

## Behold!

Harmony M.B.C., April 28, 2013 (Morning)

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**Rev. 21:5** And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

**Rev. 21:6** And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

**Rev. 21:7** He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

**Rev. 21:8** But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, 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.

**Rev. 22:7** Behold, I come quickly: blessed *is* he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.

**Rev. 22:12** And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward *is* with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

There are three last Beholds! in the bible which are seen in our three text verses. They are a call to attention for us. The Lord Christ wants us to pay special heed, sit up and take notice of these last high points He makes here. When we examine these three high points we can see why He does. So, our message today is going to focus on those three Beholds! May the Holy Spirit lift our spirits and help us to rejoice to know what our Lord is pointing to when He says "Behold!"

I. Let's behold the fact that He is pointing to the newness and completeness of everything He has been engaged in.

- "Behold, I make all things new." We read from bible scholars who write about the Lord renovating the world in the last days, but this is not a renovation
  - ▶ Everything old is going to be burned up (**2Peter 3:10**) and what our Lord speaks of here is all new.
- "It is done. - At this point in the timeline of Christ, He **finishes** His total work regarding the final destiny of His creation (destruction of the old, creation of the new)
  - ▶ All old creation is destroyed, all new creations relative to us are in place (new earth, new earth, new life)
- "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end." He is the central figure in this final act connecting time with eternity; the focal point of God in the ending of the old and beginning of the new, in the beginning of an eternal day and ending of a temporal universe.
  - ▶ In 2010, scientists witnessed what they called the birth of a new star L1448-IRS2E, located in the Perseus star-forming region, about 800 light years away within our Milky Way galaxy - the Lord is still in the business of reforming matter in His universe.
  - ▶ To men, this star is something completely new. Now, while we don't have a single thing in our universe that we can perfectly illustrate what Christ is talking about here, this new star helps illustrate what He has told us.
  - ▶ Everything of the old age, the old world that was temporary is gone and everything of the state Christ is talking about here is new.
- What of all this that is new does He highlight and explain more fully?

- ▶ “I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.” You and I have never before been able to drink to fullness the righteousness that reigns in the Kingdom of God - this is a new thing we will have the capacity to do.
- ▶ Did you ever work outside in the heat on a summer day, come in and drink yourself sick because you couldn’t get enough water?
- ▶ Do you remember the promise He made while on earth? **Mat. 5:6** “Blessed are they which do **hunger and thirst** after righteousness: for they shall be filled.”
  - Bro. Mark, you know how you and I are about banana pudding!
- ▶ This statement from Christ also shows us that we will be able to fill ourselves with the wonder of who Christ is (since He is the living water, or water of life).
- What’s next? **V. 7** - “He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.”
  - ▶ First, we as children of God have, so far, only had a foretaste of our inheritance with God - but in this scene, we are going to inherit everything Christ has laid up for us.
    - There are the permanent, eternal mansions (what will they be like?)
    - I believe this is what Paul meant also, when he wrote: **2Tim. 4:8** Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing. (This is like saying, “a reward of righteousness” which gives us imagery of receiving a longed for condition of personal righteousness - don’t we all want to feel completely free from sin, and completely separated from the tendency to sin?)
    - There’s the new and glorified body to feel and use doing immoral things!
    - There are the wonders of the new earth, and the new heavens to enjoy, explore, think about, use for whatever purpose we as immortals may have for them!
    - I remember my first trip as a teenager to the desert of southwest Texas (all new...all exciting...all waiting to be smelled, felt, explored)
- Now, let me get this last phrase taken care of (“and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.”) - Let’s look at **Col. 2:8-9** - “Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. **9** For in him dwelleth **all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.**

II. Now, let’s look at **Ch. 22, v.7**

- “Behold, I come quickly...” - Quickly Gr. = without delay; suddenly
    - ▶ The fact that almost 2,000 years have passed since this message came to John teaches us that the time span has nothing to do with a delay on the Lord’s part
    - ▶ Delay suggests something interfering, obstructing, or causing a breakdown in one’s schedule or intent. There is no circumstance that has changed the Lord’s schedule for when things will unfold.
      - The song “Four Days Late”-  
 The news came to Jesus, Please come fast  
 Lazarus is sick and without your help he will not last  
 Mary and Martha watched their brother die  
 They waited for Jesus, He did not come  
 And they wondered why.
- The death watch was over, Buried four days  
 Somebody said He'll soon be here, the Lord's on His way  
 Martha ran to Him and then she cried

Lord if you had been here You could have healed him  
He'd still be alive

But You're four days late And all hope is gone  
Lord we don't understand why you've waited so long  
But His way is God's way Not yours or mine  
When He's four days late  
He's still on time

- ▶ The Lord's coming will also be **suddenly**, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye (**1 Cor. 15:52**).
- Next: "...blessed *is* he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book." (Hint: to observe, and preserve)
  - ▶ We will be happy and spiritually invigorated if we keep in mind what King Jesus has taught us in the Revelation message.
  - ▶ We will be happy and spiritually invigorated if we are faithful to the lessons taught by His predictions in the Revelation message.

### III. Last, Behold! His message in **Ch. 22, v.12**

- "And, behold, I come quickly...." - The very repetition at the end of this message doubles our responsibility to be conscious of the fact that everything is on time, and when time is fulfilled, He will appear in an instant.
  - ▶ **1Thess. 5:2** For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.
  - ▶ **Rev. 16:15** Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed *is* he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.
- Then: "...and my reward *is* with me...."
  - ▶ You will notice that before the time indicated by this verse, nobody has received their eternal reward...those rewards are still with Christ (to be given out)
  - ▶ There is a kind of intermission between death and the coming of Christ
    - In **Rev. 6:9-11**, we see certain souls beneath the altar of God in heaven who give us some insight into this fact.
- Last: "...to give every man according as his work shall be."
  - ▶ For believers there is an assessment and rewarding that is briefly summarized by Paul in **1Cor. 3:11-15**.
  - ▶ For unbelievers, there is a white throne judgment to go through, and the passing of sentence by the Lord upon them (**Rev. 20:11-15**).