

In The City...a Garden! Revelation 22:1-5

Stand Read Pray

As we have been looking at the eternal state, we have seen the outside of the city in all its glory. We have noticed the construction being that of what people hold of great value in this life only to find they are just building materials there. But a city is not known for what its like on the outside but what's on the inside. Today we travel inside the New Jerusalem and get a glimpse of our eternal home.

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

We talked about this water of life in the last chapter but in this verse, we see where it proceeds from. We know from John 4 and 7 that Jesus is this water of life. A couple of other places to consider...

John 3:5-8

5 Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is **born of water** and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' 8 The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit."

Many say this is referring to natural birth compared to spiritual birth, but we are not for certain. The two could be connected.

1 John 5:6-8

6 This is He who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not only by water, but by **water and blood**. And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth. 7 For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one. 8 And there are three that bear witness on earth: the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three agree as one.

How is this a witness and how does it apply to what we are reading today?

John 19:28-37

28 After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, "I thirst!" 29 Now a vessel full of sour wine was sitting there; and they filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on hyssop, and put it to His mouth. 30 So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.

31 Therefore, because it was the Preparation Day, that the bodies should not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. 32 Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who was crucified with Him. 33 But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. 34 But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and **immediately blood and water came out**. 35 And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you may believe. 36 For these things were done that the Scripture should be fulfilled, "Not one of His bones shall be broken." 37 And again another Scripture says, "They shall look on Him whom they pierced."

Do you see it? Jesus's blood is the life-giving fountain that gives us the entrance into this city! It why it says it is proceeding form the lamb.

Pure water cleanses. It is refreshing. All sources in this life are polluted in some form or another. We don't find our refreshment in that, only in the blood of Christ.

1 John 1:7

But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and **the blood of Jesus Christ** His Son cleanses us from all sin.

It also seems that the book of proverbs offers us some more insight to the importance of this eternal river of life...

These bullet point scriptures are on the screen so you can reference them.

Psalm 36:9

For with You is the **fountain of life**; In Your light we see light.

Proverbs 13:14

The law of the wise is a **fountain of life**, to turn one away from the snares of death.

Proverbs 14:27

The fear of the Lord is a **fountain of life**, to turn one away from the snares of death.

And we are reminded of the sin of the children of Israel...

Jeremiah 2:13

For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, **the fountain of living waters**, and hewn themselves cisterns—broken cisterns that can hold no water.

Churches today that have gotten away from preaching the blood and the need to repent of sins have built for themselves just that...cisterns that can hold no water. It is a weak gospel that cannot save!

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.

This city has a street. Not like the streets of the cities in this life that are not safe to walk on. This street will provide us access. Access to something that was lost in the garden...the tree of life!

This tree is first mentioned in Genesis 2:8-16

8 The Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed. 9 And out of the ground the Lord God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The **tree of life** was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

10 Now a river went out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it parted and became four riverheads. 11 The name of the first is Pishon; it is the one which skirts the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. 12 And the gold of that land is good. Bdellium and the onyx stone are there. 13 The name of the second river is Gihon; it is the one which goes around the whole land of Cush. 14 The name of the third river is Hiddekel; it is the one which goes toward the east of Assyria. The fourth river is the Euphrates.

15 Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. 16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

Man had access to this tree, and it seems he never ate of it. People say of the church and the bible that it's just not interesting. There are better things in life. The majority of the world will choose the other tree just like Adam and Eve...

What happened to this tree?

Genesis 3:22-24

22 Then the Lord God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the **tree of life**, and eat, and live forever" — 23 therefore the Lord God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. 24 So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the **tree of life**.

So, the tree of life had to be taken away from man. God did not want us to live forever in our sin. But now the Millennium is over. Sin has now been judged and taken out of the way. We now can have free access just as God designed us in the first place!

Now notice again the mention of the nations. This is the Greek word ethnos where we get our word ethnicity. We will again see that we keep our ethnic Identity in heaven.

God will give us this wonderful fruit to eat. The Greek word translated in the NKJV “Healing” gives the wrong idea that we are still somehow marred by our sin and will forever need some sort of cleansing. That cannot be the case. The original word is “Therapeian” which is where we get our English word for therapy but can mean “service”. The leaves of the tree will be of service to us. They are a help and blessing. Remember there is no sin there. We do have some neat spiritual references to what Jesus provides for us now...

Wisdom is...

Proverbs 3:18

She is a **tree of life** to those who take hold of her, and happy are all who retain her.

Right Living and Evangelism...

Proverbs 11:30

The fruit of the righteous is a **tree of life**, and he who wins souls is wise.

Hope...

Proverbs 13:12

Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but when the desire comes, it is a **tree of life**.

Speech...

Proverbs 15:4

A wholesome tongue is a **tree of life**, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit.

Available to all Christians...

Revelation 2:7

To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the **tree of life**, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.

During the Millennium there will be a similar type of garden, but it will not be the Tree of Life.

Ezekiel 47:12

Along the bank of the river, on this side and that, will grow **all kinds of trees** used for food; their leaves will not wither, and their fruit will not fail. They will bear

fruit every month, because their water flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for medicine

How do I know this? See 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.

During the Millennium there will still be people that are still living in a sinful body. If they were to eat of the tree of life, they would be forever in their sins according to Genesis 3.

What a joy to know that there is coming a time when we will live separate from the curse! This will be the final of our journey of salvation.

We are Justified – We have been saved from the penalty of sin
We are being Sanctified – We are being saved from the power of sin
We will be Glorified – We will be delivered from the presence of sin

And it will be a joy to serve Him forever and ever! Why not now? Why is it that service to the Lord is such a burden for so many? Something to think about...

They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads.

This is most likely referring to ownership. He owns us and we belong to Him. We know that this harkens us back to chapter 7 where we see the 144,000 sealed. In chapter 14 we are told that it is the Father's Name. You and I are sealed with too...

Again, we are told of the promise to every Christian...

Revelation 3:12

He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. 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.**

Ephesians 1:13-14

13 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, **you were sealed** with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance **until the redemption of the purchased possession**, to the praise of His glory.

Isn't that good news you belong to Him?

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.

We are now going to experience the true "Sonlight" It will be constant and will never set or go out. There will no longer be darkness. Darkness is just the absence of light and we will be in the presence of the Lord forever.

1 John 1:5-7

5 This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. 6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

And it shall be forever and ever. We see some sort of semblance of time in eternity, but it won't be of worry. We live in a finite state. These lives are but of a moment. Then it will be eternal with endless tomorrows but now it is never promised. It can be though if we put our faith and trust in Christ. Please consider it today and cast you worry away.

Recognize- for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

Repent - From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Receive - But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name

You can do that today and be saved from your sins and be sealed with the Spirit and have a place in the New Jerusalem.

Stand and Pray

Closing Song