

Revelation 22 The River and the Tree of Life

And he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb, 2 in the middle of its street. On either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

3 There will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His bondservants will serve Him; 4 they will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads. 5 And there will no longer be any night; and they will not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God will illuminate them; and they will reign forever and ever.

6 And he said to me, "These words are faithful and true"; and the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, sent His angel to show His bondservants the things which must soon take place.

7 "And behold, I am coming quickly. Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."

8 I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed me these things.

9 And he said to me, "Do not do that; I am a fellow servant of yours and of your brothers the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God!"

The Final Message

10 And he said to me, "Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near. 11 Let the one who does wrong still do wrong, and the one who is filthy still be filthy; and let the one who is righteous still practice righteousness, and the one who is holy still keep himself holy."

12 "Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to reward each one as his work deserves. 13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

14 Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they will have the right to the tree of life, and may enter the city by the gates. 15 Outside are the dogs, the sorcerers, the sexually immoral persons, the murderers, the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices lying.

16 “I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you of these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.”¹⁷ The Spirit and the bride say, “Come.” And let the one who hears say, “Come.” And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires, take the water of life without cost.

18 I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; 19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book.

20 He who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am coming quickly.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

21 The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.

We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions

- What questions were provoked within you?
- Did anything confuse you?
- Did anything move you emotionally?
- Did God instruct you to do something?
- Did you gain any insight into God’s character?

Paul’s observations and insights

1. Why are running waters and flowing rivers a pleasant place to be?
2. Who is ‘the lamb’ John is referring too?
3. What is the significance of their being a tree on the other side of the river?
4. When do we first come across this tree of life?
5. One tree, twelve different fruits, what could this mean?
6. Why are the leaves of this tree for the healing of the nations?
7. Who are His bondslaves?
8. Can you imagine a place where there is no curse of evil?
9. Are you excited about seeing God’s face?
10. Why will His name be on their forehead?
11. The new light source will be the glory of God, not the sun.
12. What, in Heaven, will we be reigning over with God?
13. The Angel reassures John about what he has been told, regarding how it all comes to an end.
14. God’s ‘quickly’ is not the same as our ‘quickly’ - one day is as a thousand years to God.
15. What is it to ‘fall down to the ground and worship’?
16. If we are to be faithful, we must obey God’s word.

17. See how the Angel gets upset with John, he knows that was how the first sin was created in heaven.
18. To 'seal up a book' is to make it unavailable.
19. There is a day coming when access to God through Jesus will end!
20. Jesus is the Word become flesh.
21. Post dispensation of Jesus message is - let them get on with it for its too late!
22. At this time there is still the need for the righteous to stay holy.
23. On Jesus return, He will bring the faithful His reward for their faithfulness.
24. Jesus is: the Was; the Is; and the Is To Come. God told Moses His Name is called I, I AM.
25. Who are the washers of the robes?
26. To have the right of access is to belong.
27. The tree of life is what Adam rejected over the tree of knowledge of good and evil.
28. Entry to the city is exclusive.
29. Outside the city represents hell and the reality of living in eternity there.
30. Jesus signs off on the message brought to John by the Angel, He says 'it is me, John'.
31. 'The root of David' is the fulfilling of the prophecies regarding David's son reigning forever.
32. The 'bright morning star' is found in the letter from Peter, when Christ comes to reign in our hearts.
33. The Spirit is the Holy Spirit, who has brought the Church - the bride, into a spotless perfection of holiness.
34. 'The one who hears', is the responder to the gospel.
35. 'The thirsty', are they who have drank from the truth of Gods promised provision and been satisfied.
36. 'Without cost' mans you received all of Gods blessings freely by the Grace He provided.
37. There is a warning to any who would think they can deceive God and sabotage Gods provision.
38. There is a danger for those who are deceivers that they could lose their eternal inheritance.
39. God signs off this letter with what will bring all who trust in Jesus for salvation – Grace.