

**>>>>>> Lesson 32 <<<<<<<**

- 1) Moving to the final chapter 22 of this prophesy, we see the angel continuing to show John the marvels and wonders of the new heaven.
- 2) These descriptions take us back to the original garden of Eden before sin entered and the fall occurred.
- 3) Here, we have it as it was intended.
- 4) The big thing that is missing is Satan and his temptations.
- 5) We will no longer need to deal with that.

**Rev 22:1-5 (NIV)**

- 1) John is now shown what he calls the “river of the water of life.”
- 2) This is of course, not water as we know it.
- 3) Instead, it is a symbol that represents eternal life.
- 4) And, equally obvious, its source is the throne of God and Christ.
- 5) The phrase in the middle of its street is best translated "in the middle of its path" and connected with the following phrase on either side of the river was the tree of life.
- 6) The tree of life is the celestial counterpart to the tree of life in Eden.
- 7) We read in >>>>>

**Gen 2:9 (NIV)**

- 8) The tree of life was a familiar Jewish concept that expressed blessing, and the celestial tree as with the river of life symbolizes the blessing of eternal life.
- 9) That the tree bears twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month emphasizes the infinite variety that will fill heaven.
- 10) Then John makes the intriguing observation that the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.
  - a) At first glance, this seems confusing, since obviously there will be no illness or injury in heaven.
  - b) Though one of the meanings of Greek word for healing used here is healing, its primary meaning is service care, serving, and attendance.
  - c) MacArthur comments:

“Perhaps a better way to translate it would be "life-giving," "health-giving," or "therapeutic." The leaves of the tree can be likened to supernatural vitamins, since vitamins are taken not to treat illness, but to promote general health. Life in heaven will be fully energized, rich, and exciting.”

- d) I’m not sure I agree with all that completely but, the point here is that the leaves of this tree are not for healing but for other purposes that will be clear to us when we are there and we see it.

## ***Revelation – NOTES – 2021***

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- e) Instead, it may actually have a relation to the comment the writer makes:

The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. 4 They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.

- f) We are now and will continue to be throughout eternity, the grateful and willing servants of our God because he loves us, and we love him and ideally desire to please him in every way possible.

11) John points out also that there will no longer be any curse – death will be no more.

12) He tells us again that there will be no night there – no longer a need for light because God will illuminate everything.

- a) This is one of those concepts that is hard to grasp and frankly, I really don't know exactly how it will take place, but I do know that it will be that way.

- b) Some commentators have suggested that everything in heaven will be translucent

- c) Recall, that in verse 21 of the last chapter, John describes the main street of heaven as:

“The great street of the city was of pure gold, like transparent glass.”

- d) For me, it is hard to image transparent gold.

13) It occurs to me that this may be another way of stating simply that nothing will be hidden.

- a) There will be no more sin – nothing to hide.
- b) Our knowledge of God will be as complete as we will ever need.
- c) No legitimate question will be left unanswered.

14) The final statement here at the end of vs. 5 is “And they will reign for ever and ever.”

15) Paul tells us this in his second letter to Timothy

**2 Tim 2:12 (NIV)**

“if we endure, we will also reign with him.”

**Rev 22:6-7 (NIV)**

1) John is now transported back to we assume a non-vision state and is hearing the concluding words of the last angel guide is has had.

2) As we read this passage and the next, we need to pay close attention to a theme that seems to be prevalent in this conclusion.

- a) That theme is that the words of this prophesy are not to be messed with.

3) The angel begins his final remarks with:

"These words are trustworthy and true. The Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, sent his angel to show his servants the things that must soon take place."

## ***Revelation – NOTES – 2021***

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- a) Simply put, God is responsible for showing John what he is to have written here and they are exactly what “must soon take place.”
- 4) Next, the speaker obviously changes and becomes Jesus himself rather than the angel – he says:  
"Behold, I am coming soon! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy in this book."
- 5) This is a promise of a blessing for all who keep the words of this prophesy.
  - a) Keeping the words here I think we must assume implies both believing and obeying.
- 6) Next, John speaks and describes what he is doing.

### **Rev 22:8-11 (NIV)**

- 1) John clearly states for a final time that he is the writer of this record of his visions.
- 2) He is in awe of what he has seen and recorded and attempts to worship the angel that was talking to him at this point.
- 3) The angel refuses his misplaced worship and rightly so.
- 4) He immediately shifts the worship attempt back to the rightful entity – “Worship God!”
- 5) The angle also reminds John of his own place in God’s grand scheme – he is a fellow servant.
  - a) He (and all angels) was actually John’s created fellow servant, and not only his, but also of his brethren the prophets, and of all believers who are defined here as those who heed the words of this book
- 6) The angel then makes a bookend statement:  
"Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, because the time is near"
- 7) I call it a bookend because, it mirrors Jesus’ words to John in Rev 1:1  
"Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea."
- 8) The message of Revelation that Jesus will return bringing blessing for His own and horrifying judgment on the ungodly, is too critical not to spread.
- 9) As I have stated numerous times throughout this study, there are many ways to look at this book.
  - a) However, I have become more and more convinced that one must be careful in its study.
  - b) MacArthur makes a comment regarding the angel’s statement not to seal the words of this prophesy that I think sums up what our attitude must be in any study of this book.

“That the specific words of Revelation are not to be sealed up stresses again that there is no hidden, secret meaning apart from the normal sense of the text. If the truth is not clear in those words, then this command is nonsense. If the plain, normal

understanding of the words of Revelation does not convey the meaning God intended its readers to grasp, then those words are sealed.”

10) The angel’s next statement may seem a little odd or out of place:

Let him who does wrong continue to do wrong; let him who is vile continue to be vile; let him who does right continue to do right; and let him who is holy continue to be holy.

11) He is not saying that we should abandon the gospel and its teaching and just let mankind go ignorantly to destruction.

12) Instead, I think he is simply acknowledging that there are those who, regardless of their knowledge of God and His requirements will refuse to turn from their own selfish ways.

13) We have seen this clearly time after time in the accounts of the reactions of men to God’s wrath as set forth in this Revelation.

14) It is sobering to realize that people’s response to God’s good news and His love that made that good news possible will determine their eternal destiny.

15) As much as we would like to think otherwise, we must take God at His word and know that there are consequences for our actions or lack of response to Him.

16) However, we also know that God knows the heart of every individual and He has the final say in every case.

17) As a matter of fact, Jesus is going to tell us the same thing in the next few verses.