

Revelation 22:1-9 "Face to Face"

JOHN IS SAYING THAT THE WHOLE WORLD IS GOING TO BECOME THE HOLY OF HOLIES THE PLACE WHERE GOD DWELLS.

21 The twelve gates were twelve pearls: each individual gate was of one pearl. **That's a bunch of massive oysters that coughed out those pearls.** Such gates would be priceless, and beautiful, and in this holy city they are safe from vandalism and theft.

Verse 21 continues... And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.

23 The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb *is* its light. **Light speaks of joy, for in the Scriptures light and joy go together. Light speaks of beauty, because without light there is no beauty. Light speaks of knowledge and in heaven we will all know Him as He knows us. The treasure in the new heaven and new earth is God. HEAVEN WITHOUT JESUS AND THE FATHER WOULD BE NOTHING LESS THAN A GOLD-PLATED HELL. JESUS AND THE FATHER ARE HEAVEN. AND THAT IS NO LESS TRUE NOW THAN IT WILL BE THEN.**

Romans 8:38 *For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

The best thing about your life then is the best thing about your life now. GOD... No one can take God's love from you!

Let's pray...

God help us to know YOU as the best part of our life NOW! YOU ARE! Jesus help us feel it, know it and live like it. Oh, Jesus that you might transform us with the truth that you are the best thing about our life now and the life to come. Thank you for your words in John 17:3 "This is eternal life, that we may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ to whom you have sent".

Let us stand together as we give honor to God's word... join with me as we read chapter **22 verses 1-9** And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. **2** In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each *tree* yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree *were* for the healing of the nations. **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** They shall see His face, and His name *shall be* on their foreheads.

5 There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever. **6** Then he said to me, "These words *are* faithful and true." And the Lord God of the holy prophets sent His angel to show His servants the things which must shortly take place. **7** "Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed *is* he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book." **8** Now I, John, saw and heard these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who showed me these things. **9** Then he said to me, "See *that you do not do that*. For I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God."

The street of Gold... Pavement in heaven is GOLD! In chapter 22 John takes us cruising down the main drag in the New Jerusalem...

The street leads to the throne of God. Beside the street flows a crystal river. Growing out of the center line of the golden street, and over-arching the river is the tree of life. Its fruit is never out of season. **THERE'S HEALING IN ITS LEAVES.**

Remember, when Adam and Eve sinned, God closed off access to the Garden of Eden, and the tree of life. He dispatched an angel to guard its entrance. If man had eaten of the tree of life in a fallen state, he would have lived forever separated from God. Now that he's been redeemed, he can eat again of the forever fruit!

Jesus meets all our needs... Who we are? Why are we here? Where are we going when we die? We know how things turn out... what the future holds!

REVELATION 22:1-9 DECLARES THAT GOD IS GOING TO KEEP HIS WORD AND RETURN THOSE WHO TRUST HIM TO A NEW AND BETTER GARDEN OF EDEN.

We saw the temple-city descend from God, full of his glory, in 21:9-27, and now in 22:1-9 we will see that the temple-city is a new and better Eden. God will heal every hurt, and those who trust him will see his face. They will enjoy his presence. After this passage the book closes in 22:10-21.

22 And he showed me a pure river of water of life, Through the Old Testament, prophets used the picture of a river as a powerful expression of richness, provision, and peace ([Isaiah 48:18](#), [Zechariah 14:8](#), [Ezekiel 47:1-9](#)).

This matches the river that "flowed out of Eden to water the garden" in Genesis 2:10.

Poole says that the point of this river is "To let us know, that in heaven there shall be no want of anything that can make the saints happy."

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

THIS RIVER OF PROVISION COMES RIGHT FROM GOD'S THRONE. BECAUSE IT COMES FROM GOD, IT CANNOT BE ANYTHING OTHER THAN PURE AND ABUNDANT.

Now... Verse 2 continues by moving from “water of life” to “the tree of life.”

We read in Ezekiel 47:12, “And on the banks, on both sides of the river, there will grow all kinds of trees for food.”

2 In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, **This is how John Walvoord sees it: "The visual picture presented is that the river of life flows down through the middle of the city, and the tree is large enough to span the river, so that the river is in the midst of the street, and the tree is on both sides of the river."** which bore twelve fruits, each *tree* yielding its fruit every month.

Some people wonder if we will eat in heaven. The best answer is that we can eat, but will not have to. In His resurrection body, Jesus enjoyed food ([Luke 24:41-43](#), [John 21:12-14](#)). Angels ate with Abraham ([Genesis 18:6-8](#)). The great heavenly "reunion" between Jesus and His people is described as a marriage supper ([Revelation 19:9](#)). Even though man fell by what he ate, God will still allow us to eat in heaven.

The leaves of the tree *were* for the healing of the nations. **Walvoord "The word for 'healing' is *therapeian*, from which the English word *therapeutic* is derived, almost directly transliterated from the Greek. Rather than meaning 'healing,' it should be understood as 'health-giving,' as the word in its root meaning has the idea of serving or ministering."**

Genesis	Revelation	Ways the New Garden is Better
Genesis 2:10: “A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden”	Revelation 22:1: “the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb”	Living water “Bright as crystal” “Flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb”
Genesis 2:9: “The tree of life was in the midst of the garden”	Revelation 22:2: “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”	The tree is on both sides of the river “Twelve kinds of fruit”(Ezekiel 47:12) Continual production “Healing”

3 And there shall be no more curse,

1. sorrow and pain in childbirth for women,
2. friction between the sexes,
3. the necessity of hard and often futile work for man's sustenance,
4. and most of all *death*.

Remember verse 4 of chapter 20... And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying.

Presence of God with the absence of grief! Beautiful!

There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”

Randy Alcorn... *What Won't Be in Heaven?*

No death, no suffering, abortion clinics, or psychiatric wards. No rape, missing children, or drug rehabilitation centers. No bigotry, no muggings or killings. **NO WORRY OR DEPRESSION** or economic downturns. No wars, no unemployment. No anguish over failure and

miscommunication. No mourning. No pain. No boredom. No arthritis, **no anxiety** no handicaps, ~~No suicide~~, no taxes, no bills, no computer crashes, no weeds, no bombs, no drunkenness, no traffic jams and accidents, no septic-tank backups. No mental illness. **No unwanted e-mails.** Close friendships but no cliques, laughter but no putdowns. Intimacy, but no temptation to immorality. No hidden agendas, no backroom deals, no betrayals.

No more undertakers and gravediggers! **There'll be no cemeteries on the new earth! Death is dead!**

I long for a home like that!

Again verse 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. *Heaven will be a place of work and service for God's people. However, this is a picture of the pure blessedness of service rather than arduous, curse-stained toil.* 4 They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. *God created people to know him, and when his purposes come to fruition, we who trust Christ will indeed know him.*

The highlight of heaven, “They (We; you and I) shall see His face...” Moses asked to see the glory of God, and was granted his request. But God put limits on the privilege. In Exodus 33:20-23 He warned Moses, “You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live...” God knew mortal flesh

would never survive His glory, so he shielded Moses' eyes, and showed him only His backside. But one day all that will change. Paul promises us in 1 Corinthians 13:12, *"For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face."* We'll see God face to face!

In that day there will be nothing that obscures our vision of Jesus:

- We see Jesus clearly because sin is done away with
- We see Jesus clearly because care and worry are done away with
- We see Jesus clearly because idols are done away with

Spurgeon "By which I understand two things: first, that they shall literally and physically, with their risen bodies, actually look into the face of Jesus; and secondly, that spiritually their mental faculties shall be enlarged, so that they shall be enabled to look into the very heart, and soul, and character of Christ, so as to understand him, his work, his love, his all in all, as they never understood him before."

I'm not a fan of tattoos... never have been but verse 4 describes the one tattoo I won't mind getting... *"and His name shall be on their foreheads."* In the end the Lord will mark His children as His own.

5 There shall be no night there: **The light is not artificial, even from the sun - God Himself is the light.** They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.

The statement that "the Lord God will be their light" in 22:5, hard on the heels of the statement that "they will see his face" in 22:4, means that no place will ever lack the light of God's glorious presence.

ERDMAN "AS THE BIBLE OPENS WITH THE STORY OF PARADISE LOST SO IT HERE CLOSSES WITH THE STORY OF PARADISE REGAINED."

We see the return of Paradise in the

1. Idea of a river,
2. A tree of life,
3. Revocation of the curse,
4. Intimacy restored,
5. and reigning resumed.

What could be better than reigning by serving, worshiping by living out the character of God himself?

I know John it all sounds too good to be true! Verse 6 Then he said to me, “These words *are* faithful and true.” **THE LORD IS TALKING ABOUT REALITY. HEAVEN IS MORE THAN A DESTINATION IT IS A MOTIVATION!**

Continuing verse 6... And the Lord God of the holy prophets sent His angel to show His servants the things which must shortly take place. **7** “Behold, I am coming quickly!

"The word 'quickly' might with accuracy be rendered 'suddenly.'"

Still, the early church expected Jesus' return *soon* - were they just wrong, or did Jesus mislead them? Not at all; they were not wrong and they were not misled by Jesus. God *wants* to keep all generations expectant, watching, and ready for His return.

Blessed *is* he who **KEEPS** the words of the prophecy of this book.”

The blessing that Jesus speaks of here in verse 7. (on those who “keep the word of the prophecy of this book”) also points back to the book’s opening Chapter 1 verse 3... **“Blessed *is* he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time *is* near.”**

The main intent of prophecy is to lead us to trust and obey God, and apply His truth to the way we *live*.

8 Now I, John, saw and heard these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who showed me these things. **As he did in Revelation 19:10, John is overwhelmed, and bows before an angel in worship. In the same way, the angel reminds John that only God is to be worshipped, and that they are both "players" on the same "team" - along with all who **keep the words of this book.****

9 Then he said to me, “See *that you do not do that*. For I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God.” **No created being should ever be worshipped. This is in contrast with Jesus, who receives the worship of angels (Hebrews 1:6) and of men (Matthew 8:2, 14:33, John 9:38).**

Poem by ~ James M. Hamilton, Jr.

This the book that tells the story
Of the Lord and all his glory
The world’s Creator, strong and free
Ever One, ever Three.

He made the world and made it good
His image placed in Eden’s wood

Rebellion there wrought sin and death
Loss of life, end of breath

But when the Lord there cursed the snake
A solemn promise he did make
The woman's seed would crush his head
On evil he would tread

From Eden then there was exile
Because God's presence they defiled
And in the story of this book
We read of all it took

To raise man up and set him free
In God's presence again to be
God's mercy here is on display
And so to you I say

Behold the book of hope and life
It sings of Christ and how through strife
He did indeed on evil tread
Dying, he crushed Satan's head

Then rose again to justify
All those who on him do rely
For he alone this work can do
He alone can save you
And so this book to you I give
Hoping and praying you will live
By faith in promises made here
Trust replacing all your fear

So take this book, my friend, and read
Its pages will meet every need
And we will sing the praise of Christ
Who by his death gives life.