

# APOCALYPSE: The City of God” Pt.2

## Revelation 22:1-5

Pastor Jason Dennett's Notes

**NKJV** - “And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. 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. 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. They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. 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.”

I. The **RIVER** throughout God's City. (v.1)

II. The **TREE** within God's City. (v.2)

III. The **PEOPLE** of God's City. (v.3-5)

I. **The RIVER throughout God's City.** (v.1) - “And he showed me a **pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb.**”

- Based on this description and other verses in Scripture, many Bible teachers believe that this paradise of New Jerusalem will resemble a kind of “Garden City” as you enter its gates and behold your surroundings.
- “..a **pure river of water of life, clear as crystal.**” - This will be a real, literal river, clear as crystal that flows throughout the City of New Jerusalem. It will likely create an atmosphere of **peace, tranquility, and refreshment** for all those who are near it. However, this is no ordinary river. Rather, it's a “**River of Life**” which is sure to have unique properties that will refresh and revitalize all who bask in its crystal clear waters!
- Through the Old Testament, prophets **SYMBOLICALLY** used the picture of a river as a powerful expression of richness, provision, and peace (*Isa 48:18*). But there are many places that speak of the **LITERAL** river of life, mentioned by John:
  - **Zech 14:8-9** - “..in that day it shall be— that **living waters shall flow from Jerusalem**, half of them toward the eastern sea and half of them toward the western sea; In both summer and winter it shall occur. And the Lord shall be King over all the earth.”
  - **Ps 46:4**: “There is **a river** whose **streams shall make glad the city of God**, the holy place of the tabernacle of the Most High.”
    - “One of the gladdest things on earth is water. There is nothing in all the world so precious to the eye and the imagination of the inhabitant of the dry, burning and thirsty East, as a plentiful supply of bright, pure, and living water.” - **Seiss**
  - - “To let us know, that in heaven there shall be no want of any thing that can make the saints happy.” - **Poole**

- **“..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, abundant, refreshing and invigorating.
  - **John 7:37 NKJV** - “On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If **anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink**. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.” But **this He spoke concerning the Spirit**, whom those believing in Him would receive..”

## **II. The TREE within God’s City.** (v.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.”**

- **“..was the tree of life..”** - John depicts a special Tree that will find its ultimate resting place within the walls of this Garden City: **the Tree of Life!** This infamous tree was first mentioned in the Garden of Eden, when the Lord commanded that sinful man couldn’t be allowed to eat from it.
- **Many Bible teachers believe that if Adam had done so**, humans would have going on *living forever, in sinful decaying bodies, as immortals*. It was an act of pure mercy, that the Lord ejected Adam and Eve from the Garden before this could happen! (Gen 3:22-24)
  - **The history of mankind hangs upon 3 trees:**
    - **The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil**, was the place where salvation was sort of lost for man, where the reins went back to Satan, where man sinned and that tree took away man’s spiritual life.
    - **The Tree of Life**, was kept from man lest he live forever in his sin.
    - **The Tree of the Cross**, was the tree that brought us back to life and now, in the end, in the Eternal Heavens, there is the Tree of Life restored.
- **However, here we see that the Tree of Life is “transplanted”** and moved into the New Jerusalem, to be *enjoyed by all of glorified humanity*, for all time! Incredibly, even though Adam and Eve weren’t allowed to eat from this Tree, **you’ll be able to see it, touch it, and be nourished by it**, in the Heavenly Paradise of New Jerusalem!
  - **Rev 2:7 NKJV** - “To him who overcomes **I will give to eat from the tree of life**, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.”
- **“..which bore twelve fruits..each tree yielding its fruit every month.”** - John paints a colorful picture of this Tree by describing *the kind of fruit that will grow on it for the people of New Jerusalem*. Imagine how delicious and wonderful the fruit will taste from a Tree that grows in the Heavenly City, is nourished by the River of Life, and was created by the hand of God Himself! It will be the most delicious fruit ever tasted by man, to be sure!
- **This Tree will grow 12 different kinds of fruits, a different one for each month of the year.** Not only will this be the most delicious fruit ever grown, but it will be a different kind every month. Just imagine, one month it might be *mouthwatering mangos; the next month succulent strawberries; the next month heavenly apples*... it will be delightful and delicious! The menu will quite literally be **“out of this world!”**

- *“Like the golden table of showbread which ever stood in the ancient Tabernacle and Temple for the priests to eat, so the Tree of Life stands in all the golden streets of the New Jerusalem, with its monthly fruit for the immortal king-priests of heaven.” - Seiss*
- **“The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.”** - Notice that John tells us the leaves of the Tree will be therapeutic in nature. The word for **“healing”** that is used is the Greek word **“therapeia”** from which we derive the English word **“therapy”**. It’s a word that speaks of healing and medicinal benefit.
- Although there will be no sickness in the Eternal Heavens, the leaves of this Tree will aid us in a therapeutic sense by strengthening, revitalizing, and physically empowering our glorified resurrection bodies, to an even greater degree!

### III. The **PEOPLE** of God’s City. (v.3-5) - **“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. They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. 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.”**

#### **1 - God's People will be BLESSED!**

- **“..shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it.”** - A final question that arises in our minds about Heaven, and this phase of God’s plan for the ages, is whether things will ever truly be in a state of sinless perfection. The loud and clear answer of Scripture is **“YES!”**
- **Scripture tells us that the New Heavens and New Earth will exist in a state of perfection**, since “the curse” will no longer be present in our universe. The “curse” referred to here is the sin, death, and decay that entered the human race and the world, when Adam sinned in the Garden of Eden. (Gen 3)
  - **Rom 5:12 NKJV** - *“Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men...”*
- **Ever since the Garden of Eden, the explosion of this “Adam Bomb”** and the resulting “blast waves” of the curse, have been ravaging humanity and the earth in a very real way. Based on what the Lord told Adam, the ground itself became cursed in this tragic moment. It would now require heavy and laborious work to bring forth a good harvest of food; thorns and thistles now appear in nature; and from this day forward, the human aging process began, ultimately ending in the physical death of the body. This is the dark heritage of the curse that humanity has inherited from Adam – deterioration, disease, and death! (Rom 6:23; Eze 18:20)
- **However, God had different plans!** John declared a beautiful promise that there will be “no more curse” in this final phase of Heaven. This will be the complete undoing and reversal of all that the curse has unleashed upon the human race. Everything will truly be made new and the entire universe will finally be brought into a state of sinless perfection!

#### **2 - God's People will be SERVING!**

- **“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.
  - *“Heaven is not a place of indolent leisure, but a place where service is done, centering on God.” - L. Morris*

### **3 - God's People will be *INTIMATE!***

- **“They shall see His face..”** - **This will be the greatest glory of Heaven:** *to know God, to know Jesus, more intimately and wonderfully than we ever could on earth!* Paul also anticipated a greater fulfillment of our seeing the face of God: For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I am also known (1 Cor 13:12). In that day there will be nothing that obscures our vision of Jesus:
  - *We will see Jesus clearly because **sin is done away with entirely.***
  - *We will see Jesus clearly because **care and worry are now gone.***
  - *We will see Jesus clearly because **idols are a thing of the past.***
- - *“It is the chief blessing of heaven, the cream of heaven, the heaven of heaven, that the saints shall there see Jesus.” - Spurgeon*
- - *“By which I understand two things: first, that we shall literally and physically, with our risen bodies, actually look into the face of Jesus; and secondly, that spiritually our mental faculties shall be enlarged, so that we 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 we never understood him before.” - Spurgeon*

### **4 - God's People will be *IDENTIFIED!***

- **“..His name shall be on their foreheads.”** - Heaven will be a place where God’s people will forever be identified with their God, and there will never be any doubt that they belong to Him.
  - **Rev 3:12 NKJV** - *“He who overcomes..I will write on him **the name of My God** and **the name of the city of My God**, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him **My new name.**”*

### **5 - God's People will be *ILLUMINATED!***

- **“There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light.”** - Heaven will be a place where the darkness of this age will be forever gone. The light is not artificial – God Himself is the light.

### **6 - God's People will be *EXHALTED!***

- **“And they shall reign forever and ever.”** -
  - Even though this great chapter of the Bible tells us of heaven, we should think deeply about it and take in now what we can. (Col 3:1-3)

- *“As the Bible opens with the story of ‘Paradise Lost,’ so it here closes with the story of ‘Paradise Regained.’” - Erdman*

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- *“We do not suppose that a man is shooting at a target if he does not look that way; nor can we imagine that a man’s ambition is fixed on heaven if he has no heavenward thoughts or aspirations.” - Spurgeon*