplative and serious.

...that each one may receive the
things done in the body, according
to what he has done, whether
good or bad. (2 COR 5:10)

- Everyone will appear in judgment. (v 12; cf. **2 COR 5:10**).
“...the dead, small and great...”
 - Judgment is based on what we have done – *“...books were opened...”* (again, **2 COR 5:10**).
 - What are these books? God has a record of what we have done.
 - *“Another book ... the Book of Life.”*
 - Php 4:3, *“...my fellow workers, whose names are in the Book of Life...”*
 - Our names being in the book of life is related to what is in the other books. If we served Him faithfully, we’re in the book...
 - If we side with the devil, we will not be in the book of life!!
- V 13 – the sea gave up the dead in it, and death & hades

gave up the dead in them.

- Why distinguish the dead in the sea from others?
- In his commentary, Hailey states the sea is a figure of the mass of human society.
- We are accustomed to things in Revelation being figures, but I don't see a reason to conclude this is a figure. If it is, then should we not assume that Death and Hades are figures also? But figures of what?
- Death & hades speak about those who are deceased, who are in the grave. Who are those in the sea?
- The Jews emphasized the need for proper burial and feared calamity for those who did not receive such.
- Though their bodies were not buried, the Lord knows where they are and they will appear in judgment to receive according to what they had done in life.

19:20 the beast and
false prophet
20:10 the devil
20:14 death and hades
20:15 anyone not found
in the Book of Life
21:8 all the unrighteous

- V 14 – **DEATH AND HADES** were cast into the lake of fire. They are not the only thing cast into the lake of fire...
 - **20:10** – the devil was cast into the lake of fire.
 - **19:20** – the beast and the false prophet were cast into the lake of fire (they are equal to the 2 beasts of ch. 13 and the harlot & her scarlet beast of ch. 17).
 - **20:15** – anyone not found in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.
 - **21:8** – all the unrighteous will be cast into the lake of fire.
- This is the “second death.”
 - Eternal spiritual death – condemnation.
 - The first death is physical.
 - Recall 20:5-6, the second death has no power over those who partake of the 1st resurrection (spiritual life,

obedience to the gospel).

...I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. (21:1)



A NEW HEAVEN & A NEW EARTH

- Read 21:1-7 – a new heaven and a new earth
- In ch. 21, John is given the opportunity to see beyond the judgment. This is a glimpse into eternity.
 - The new heaven and new earth are not a similitude replacement of the current physical realm. This is accommodative language to a degree. Quite simply, there will be a new realm, a new reality.
 - The first heaven & earth, that which is physical, passed away (2 Pet 3:10-13, destroyed with fervent heat).
 - There was no more sea. The sea of glass was introduced in 4:6 (also 15:2). Recall, it represents the cleansing so one might approach the throne of God. The judgment is gone.
- The New Jerusalem is pictured descending from heaven.
 - This is another description of the eternal realm.

- The first Jerusalem, the physical city of God's people, was upon the earth.
- The second Jerusalem is spiritual, the holy city of heaven.
- Heb 12:22-23, *"...you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven..."*
- Recall the bride of the Lamb from ch. 19? That image is brought into play here as well.
- It's not descending to the earth – remember the earth is gone.
 - Baptism is the sea we must pass through to as one approached the throne of God (cf. 1 Kings 7:23-26; 2 Chr 4:2-5). We noted already the 3 descriptions of Jesus in v 5.
- He is,
 - The **FAITHFUL WITNESS** (Gr. martos). He died but rose again!
 - The **FIRSTBORN** from the dead. Never to die again. His resurrection is the message of the gospel (Acts 1:8, 22; 2:32; 3:15; 5:32; 10:41; 13:31)
 - The **RULER** over the kings. He is "King of kings"

(1 Tim 6:15; Rev 17:14; 19:16)

- These three are part of a group of seven descriptions in ch. 1. He is also...
 - The **ALPHA & OMEGA**. First & last letters of the Greek alphabet. This is a statement of deity, eternal existence – He is God.
 - The **BEGINNING & END**, same as the previous image (cf. 1:11; 2:8).
 - Who **IS AND WAS AND IS TO COME**. Was used of the Father in 1:4. another statement of His divine nature; equal to the Father (John 10:30).
 - The **ALMIGHTY**. He is the all-powerful one; again a reference to His nature as God.

“...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.”

No

DEATH
SORROW
CRYING
PAIN

**A NEW HEAVEN
& A NEW EARTH**

- 21:3 – the temple of God is with men.
- There has always been a place where God’s presence was among His people...
 - In the days of Moses, a tabernacle was built among the Hebrews to represent God’s presence among them.
 - In the days of Solomon, a more permanent structure was built – the temple – and God dwelt among His people there.
 - In Jesus’ time, the church was built, and God now dwells with us, those who are part of the church belonging to Christ.
- The tabernacle of v 3 is none of the above. It is our eternal dwelling with God.
 - Some things that were **EXPERIENCED** in the others are not experienced in this eternal abode.

- The former things have passed away. These things belong to a realm that is infiltrated by sin.
- Eternity is a sin free zone!
- The surety of this is given in v 5:
 - *“I make all things new”*
 - *“these words are true and faithful.”*

“It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts.

A NEW HEAVENS & A NEW EARTH



the overcomers
INHERITANCE



- 21:6 – it is done.
 - There’s nothing more to take place.
 - The redemption of man is complete; the kingdom of the Lord is in heaven for eternity.
 - Time and space have come to an end, eternity has begun.
- V 7 – eternal inheritance.
 - Recall in ch. 2 & 3, each of the letters to the seven churches concluded with “To him who overcomes...”
 - Eat from the tree of life (2:7)
 - Not hurt by the second death (2:11)
 - Hidden manna, white stone & a new name (2:17)
 - Power over the nations (2:26)
 - Clothed in white, name in the Book of life (3:5)
 - A pillar in the temple, seal of the Spirit, citizenship in

new Jerusalem, name of Christ (3:12)

- Sit with Christ on His throne (3:21)

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**. (21:8)

THE SECOND **DEATH**

- John gives some details about those who are not in the Book of Life.
- We have a tendency to rate sin. The Catholics have gone so far as to have two official titles by which sin is classified – mortal and venial. There is no classification of sin before the Lord – sin is sin.
 - Some of these are no surprise to us – murder, sexual immorality, idolatry
 - Some may shock some people – **COWARDLY, LIARS**.
 - Cowardly – KJV, “fearful.” (Strong’s those in dread, timid, by implication, faithless). Only used 3x in the Bible. Here and Matthew 8:26 / Mark 4:40, “...why did you fear, O you of little faith?”
 - Liars - God’s word is truth. Jesus is described as being true & righteous. He expects His people to be

truthful. No lie is a good lie. No lie is permissible.

- Any sin, whatever it is, however big or small in our eyes, unrepented of, is sufficient to bring us to the second death.

WALL

• names of the 12 tribes

FOUNDATION

• names of the 12 apostles

MEASURE

• 12,00 furlongs / 144 cubits

AWE

• precious jewels & gems

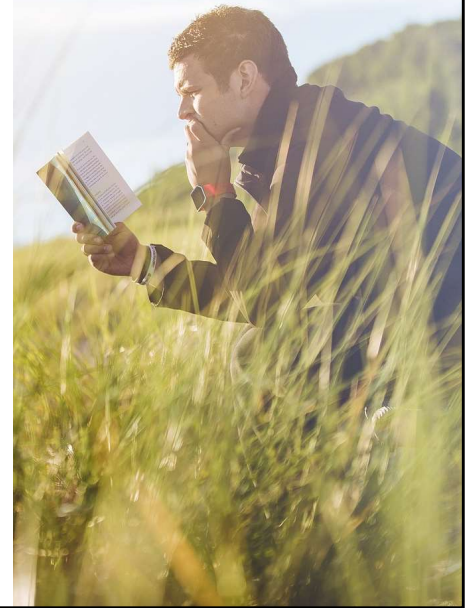
NOT THERE

• no temple or sun / open gate

NOT THERE

• defilement, abomination, lies

THE HOLY
CITY



- Read 21:9-14 – the Holy city.
- V 9 – the angel invited John to go see the bride, the Lamb's wife.
 - The bride is the faithful – the saints of God.
 - She is pictured as a great city (21:2, 10).
 - V 11 – the city glistened with God's glory. The stones mentioned here were also in Rev 4:2, when John was in the throne room. The sardius stone is missing – for the judgment has passed.
- **V 12-13** – the city wall are described. The walls bear the names of the 12 tribes of the children of Israel.
 - This associates the city with God's people of the Old Covenant.
 - Three gates on the east, north, south & west.
 - The description is reminiscent of how Israel camped

around the ark of covenant.

- **V 14** – the wall had 12 foundations bearing the names of the 12 apostles.
 - The apostles are identified as the foundation of the church (Eph 2:20)
 - This associates the city with God's people of the New Covenant.
- **V 15-17** – the city is measured.
 - Recall in ch. 11, the temple of God, the altar & those who worship were measured. It was a sign of God's protection (cf. Eze 40:3).
 - The city, its gates and its walls are measured.
 - The city is a square – length, breadth & height are equal.
 - This is one of those occasions where the number 3 appears indirectly.
 - This is about the perfection of the city.
 - The city measured 12,000 furlongs. That is 12 (number for God's people) x1000 (perfection, completeness, 10x10x10).
 - A furlong is 1/8 of a mile.
 - That's 1,500 miles long, wide, high.
 - The wall measured 144 cubits (12x12).
 - According to the measure of a man (simply, a cubit is a human measurement).

- Of an angel – a messenger.
- The message? Through John, God is revealing eternal things with language we can grasp.
- **V 18-21** – all kinds of precious gems are described as part of the wall, foundation and gates.
 - Imagine seeing a city with such an appearance!!
 - Consider the awe kids have seeing Disney!
 - Anyone seen Wizard of Oz? Emerald City.
 - But the heavenly Jerusalem is not fiction – it is real!
 - As we read this description, keep in mind that John's ability to describe what heaven will be like is limited by the finite nature of human language & comprehension.
- **V 22-26** – there is no temple – God & the Lamb are the temple;
 - There is no sun or moon, for the Lamb is the light.
 - The gates are always open – it is a safe city.
 - Those who are saved are there and bring glory & honour to God.
- **21:27** – nothing corrupt is there.

FURTHER DESCRIPTION OF THE CITY



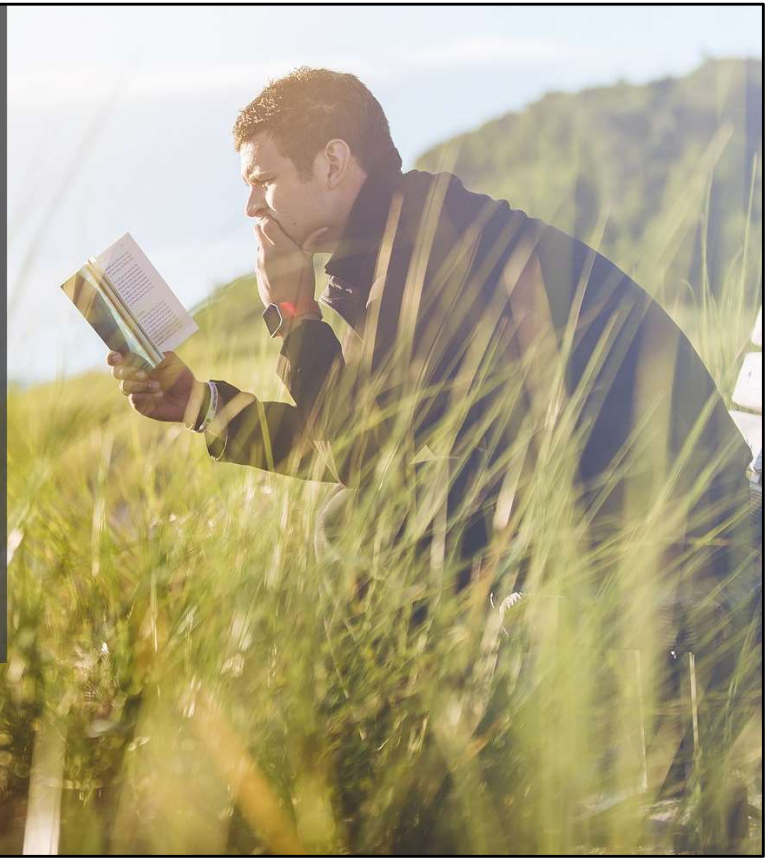
- read 22:1-5 – further description of the city.
- **V 1** – a pure river of water of life.
 - Water is acknowledged throughout the Bible as refreshing and life giving.
 - This river is the ultimate source of life (coming from throne)!
- **V 2** – the tree of life.
 - Only mentioned 6x in the Bible.
 - 3x in Genesis 2-3
 - 3x in Revelation (2:7; 22:2, 14)
 - Note, Proverbs mentions “a tree of life” 4x, but these are not references to the tree of life, but metaphors for goodness.
 - The leaves are for the healing of the nations. Not physically & literally, since the nations no longer exist.

- For the comfort and goodness of residents of the eternal city, who come from all nations.
- **V 3** – the curse is gone.
 - Temptation & sin are destroyed.
 - Along with the curse that go with them. Death is no more.
- **V 4-5** – see God!
 - Many have wanted to see God as He is (Moses, Ex 33; Philip, Jn 14), but could not.
 - Some have been terrified at the idea of seeing God at all (Gideon, Jdg 6; Manoah, Jdg 13).
 - We shall see His face and reign with Him (v 4-5).

Next week...

- ❖ He is coming quickly
- ❖ Don't seal the prophecy
- ❖ Blessed are those who do His commandments

REVELATION 22



Ch. 22

- He is coming quickly
- Don't seal the prophecy
- Blessed are those who do His commandments