



The Revelation of Jesus Christ

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Chapter 22

- **Then 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 bond-servants 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 illumine them; and they will reign forever and ever.**

Chapter 22

- **Chapter 22 begins where chapter 21 left off – where John was touring the heavenly city, New Jerusalem.**
- **Now John sees a river consisting of “the water of life”. This is not the first time in the bible that water and eternal life are associated.**
- **John 4:13 Jesus answered and said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again; 14 but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life.”**

Chapter 22

- **When we think of a river of something we generally think of an ample supply of the substance. (a river of the water of life)**
- **This water is “clear as crystal” and is flowing from the throne of God.**
- **“The ‘water of life’ referred to here does not have to be considered physical water as we know it. Rather, the water flowing from the throne is probably symbolic of the water of eternal life, crystal clear to reflect the glory of God in a dazzling, never-ending stream. The fact that the stream emanates from the throne tells us that eternal life flows from God to His people.” From gotquestions.org**

Chapter 22

- **Isaiah 12:1** In that day you will say: “I will praise you, Lord. Although you were angry with me, your anger has turned away and you have comforted me. 2 Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The Lord, the Lord himself, is my strength and my defense he has become my salvation.” 3 *With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.*
- **Jeremiah 2:13** “My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, *the spring of living water*, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water.
- **John 7:38** Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, *rivers of living water will flow from within them.*

Chapter 22

- **Street or streets in heaven?**
- **NASB Rev 22:2 2 in the middle of its street.**
- **NIV Rev 22:2 down the middle of the great street of the city.**
- **NLT Rev 22:2 2 It flowed down the center of the main street.**
- **NKJV Rev 22:2 In the middle of its street,**
- **Words matter, and when I am in doubt I generally go with the majority of the translators. 😊**

Chapter 22

- **Isaiah 55:1 “Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost.”**
- **2 On either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month.**
- **And in addition to the river of the water of life we have the tree of life – it is said to be on either side of the river and it bears 12 kinds of fruit.**

Chapter 22

- **Some theologians believe the tree and the 12 kinds of fruit are both literal and figurative.**
- **Literal in the sense that they exist, and figurative in the sense that they point us to the variety of pleasures God has in store for His children.**
- **A tree that produces 12 kinds of fruit in unheard of today, but if you recall from chapter 21, God stated, “behold I am making all things new”.**

Chapter 22

- And then we have to deal with this phrase, “yielding its fruit every month”. This raises the question of “time” in eternity.
- Will there be time in heaven? Eph 2:7 so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.
- There is a line in “When the Roll is Called Up Yonder” that says, “when time shall be no more” – The usual rationale for this argument is that we will be in eternity where there is no time, but why can’t one be in eternity and still have time?

Chapter 22

- “and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. “
- Healing? Why would there be a need for healing? Answer, there will be no need for healing as we think of it now.
- The Greek word for healing in this verse is “therapeian” – we get our word therapy from the same word.
- Perhaps a better way to translate the phrase would be, “and the leaves of the tree were to give energy and abundant life to the nations”.

Chapter 22

- **Rev 22:2 “On either side of the river was the tree of life” - When was the last time we would have run into the “Tree of Life” in the bible?**
- **Gen 3:22 Then the Lord God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil; and now, he might stretch out his hand, and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever” —**
- **The tree did not dissolve or go away, but God preserved it in a supernatural way until He could reveal it once again.**

Chapter 22

- **Next, let's take these three phrases together – “There will no longer be any curse”, “His bond-servants will serve Him”, “they will reign forever and ever.”**
- **So what will we do in heaven?**
- **The eternal change begins with the removal of the curse on humans and on the earth. Both have now been recreated by giving the children of God new bodies, and by recreating the earth and the heavens.**

Chapter 22

- **Bear in mind that by this point we went through the rapture, then waited with Jesus through the tribulation.**
- **Then we came back with Him to rule and reign with Him in the Millennial Kingdom for 1,000 years.**
- **But even in the Millennial Kingdom, the curse pronounced in Genesis was still with us – we will have seen it in the plants, animals, and waters – we will have seen it in the natural people of the Kingdom – sin was still having an impeding effect.**

Chapter 22

- **It will not be until Rev 22 that we will experience life without sin, and a world without sin.**
- **Job 14:1 “How frail is humanity! How short is life, how full of trouble!”**
- **Because of sin we have struggles in our relationship with God, in our relationships with people, and even our view of ourselves – and no matter how smooth our lives are at times, we are generally messed up.**

Chapter 22

- **And then we read, “His bond-servants will serve Him” – before the fall of man, Adam and Eve were placed in the garden and were responsible to care for it. (work in it)**
- **When God redeems the human race, He will once again assign us “work” to do – we will have work to do that will be serving Him and His purposes.**
- **We are called “bond-servants” – from gotquestions.org “Being a bondservant of Christ is not drudgery. His “burden is light” (Matthew 11:30). Also, we have this promise: “Now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life”.**

Chapter 22

- **We were created in the image of God and we are then by nature creative and have a desire to produce things – creative and productive would be a good way to describe God’s intentions for us.**
- **So in Rev 22 we are freed completely from the curse of sin, and we have been given orders to serve God, and we are also instructed to “reign forever and ever”.**
- **Reign? Over who, over what? – Luke 19:17 And he said to him, ‘Well done, good slave, because you have been faithful in a very little thing, you are to be in authority over ten cities.’ (not just words with no meaning)**

Chapter 22

- **Remember how at the Great White Throne the unsaved were judged out of the books of their deeds, and sentenced accordingly.**
- **Remember how we discussed the unevenness of their rewards – and that there will be degrees of punishment in the lake of fire?**
- **Well, there is also reason to believe there will be degrees of reward in heaven. And, just as there will be no good spots in the lake of fire, there will be no bad spots in heaven, but there will be different spots in both.**

Chapter 22

- **I believe there are reasons to believe that what we do in this life, whether saved or lost, matters in eternity.**
- **The sins of the believer are forgiven, but a just God may be obligated to reward His more faithful servants with more significant rewards.**
- **1st Cor 3:11-15 For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man builds upon the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it, because it is to be revealed with fire; and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. If any man's work which he has built upon it remains, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work is burned up, he shall suffer loss; but he himself shall be saved, yet so as through fire.**

Chapter 22

- The other side of any discussion of unequal rewards is the concept that comes from the parable of the “laborers and the vineyard”.
- Some worked longer, but all received the same reward – I would counter that with “you can have the same salvation and eternal life, without having the same benefits in eternity”.
- Matt 6: 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; 21 for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Chapter 22

- **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 to His bond-servants the things which must soon take place. 7 “And behold, I am coming quickly. Blessed is he who heeds 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, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed me these things. 9 But he said to me, “Do not do that. I am a fellow servant of yours and of your brethren the prophets and of those who heed the words of this book. Worship God.”**

Chapter 22

- **A theme emerges starting in verse #7 when Jesus says, “behold, I am coming quickly”. In fact, Jesus says the exact same phrase three times in 14 verses.**
- **So when you see repetition in the bible, we should always pay attention because it probably has great importance.**
- **This would be like the difference between telling a small child to be careful not to trip over their toys and telling them to be extra careful when crossing the street – so as a parent you would probably repeat that “street warning” a few times.**

Chapter 22

- **But this isn't a warning, it is a promise, "I am coming quickly".**
- **"imminence" speaks of something being certain, with degree of uncertainty. – We know Jesus could come at any moment, but we do not know the hour.**
- **Luke 12:39 "But be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have allowed his house to be broken into. 40 You too, be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour that you do not expect."**

Chapter 22

- **Any thoughtful reading of the New Testament will give you the sense that the early church thought that Jesus' return was the next event they should watch for.**
- **Phil 4: 5 Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near.**
- **1st Cor 1:7 7 so that you are not lacking in any gift, awaiting eagerly the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **James 5:8 "You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand."**

Chapter 22

- To argue for “imminence” is to argue for a pre-tribulational rapture.
- There are patterns – before God judged the world in the flood, the righteous are safely in the ark and shielded from the destruction. Noah and his family (apparently the only believers in the world) are removed, then the judgment falls. Same is true at Sodom and Gomorrah, believers removed, judgment falls.
- 1st Thes 5:9 “For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ” – the context is the “day of the Lord”, sometimes known as the day of His wrath.

Chapter 22

- **Titus 2:11** “For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, **12** teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, **13** looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,” – we are to be looking for His return, not for signs, or any other event.
- There are numerous exhortations in the scripture to be alert and watch for His return – if he cannot return until something else happens, the tribulation for example, why would I watch now?
- Subjectively, a pre-trib rapture and the chaos that would follow also helps to explain why the world would be so eager to follow the Anti-Christ.

Chapter 22

- So as we come back to Rev chapter #22 and look at the words of Jesus, it is clear that He wants us to pay special attention to this notion that He is coming quickly because He says it 3 times.
- 1st John 3: 2 Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. 3 And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.
- I would suggest that “this hope” in 1st John is the same as the “blessed hope” that Titus wrote about.

Chapter 22

- **John's point in 1st John 3 is that If we believe that Jesus could come back at any time, it should have an impact on our lives, particularly with regard to the pursuit of holiness.**
- **Jesus spoke of 10 virgins and only 5 were ready for His coming – and Peter tells us that in the latter days people will mock the idea that we believe Jesus is coming back.**
- **2nd Peter 3:3 Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts, and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation.”**

Chapter 22

- **When Jesus tells us three times in the last chapter of the bible that He is coming quickly I am thinking we should pay attention.**
- **We should live each day as though He could come today, because He could.**
- **Matt 24:42-44 "Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming. "But be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what time of the night the thief was coming, he would have been on the alert and would not have allowed his house to be broken into. "For this reason you also must be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will.**

Chapter 22

- 7 “And behold, I am coming quickly. Blessed is he who heeds the words of the prophecy of this book.”
- If you recall, we read something like this when we started this study in chapter #1 - 3 Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near.
- Would you agree that The Revelation of Jesus Christ is rather important?

Chapter 22

- **And yet, I'll bet you can't name the last 2 times you sat in a church service and heard preaching from this book?**
- **Last year, Dr. Youseff and Dr. Jeremiah both were preaching from this book, but their series lasted but a few weeks.**
- **A theory – the book is so complex that the average Christian will not sit through 15 months of it like you have.**

Chapter 22

- **8 I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed me these things. 9 But he said to me, “Do not do that. I am a fellow servant of yours and of your brethren the prophets and of those who heed the words of this book. Worship God.”**
- **John is so overwhelmed by what he has seen and heard that all he can think do is worship and he is so quick to do so that he begins to worship the angel who was showing him these things.**

Chapter 22

- **Mark it down, when God is revealed the only rationale response is to worship Him.**
- **John 4: 22 You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. 23 But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. 24 God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”**

Questions