

The Last Chapter

Revelation 22

Revelation 22: 1

“And He shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb”

Revelation 21:24 through Revelation 22:5

- * The new heavens and earth will have a capital city, a city where the throne of God and of Christ sit.
- * The city is being prepared in heaven and it is beyond description
- * It's name is the New Jerusalem or the Heavenly Jerusalem
- * This was shown us in the previous passage
- * Now, Scripture shows us the citizens and the provisions of the great city of God.

Revelation 22:1 -5 - Speaks about The provisions of the city

Revelation 22:1-5 (KJV)

“1 And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.

2 In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

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:

4 And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads.

5 And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever”

The provisions

There is a pure river in the city, a river that has the very water of life (Rev. 22:1)

- * There is a real river in the heavenly

- * **The river of continuous life**
- * **A perfectly pure river**
- * **A river flowing out from God and the Lamb [Jesus]**

The New Jerusalem, being 1500 miles cubic, will have the beauty and refreshment of a running river and of many other bodies of water

- * **We too often spiritualize when we think of heaven, imagining that we will be in some kind of dreamy, unreal world instead of a real world**
- * **We must always remember the teaching of Scripture: God is going to recreate this earth and the heavens of this universe (Rev. 21: 1)**
- * **This is what He explicitly teaches in the Scripture (2 Peter 3:10-12; Rev. 21:1 and others)**

A recreated world would certainly have the same features that this world has with one exception: it will be perfected [Eden Perfect]

- * **The Heavenly Jerusalem is said to have a particular river flowing through it, and the river has the water of life in it.**
- * **What does this mean?**
- * **The verse tells us - Where the source of the river is: "the throne of God and of the Lamb."**

The water of life flows from God and Christ: they are the source of all life that lives in the city.

- * **There will be no life there, no person there, other than those who have drank of the life that God and Christ give**
 - * **Therefore, the river symbolizes the life that flows out from God and Christ.**
 - * **It will be a constant reminder to us that Jesus Christ is the living water who gives us life...**
- **who quenches our thirst for life**
 - **who satisfies our thirst for life**
 - **who fulfills our thirst for life**
 - **who completes our thirst for life**

John 4:10

"Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water"

John 4:14

"But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life"

John 7:37-38

"In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the Scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water"

Revelation 22:1-2

"And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations"

Revelation 22:17

"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"

There is a tree of life in the city

Revelation 22:2 (KJV)

"2 In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations"

Remember: The tree of life was also planted in the Garden of Eden.

Genesis 2:9 (KJV) "And out of the ground made the Lord God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil"

The fruit was the nourishment of life; It infused eternal life into Adam's body.

* It symbolized the perfect and life-giving environment God had given Adam.

The tree of life is now in the heavenly Jerusalem

Revelation 22:2 (KJV)

“2 In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, *was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations*”

1. The tree of life bears twelve crops of fruit—one crop each month

- * The tree bears fruit year round
- * This symbolizes continuous fruit or continuous life
- * There is no time that the tree does not bear fruit
- * It always bears fruit; it provides eternal fruit
- * Therefore, the person who eats of the tree of life is nourished by its fruit eternally
- * He lives forever

2. There is also another symbol here: bearing the fruit of God's Spirit

- * The person who eats of the tree of life will bear the fruit of the Spirit eternally

3. The leaves of the tree of life are for the healing of the nations

- * That is, they provide a perfect life
- * The leaves prevent sickness and disease
- * They give the person who eats them a perfect body
- * This symbolizes the perfection that Jesus Christ gives, the perfect healing and deliverance from all suffering that He gives, the perfect body
- * No more sorrow, sickness, tears, death, disease, depression, oppression!

Revelation 2:7

"He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God"

Ezekiel 47:12

"And by the river upon the bank thereof, on this side and on that side, shall grow all trees for meat [food], whose leaf shall not fade, neither shall the fruit thereof be consumed: it shall bring forth new fruit according to his months, because their waters they issued out of the sanctuary: and the fruit thereof shall be for meat, and the leaf thereof for medicine"

* The tree brings forth life – Health!

Revelation 22:3 (KJV)

"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"

* There is no more curse in the city

* The earth is cursed

* How?

* Cursed to aging, corruption, deterioration, decay, death, suffering, evil, disturbance, division, disasters, and on and on

* It is cursed because man has chosen to make his own life in this world and to reject God's life

* God's life is, as stated above, eternal; His life alone is eternal

* Therefore, when man chose to make his own life, he chose to die

* Consequently, man brought death and all its evil into the world

* Man cursed the earth by his rejection of God and God's life

[Salvation, Humility, Prayer, Fasting can bring temporary healing to the Land as to draw the lost and to set deeper faith in the believer but the earth and heavens will pass away, and the Lord will create new! [Rev. 21:1]

But The Heavenly Jerusalem has no curse

* This means that it is free of evil and death. It is perfect and will last eternally. There is no curse of evil or death in the city

* Its citizens are free of the curse; they are perfected forever and ever

* No more curse!

Zechariah 14:11

"And men shall dwell in it [the city of God], and there shall be no more utter destruction; but Jerusalem shall be safely inhabited"

* Again no more living under the curse of sin

Revelation 22:3b-4 (KJV)

"3b ... but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him:

4 And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads"

There is the throne of God and of the Lamb in the city

* The Lord's servants will serve God and Christ, operating out of the city

* That is, the Heavenly Jerusalem will be the capital city of the universe, the headquarters of the Lord's government and rule and reign

The idea is that we will receive our instructions and do our reporting from the very throne of God and Christ.

We will have access to the very throne of heaven itself

Revelation 23:4

"And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads"

* The Lord's servants will see His face

Matthew 5:8

"Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God"

1 John 3:2

"Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is"

There is the name of God written in the forehead of believers

* This means possession and eternal security

* We shall be wholly possessed by God

* We will be His servants and be enabled to serve Him totally and wholly

Revelation 22:6-7 (KJV)

“6 And he said unto me, *These sayings are faithful and true*: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew unto his servants the things which must shortly be done.

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

The Scriptures Are Accurate

- * John is assured that everything he has seen is both *“faithful and true”*
- * There has not been a single exaggeration, nor has there been a single falsehood
- * Every prophecy made in this book will come to pass in the Lord’s time

The Scriptures Are Authoritative

- * With the statement in verse 7, *“Behold, I come quickly”*, the Lord declares His authority!

**The Lord also reaffirms His promise to bless those who

<i>“keepeth”</i>

 the words of the Revelation**

- * That word has the idea of *“guarding, protecting, and attending to carefully”*
- * The Lord will bless the people who read, believe and live out the words of this book.
- * That was His promise at the beginning and it is His promise at the end

Revelation 1:3 (KJV)

“Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand”

- * The Bible was given to us to read, believe and live out.
- * The Word of God has authority over our lives and we are to heed its words

Revelation 22:8-10 (KJV)

“And I John saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which shewed me these things.

9 Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God.

10 And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand”

The message of Revelation stirs worship

*** When John heard the prophecies of the Revelation, he was so astounded that he was gripped with a spirit of fear and worship.**

*** He actually fell down at the feet of the angel who was delivering the message for the Lord.**

*** This was the second time that John had done this (Rev. 19:10)**

Again, the angel rebuked John

He told John to get up, for angels are only servants of God just as men are

He told John to worship God and God alone.

The point is this:

The message of Revelation should astound us and stir us to worship.

But we must make sure that we worship the true and living God and Him alone.

The great tragedy is this: Many are worshipping false gods, their own idea of what God is like. They are religious but they -

*** Reject Jesus Christ as the Son of God who died for their sins**

*** Refuse to live a godly and righteous life for Jesus Christ**

*** Reject the Scriptures as the Word of God**

*** Reject the Revelation as the prophecy of the Lord, the prophecy that reveals what is to happen in the end time**

Matthew 4:10

"Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve"

Psalm 95:6

"O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the lord our maker"

* We are to be Worshipers!

Revelation 22:10-11 (KJV)

"And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand.

11 He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still"

* The word "*seal*" means "*to conceal, or to keep secret*"

**John was told not to hide these things away and keep them secret
He is to publish them so that the world may hear the news that Jesus is coming and judgment is about to fall on this world**

* The Bible we hold in our hands is a living witness to the God of Heaven
* It reveals Him in all His glory, His power and His wrath
* The Bible is not a closed book, but it is open and its message is available to all who will pick it up and read with an honest and obedient heart!
Word of God, and it will stand for all eternity, Matt. 24:35.

Revelation 22:11-14 (KJV)

"11 He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.

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

13 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.

14 Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city"

The message of Revelation tells us who will be accepted by the Lord

* There is a *textual problem* here or better a word translation from the Greek to English understanding in the King James Version of the Bible

The best Greek manuscripts say this:

"Blessed are they who wash their robes," not "blessed are they that do his commandments"

* The only way a person can ever eat of the tree of life is to wash his robes in the blood of Christ

* No person is ever saved by keeping commandments

* Believers, of course, do keep the commandments of God; they keep His commandments because they love Christ and want to follow Him

They do not keep the commandments in order to be saved

* They believe that Jesus Christ forgives their sins through His death on the cross in order to be saved. Then it is that they begin to serve Him and to keep His commandments

The point is this:

The person who is accepted by God is the person who has washed his robes in the blood of the Lamb

Revelation 22:15 (KJV)

"For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie"

* The message of Revelation tells us who will be rejected by the Lord

* There are some people who will not be allowed to enter the heavenly city of God

* Who are they?

The dogs of society

In ancient days the wild dog was a symbol of roaming about, of being mean and savage, dirty and immoral. Therefore, those who roam about living mean and savage lives, or dirty and immoral lives will never be allowed to enter God's heavenly city

Revelation 22:16 (KJV)

“ 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”

*** This is a forceful statement, and it is emphatically stated so that there can be no mistake about the fact: "I Jesus...testify unto you these things in the churches" He is the Author of the message of Revelation**

Revelation 22:17 (KJV)

“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”

- * Jesus is the Living Water**
- * He quenches the thirst of our soul**

Revelation 22:18-19 (KJV)

“18 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:

19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book”

- * The message of Revelation must not be tampered with**
- * The warning is solemn and emphatic - A person must not add to the words of this book - A person must not take away from the words of this book**

Revelation 22:20-21 (KJV)

“He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

21 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen”

- * Jesus is coming quickly!**