

# Revelation 22 Notes - August 14<sup>th</sup>

## Heaven on Earth: "I am Coming Soon"

### 1. Eden 2.0

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb <sup>2</sup> through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month.

The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

<sup>3</sup> No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. <sup>4</sup> They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.

<sup>5</sup> And night will be no more.

They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

#### a. River of Life

- **The river of life does not need 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.

- **Old Testament Prophecy: Ezekiel 47:8-10, 11-12**

This water flows toward the eastern region and goes down into the Arabah, and enters the sea; when the water flows into the sea, the water will become fresh. 9 And wherever the river goes, every living creature that swarms will live, and there will be very many fish.

For this water goes there, that the waters of the sea may become fresh; so, everything will live where the river goes. 10 Fishermen will stand beside the sea. From Engedi to Eneglaim it will be a place for the spreading of nets. Its fish will be of very many kinds, like the fish of the Great Sea

And on the banks, on both sides of the river, there will grow all kinds of trees for food. Their leaves will not wither, nor their fruit fail, but they will bear fresh fruit every month, because the water for them flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for healing

- b. **The Tree of Life:** Just as we cannot live without water, we cannot live without food. So just as there is a "river of the water of life" in 22:1, there is a "tree of life" in 22:2. There is a glorious variety in the fruit of this tree: "twelve kinds of fruit."

- **I have never seen a tree that produces twelve kinds of fruit**, nor have I seen a tree that bears fruit every month of the year (12 months). But this tree does just that, "yielding its fruit each month." And the river does not limit access to this tree because the tree is "on either side of the river." The fruit is abundant, accessible, constant, and of stunning variety.
- **The Number 12.** Twelve Fruits on same tree. Twelve Months of Harvest is most likely symbolic to indicate an excessive abundance.

- c. **The leaves for the Healing of the Nations.**

- **The nationalism, the racism**, the bitterness, and the long history of warfare will be healed. The nations will be healed by the leaves of the tree of life.
- **The redeemed of every tribe** will enjoy the crystal-clear water of life, the twelve fruits of "the tree of life," and "healing."

#### d. The Curse is Lifted

- **Disobedience resulted in God's curse** in Genesis 3. Verse 22:3 declares that God has dealt with our disobedience. The curse has fallen. God has worked a righteous cleansing in those who have believed in Jesus Christ, and disobedience will never again result in a curse.
- **This also means that never again will the fellowship between God and his people be interrupted**, as the next phrase of verse 3 makes plain: "but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it." There will be no curse in the clean and holy realm where God dwells. Rather than disobeying and bringing down curses, we read in the last phrase of 22:3, "and his servants will worship him."

#### e. How intimate will we be with God?

- **We will Worship** the One on the Throne and the Lamb
- **We Will see them Face to Face (Personal Nature)**. In antiquity to see the face of the king signified more than simply glancing up at the king when he might be riding by. The expression implied that one was granted an audience with the king, and an opportunity to present one's petition in direct personal conversation (Genesis 43:3, 5; Exodus 10:28, 29; and elsewhere).
- **Thus, to see God's face** is not only to be in God's nearer presence but also to enjoy a relationship of absolute trust and openness. This is confirmed by John's following assertion, that God's "name will be on their foreheads," signifying their preciousness to God to whom they belong.
- **The One who sits on the Throne and the Lamb that was slain will be our light**. We will never have to pray again for a sunny day.

## 2. Trustworthy and True

<sup>6</sup> And he said to me, "These words are trustworthy and true. And the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place."

<sup>7</sup> "And behold, I am coming soon. Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."

<sup>8</sup> 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 them to me, <sup>9</sup> but he said to me, "You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers the prophets, and with those who keep the words of this book. Worship God."

- Trustworthy and True.** The Bible consists of prophecies that have taken place, are taking place, and soon will take place. From the first page to the last, the Bible is trustworthy and true.
- Blessed are those who keep the prophecy of this book**, conveys that we are called to be doers of the word. Our faith should demonstrate action, especially when it comes to sharing about the coming of Jesus. We must be travel agents that provide a framework for them to invest in heaven.
- False emotional worship.**
  - A repeat offender (Revelation 19: 10).
  - John, the writer, is someone we can relate to in life. Someone who commits the same sins over and over.
  - We are more prone to sin when emotion and feelings become our driving force.

### 3. Jesus Talks

<sup>10</sup> And he said to me, “Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near.

<sup>11</sup> Let the evildoer still do evil, and the filthy still be filthy, and the righteous still do right, and the holy still be holy.”

<sup>12</sup> “Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done. <sup>13</sup> I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”

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

- a. **There are many Christians who never spend time reading Revelation.** There are many pastors who never preach on it because it is difficult. In doing so, whether they are aware or not, they are “sealing up” the prophecy of this book. The very book that states blessed are those who read this book allowed and also those who hear it (Revelation 1:3). I’m looking forward to my double blessing today as we finish this difficult but wonderful book.
- b. **There was a time when the Lord told Daniel the prophet to seal up the prophecy because the things that were shared would happen later, towards the last days.**
- **However here, the angel says just the opposite** He tells John not to seal up the words of the prophecy because the time for these end times prophecies to take place was now.
  - **Folks, we are living in the last days.** We have reached the point where we can no longer be silent. Eternity is at stake. Some folks do not care and will never change because of a hardened heart toward God. However, that should dictate the way we live our life before God. We must never compromise. We must continue to be set apart before God.
- c. **Jesus Speaks.** “I am coming soon.” Here, Jesus is NOT speaking chronologically, but is focusing on his imminent return. Everything is set in place; Jesus can return at any moment.
- **Recompense: God will compensate or payback each person according to his or her deeds.** The two great judgments of Jesus during his return will be the Great White Throne judgment, where Jesus judges’ believers and unbelievers from the books, including the Book of Life. Not a good final outcome for unbelievers.
- The second judgment, referred to in this Scripture, is reserved for believers in the New Jerusalem, and is known as the bema seat where believers will be rewarded for their service in the body. This indicates how we live our life as believers matters to God.
- **If there is confusion about whether Jesus sees himself as divine,** that question is answered in this section (12-13). We know the context refers to Jesus because he is the only one who “is coming soon.” This phrase belongs to Jesus exclusively, which connects to the reality that he is also the alpha and omega, the beginning and end.
  - **Blessed are those that wash their robes.** Blessed are those who have repented of their sins and are following Jesus. These “saints” have not only access to heaven, but also eternal life (Tree of Life). The believer has an eternal reservation in heaven. Those who are “dogs” are outside this blessing based on their choice.

## 4. Bad Math

<sup>16</sup> “I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. **I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.**”

<sup>17</sup> **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 price.

<sup>18</sup> **I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, <sup>19</sup> and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.**

<sup>20</sup> He who testifies to these things says, **“Surely I am coming soon.”**  
**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!** <sup>21</sup> The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.

a. **Jesus does speak several times in this last chapter** to get our attention. He identifies himself as the root and descendant of David, which conveys the fact that he is the promised Messiah.

b. **Living your Faith with expectancy.**

- **The Spirit of the Bride says, come!** The One who hears these words says, come
- **The Book of Revelation covers many areas**, including the problems in the churches, the lamb that was slain. What is going on in heaven. The sealing of the saints. The mark of the beast. The various judgments (Seals, Trumpets, Bowls), the martyred saints, etc.
- **However, the main theme of the Book of Revelation is the Return of Christ.** His second coming. As a result, we must have an expectant faith. One that recognizes that we must live out life as though Jesus can come any moment.

c. **The first time I took algebra in college**, I flunked it because I skipped pre-algebra and all the hard math classes in high school.

- **There was NO way I could be successful.** Later, I took a math lab that was geared toward an independent study, which included videos and on onsite tutor. From that point forward I received A plusses in college math.

**As I really began to focus on the different levels of algebra**, I had to recheck my work several times to make sure I added correctly when it come to positives and minuses. You see, if I added or subtracted incorrectly the mixed numbers, I would get the entire problem wrong.

- **In a similar way, the author issues a math warning.** If you add or subtract from this book incorrectly, you get the problem wrong. You also get bad consequences. For those who add incorrectly to the book, the Lord will “add” to that person the plagues described in this book.

**For those who subtract incorrectly**, God will minus their share in the tree of life. That’s why when I teach Revelation, I don’t try to add world events and political figures to intensify this book; instead, I do my best to focus on Old Testament teachings and understanding that apocalyptic genre is meant to be understood symbolically.

d. **Come Lord Jesus.** This is for the cry of the saint that has experienced difficulty in life. This plea is for the persecuted who never not compromised God’s values. This hope is for the saint that who has been martyred.

We say, “Come Lord Jesus.” Jesus responds. “I am coming soon!” We serve a God that says, “Hold on” be faithful. I am coming soon. Can everyone say hallelujah?