

PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

REVELATION 22:1-7

LESSON: LIVING WATERS — November 20, 2016

INTRODUCTION:

Chapter 21:22-27 John saw no physical Temple in the city. Why? - Because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the city's Temple. There is no need for the sun or moon, for the glory of God and the Lamb illuminate the city. Its gates are never shut, there is no night there, and the nations of the saved along with the kings of the earth bring their honor and glory into it. Only those written in the Lamb's Book of Life enter this glorious city.

LESSON: I. THE HEALTHFUL ENVIRONMENT OF THE NEW JERUSALEM REVELATION 22:1-3a

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: The vision progresses. There are seven provisions of the heavenly Jerusalem.

1. There is a pure river in the city, a river that has the very water of life clear as crystal.

Is there a real river in the heavenly Jerusalem? Certainly, the New Jerusalem being 1500 miles cubic will have the beauty and refreshment of a running river and of many other bodies of water. Well, there were four rivers in the Garden of Eden: Pishon, Gihon, the Tigris, and the Euphrates. We must always remember the teaching of Scripture: God is going to recreate this earth and the heavens of this universe. This is what He explicitly teaches in the Scripture (cp. 2Pt.3:10-12; Rev.21:1; etc.).

A recreated world would certainly have the same features that this world has with one exception: it will be perfected! The heavenly Jerusalem is said to have a pure river flowing through it—the river has the water of life in it. What does this mean? The verse tells us where the source of the river is: It comes from "*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. Only those who have drunk of the life that God and Christ give will be there. 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...

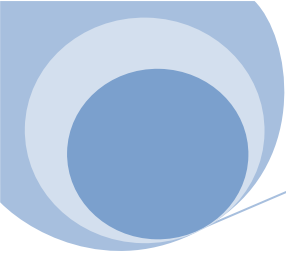
- who quenches our thirst for life
- who satisfies our thirst for life
- who fulfills our thirst for life
- who completes our thirst for life.

22:2 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. The river flows down the middle of the street of the city where the Tree of Life grew on each side of the river bearing its fruit and leaves. Ezekiel 47:12 adds that there are many other trees on this side and that side of the river bank that shall bring forth fruit for meat and its leaves for medicine.

2. There is a tree of life in the city.

Remember "*the tree of life*" was planted in the Garden of Eden (Gen.2:9). It apparently represented the availability of eternal life for Adam and Eve in the garden. As long as they obeyed God, it symbolized the perfect and life-giving environment God had given them. But as soon as they ate of the wrong tree—the tree of good and evil, sin manifested, and there were consequences. John only names and sees the tree of life is in the heavenly Jerusalem. Note two things said about the tree:

- 1. The Tree of Life bears twelve crops of fruit—** The fruit was the nourishment of life. One crop each



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month. The tree bears fruit year round symbolizing continuous fruit or continuous life. As far as eating, in the Old Testament, angels ate when Abraham entertained them. Jesus ate after He rose from the dead. We will eat at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. So, I know the fruit will be eaten. Therefore, the person who eats of the tree of life is nourished by its fruit eternally and he lives forever. And the person who eats of the tree of life will bear the fruit of the Spirit eternally.

- 2. **The leaves of the Tree of Life are for the healing of the nations.** That is, they provide a perfect life. Ezekiel 47:12 says the leaves are for medicine. Nothing was said about the leaves in Genesis on the Tree of Life, but here in Revelation, they are for the healing of the nations. **What** does that mean? **How** would the leaves heal the nations and **Why** would the nations need healing? My conclusion is when Israel became divided? The northern 10 families called themselves Israel. The southern families called themselves Judah. And so Israel and Judah came about, and there were other nations that came against them. I don't know if the leaves will be eaten for the healing for the nations or just the presence of the leaves on the tree symbolizes something. Well, I would assume that the leaves would provide that healing that caused that division and will bring a perfect life for all nations including the Gentile nation. There cannot be any divisions. There can only be one whole nation under God symbolizing oneness!

22:3a And there shall be no more curse:—

- 3. **There is no more curse in the city.**

¹After Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden, God placed a curse on them and on the earth (Genesis 3:14, 17; Galatians 3:10, 13). The word "curse" here is an intensive word. It denotes an accursed thing. God placed a curse on the serpent (Gen. 3:14). And the earth bears the curse (Gen. 3:17). It's cursed to aging, corruption, deterioration, decay, death, suffering, evil, disturbance, division, disasters, and so on. It's cursed because man has chosen to make his own life in this world and to reject God's life. God's life 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. But, the heavenly Jerusalem will have no curse. This means that it is free of evil and death. There can be no curse where the throne of God and the Lamb exist. It is perfect and will last eternally.

II. THE IMPACT OF GOD'S PRESENCE REVELATION 22:3b-5

22:3b ...but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it:—

- 4. **The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in 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 throne is now the center of God's presence, replacing the temple. Wonderful impacts will happen in the city.

22:3c ...and his servants shall serve him:—

- 5. **The Lord's servants will serve God and Christ, in the city.**

The word "serve" is for priestly service. We will have access to the very throne of heaven itself. Our service will never diminish or decline. While service here as we know it, is imperfect; our service there will be pure. We mar our service here with the flesh, with false motives and with pride. We often use service to get ahead or be famous. But our service there will be without fault. This service inspires us to worship God.

22:4a And they shall see his face:—

- 6. **The Lord's servants will see His face.**

We will be able to see His face. "*Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God*" Matt.5:8. This will be wonderful. As we serve God face to face there will be an intimate relationship throughout all of eternity.

¹ <http://versebyversecommentary.com/1999/02/14/revelation-223-2/>
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sunday-school.html>

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22:4b ...and his name shall be in their foreheads.—

7. The Lord's servants will have the name of God written in their foreheads.

Presently Christians are sealed by the Holy Spirit (Eph.4:30). And His seal will be in us until the day we go to be with Him. The seal today is invisible, but the seal in that day will be apparent for all to see because God's name will be upon our foreheads. Of course we were bought with a price and that price was the blood of the Lamb. We shall be wholly His possession and held securely by God throughout eternity.

22:5a And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light:—

8. The Lord's servants will have the Lord God as their light.

He will be their eternal light in the city. John again repeats that there will be no night in the New Jerusalem. There will be no need for lamps or man-made light, neither the light of the sun. The light of God's presence is all that will be needed (Revelation 21:23, 25).

22:5b ...and they shall reign for ever and ever:—

9. The Lord's servants shall reign for ever and ever.

There will be an eternal rule coming from the throne of God and the Lamb being in it. The Millennial reign and eternal reign are united. The first part of 2 Timothy 2:12 in the KJV says "*If we suffer*"; other versions says "*If we endure, we shall also reign with him.*" And Revelation 2:26 says "*And he that overcometh and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations.*" Our work and service mean something, and God keeps His Word! We shall reign with God and Christ. None of us can comprehend how wonderful that will be. It will transcend all of our expectations. It will be worth it all when we see Jesus.

III. THE CERTAINTY OF CHRIST'S RETURN REVELATION 22:6-7

There is a better world coming, the most glorious of worlds, a perfect heaven and earth: a world in which there will be no sorrow or tears, suffering or death; a world of righteousness and joy. God wants man to know the message of Revelation. Therefore, as the Lord closes this great book, everything He says has to do with the overall message of Him revealing His Word. The message of Revelation is so important that the Lord takes the time and space to reveal this message of Revelation to John.

22:6a And he said unto me, These sayings are faithful and true: All that John had seen was genuine. He had heard the Words of God.

- The message is "*faithful*": it can be trusted, and reliable.
- The message is "*true*": it is not a lie, not false, not a message created by the imagination of men.

²The prophecy began with a glorious worship service in heaven (Rev 4:1; 2-11) as the Lamb prepared to take possession of His inheritance. But at that time, the earth was still filled with evil, and the Lamb faced an intense battle to defeat that evil. Now, 2000 years later, the prophecy draws to a close with the vision of another worship service honoring the Lamb. This time the worship is not just in heaven, but in a new heaven and earth combined. The Lamb's inheritance has been transformed into the paradise He always intended it to be, and with Him in that paradise are His People.

How do we know that the message of Revelation is trustworthy and true? Well, from what the verse continues to say:

22:6b ...and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew unto his servants the things which must shortly be done: The message of Revelation is from the same Lord God who inspired the prophets of old. The holy prophets add support to the claims that Scripture can be trusted. God sent His angel to show His bond-servants that what is written was sent directly from Him. The purpose of this verse is to stress the authenticity of this revelation and to encourage anticipation of its fulfillment. God's promises always depend upon His

² <http://bereanbiblestudygroup.com/2011/01/revelation-219-to-2221%e2%80%93living-with-god/>
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sunday-school.html>

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character. He does not give us a specific time as to when these things will happen, only that they *"must shortly be done."* He keeps His Word!

22:7a Behold, I come quickly:— ³John's vision concludes with verse 6, and then Jesus resumes speaking directly to John, just as He did at first. This verse is best described as a continuation of John's meeting with Jesus that John initially described in Chapter 1:8. This meeting was interrupted with the visions John reported in Chapters 4—22:6. And now Jesus returns John's focus to his place there on the island of Patmos (1:9). ⁴"Behold" is a term intended to grab our attention. *"Give this your undivided attention!"* When Jesus comes, it will be quick (1:7; 22:12, 20). The Greek word *"quickly"* means soon. Jesus will give no warning when He comes. He will come suddenly. It will be unexpected. That is why we need to be alert to His coming. The phrase *"I am coming quickly"* occurs three times in the conclusion to Revelation. Therefore, we must be prepared, and we must quickly witness to a world lost in crime, drugs, suffering, and death. We must study and re-study Revelation. We must prepare ourselves and do what we can to prepare others for the Lord, and the final days of human history. And there are imminent signs of His coming!

22:7b ...blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book:— The Lord's blessings are endless to the person who truly studies His Word. The word *"keeps"* means to guard; protect. It will save your very life. So, pay attention and give heed. We are to guard God's Word by applying it to our lives. ⁵Revelation isn't just a book about things to come; it's a book that encourages us to let our knowledge of the future affect the way we live. Therefore we are blessed by it!

SUMMARY:

⁶The angel of the Lord shows John the river of the water of life which was clear as crystal as it flows from the throne of God. The water flows as a stream down the middle of the street, which apparently refers to the main thoroughfare in the New Jerusalem. While this probably is a literal river, it symbolizes the *"water of life."* John also saw the *"Tree of Life!"* bearing 12 crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. This constant yielding of fruit indicates the continuous blessing that it will bring forth. While the verse does not state that the fruit can be eaten, this is presumably the implication. The trees' leaves are for the healing of the nations. There shall be no more curses, and God, and the Lamb are in the new city. (22:1-3a).

The highest joy and privilege of the saints will be to serve their blessed Lord even though it also means reigning with Him forever. The God who has lived in unapproachable light became approachable in the person of Jesus (John 1:14). The God who is transcendent became immanent. People could look at Jesus and see God. But Revelation 22:4 appears to speak of actually seeing the face of God the Father, and His name will be on the believer's foreheads. This will truly be a privileged place just being with Him throughout eternity. There will be no night in the New Jerusalem. There will be no need for lamps or man-made light, and neither the light of the sun. The light of God's presence is all that will be needed. Our reign with God and Christ will be for ever and ever (22:3b-5).

God's message to John was faithful and true. God sent His angel to show His bond-servants that, what is written was sent directly from Him. These things spoken were to shortly happen. That's why He says *"Behold,"* *He will come quickly* without us knowing the time or the day. But, blessed is the one that keep and hold on to the sayings of the prophecy of this Book (22:6-7).

³ <http://bereanbiblestudygroup.com/2011/01/revelation-219-to-2221%E2%80%93living-with-god/>

⁴ <http://versebyversecommentary.com/1999/02/16/revelation-226-7/>

⁵ <http://www.family-times.net/commentary/revelation-221/>

⁶ <http://versebyversecommentary.com/1999/02/14/revelation-223-2/>

<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sunday-school.html>