

## CHAPTER 22

Verses 1-5 continue, uninterrupted, the vision from Chap 21.

*1 And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.*

*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.*

Q: Where is the first reference to the *tree of life* in the Bible? [Genesis Chap 2]

*3 And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him:*

*4 And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads.*

*5 And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.*

Here ends the vision that John both saw and heard.

The concluding verses are final exhortations (containing both promises and warnings) from both this angel and from Jesus himself, and not only to St. John, but to whomever reads these prophecies, for what is revealed here is not to be sealed (kept hidden).

*6 And he said unto me, These sayings are faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to show unto his servants the things which must shortly be done.*

*7 Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.*

*8 And I John saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which showed me these things.*

*9 Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellow servant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God.*

*10 And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand.*

*11 He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.*

*12 And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.*

*13 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.*

*14 Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.*

*15 For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.*

16 I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.

17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

18 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:

19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

20 He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

21 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

Let's look briefly at those who are banished to the lake of fire (the 2<sup>nd</sup> death, described at the Great White Throne Judgement), and thereafter, those who are (merely) excluded from the Holy City (the new Jerusalem), implying, at least, that there are still people outside of God's kingdom who are alive on the new earth, but who are not found in the Book of Life: How is this scenario possible?

First, these folks could represent people who are in the Book of Life, however, were not holy enough to be able to come within the gates of the Holy City: They had, 'barely made it,' as it were; The second, and more consistent scenario, though, is that these people are the offspring of those who were not dead at the time of the Great White Throne Judgement (a judgement solely for the dead): They (or their forefathers) had been alive on the earth at this time, and therefore, were not actually included in this judgement, but were living under a new 'dispensational' or covenantal agreement between God and humankind. They will apparently still be having offspring, and additionally, nations will continue to exist, as stated in Rev 21:24, 26, and 22:2.

This is all extraordinarily fascinating, as the text as written is, at heart, quite contrary to what most of our preconceptions are, and to what many Christian churches actually teach and believe.

Below is a chart detailing how these sinners and their misdeeds are represented.

Rev 21:8 (Lake of Fire) "The second death."	Rev 21:27 (cannot enter the Holy City)	Rev 22:15 'outside' [the Holy city]
fearful		
unbelieving		
abominable	workers of abomination	
		dogs ['hounds:' fig., lit.]
sorcerers		sorcerers
whoremongers		whoremongers
murderers		murderers
idolators		idolators
liars	anyone who lies	liars
	whatever defiles	

## ~ Concluding thoughts ~

We have now reached the final chapter in the Book of Revelation, and, as well, the last verses in the canon of Holy Scripture, and the message revealed here could not be any clearer or more compelling, for Jesus once again speaks in his commanding but still tender voice and revisits the story of redemption - a love story written in his own blood, shed on Calvary's cross to pay for the sins of humankind, and here stated simply as, *'whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.'*

This last testament is given as a final promise and personal invitation to each of us by him who is the Lord Jesus:

Y'shuah, meaning 'Yahweh is salvation,' the Christ, the Anointed One, the Messiah,  
*The Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world* [a]

*The Son of God* [b]

The Word of God, the 'logos' - thus, the meaning and purpose behind everything [c]  
God in flesh among us, *'in him dwelling all the fulness of the Godhead bodily'* [d]

The one present when the spirit moved over the face of the deep in the first chapter of Genesis - calling the worlds, and us, into existence [e]

And the voice of him, who, over the generations, spoke through the prophets, calling his fallen children to repentance

And then, in the fulness of time, [f] was born as a baby in Bethlehem's manger [g]

Taking on himself our human form, a body which soon was brutalized, and beaten beyond recognition, and broken for us [h]

But whose voice still beckons and cries out to us throughout the ages, even to this very day, and says to each and every living soul without hesitation:

*Come unto me!*<sup>1</sup>

This gift of new life is still available - an open invitation to everyone who is thirsty, to come and take the water of life freely.

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### 1 Scripture notations:

- a. John Chap 1
- b. Revelation Chap 2
- c. John Chap 1
- d. Colossians Chap 2
- e. Genesis Chap 1
- f. Galatians Chap 4
- g. Luke Chap 2
- h. I Corinthians Chap 11

The same John, St. John - the fisherman and the Apostle, the 'Revelator' and our narrator, and the one who knew Jesus as well as any mortal man ever did - records in his Gospel, John 1:12:

*To them [his believers] gave he [Jesus] the power to become the children of God; even to those who believe on his name. [KJV]*

This is the good news of Jesus Christ.

Therefore, believe the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and take the water of life!

And don't hesitate, for he is coming soon.

Truly, the one who is testifying to these things [Jesus, himself] says,

*'Yes, I am coming soon!'* [CJB]

*Amen! Even so, come Lord Jesus.*