

## 2024-2025 BSP#20 Group Time Discussion

### (A) 為查考和認識的題目 Questions for Studying and Understanding (15 minutes)

1. 「的確，我快要來。」(默 22:20) 不但是默示錄，還有很多聖經預言都說末日快要來。例：索 1:14, 羅 16:20, 伯前 4:7。應如何理解這些聖經預言的迫切性？是不是預言誇大或不準確？(提示：伯後 3:8-9)  
“Indeed, I am coming soon.” (Revelation 22:20) Not only the Book of Revelation, but also many other Bible prophecies say that the Last Day is coming soon. Examples: Zeph 1:14, Romans 16:20, 1 Peter 4:7. How should we understand the urgency of these biblical prophecies? Are the prophecies exaggerated or inaccurate? (Hint: 2 Pt. 3:8-9)
2. 細看 22:14-15。聖城內外分別是義人和惡人。惡人雖身處聖城外，這描述是否代表他們也生活在新天新地中？
  - a. 聖城是新天新地，但有城內外之分。所以住在城外的惡人也活在新天新地中。
  - b. 這矛盾證明默示錄一派胡言，不可相信。
  - c. 默示錄所說的聖城新耶路撒冷代表著整個新天新地。所以惡人身處的地方不是新天新地。
  - d. 按 21:8，惡人身處的地方「是在烈火與硫磺燃燒著的坑中」。
  - e. 新天新地是完全美善的地方，也是天主與人共處的地方，不可能容納惡人。

Read carefully 22:14-15. Inside and outside the holy city are the righteous and wicked people respectively. Although the wicked are outside the holy city, can we understand from this description that they also live in the new heaven and new earth?

- a. The holy city is the new heaven and the new earth, but it has the inside and the outside. Therefore, the wicked who live outside are also living in the new heaven and new earth.
- b. This contradiction proves that the Book of Revelation is nonsense and cannot be trusted.
- c. The holy city, New Jerusalem, mentioned in the Book of Revelation represents the entire new heaven and new earth. Therefore, the place where the wicked people are is not the new heaven and new earth.
- d. According to 21:8, the place where the wicked are is "in the pit burning with fire and brimstone."
- e. The new heaven and the new earth is a place of perfect goodness. It is also where God lives with humans. It cannot accommodate evil people.

(B) 為反思和應用的題目。Reflection and application question (10 minutes)

繭中的毛蟲能夠理解甚至想像當它變成蝴蝶時的生活會是怎樣的嗎？我們在世上的生活和我們未來在天主王國中的生活之間的區別也是這樣。天主王國的生活遠遠超出了我們在上所經歷的一切，我們只能透過形像、標記和比喻來獲得最皮毛的概念。

因此，耶穌談到婚宴、宴會（瑪 8:11、22:2）。默示錄 22 章給了我們更多的形像：「天主和羔羊的寶座」、欽崇中的僕人、額頭上的名字、天主的光而不是燈光或太陽的光（22:3-5）。此外，隨著我們對《默示錄》的研究結束，我們意識到，當天主拯救人類的計劃成功完成時，聖經開頭的伊甸園變成了一個新的伊甸——一個新天和新地（默示錄 21）。默示錄中充滿了許多其他奧妙的形像，這些形像可能會在我們研讀的過程中令您困惑，甚至煩惱。現在您明白了天主採用這教學方式的原因後，這些問題還困擾著您嗎？您是否同意這也許是若望向我們傳達這些奧秘的最佳方式？請說出默示錄中你最喜歡的一個形像並解釋原因。

Would a caterpillar inside a cocoon be able to comprehend or even imagine what life will be like when it turns into a butterfly? The difference between our life here on earth and our future life in the kingdom of God is very similar. Life in the kingdom of God is so far beyond anything we have ever experienced here on earth that we can only acquire the barest notion through images, symbols, and analogies.

Thus Jesus speaks of a wedding feast, a banquet (Mt. 8:11, 22:2). Rev 22 gives us more images: “the throne of God and of the Lamb”, servants in worship, name on their foreheads, God’s light instead of light from lamp or sun (22:3-5). Also, as our study of Revelation concludes, we realize that at the successful completion of God’s saving plan for man, the garden of Eden that begins the Bible turns into a new Eden – a new heaven and new earth (Rev 21). Revelation is full of many other mysterious images which might have caused you bewilderments - even irritations – in the process of our study. Now that you understand the reason for God’s pedagogy, do they still bother you? Would you agree that this is perhaps the best way for John to communicate these mysteries to us? Name 1 image in Revelation that you like the most and explain why.