

The Revelation of Jesus Christ – Message #29
Revelation 22 – The New Paradise
(6/20/2010 PM)

1. John's Final Descriptions of the New Jerusalem (1-5)

John Highlights Seven Things

• **The river of life**

(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.”

The river symbolizes the continual flow of eternal life. Note that it flows from the throne into the city. It too was reflecting the glory of God. There was a river that flowed from Eden, [Genesis 2:9-10](#). The use of water as a metaphor for spiritual refreshment is found throughout scripture.

[Isaiah 12:3](#), “Therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.”

[John 7:38](#), “He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.”

• **The tree of life**

(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.”

Adam and Eve were prohibited from eating of this tree in the Garden. Here it is restored and offered freely to all. It is perpetually in bloom. The word “healing” is the root of our word therapeutic. Walvoord, “The leaves of the tree promote enjoyment of life in the New Jerusalem, and are not for correcting ills which do not exist.”

• **The removal of the curse**

(3) “And there shall be no more curse...”

Sorrow, pain and death will be ended forever. We saw earlier that grief and mourning will be forgotten. There will be no cause for any of these heartaches. Our new glorified bodies will experience no pain or suffering. The law of sin and death is ended because of Christ's death and resurrection.

[John 11:26](#), “And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?”

• **The throne of God and Christ**

(3-4) “but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him.”

This is the centerpiece of the city. This is where the glory originates from which lights the New Jerusalem, the New Heavens and the New Earth. We are no longer barred from God's presence. What we have done from earth through prayer we will actually physically experience. The word “serve” is where we get our word for liturgy. It involves priestly ministry. Our service will actually be our worship.

• **The face of God**

(4) “They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads.”

As glorified saints we will be able to see Him face to face. He has marked us with His own name showing that we belong to Him. We are God's personal eternal possession.

[1 John 3:2](#), “Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.”

[Ed Hindson](#), “The God who has always been there for us will be there in person.”

- **The removal of darkness**

(5) “There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light.”

John states again what he said earlier. The city will be illuminated by the glory of God and of Christ. We will see with our own eyes what Jesus said of Himself.

John 8:12, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”

- **The reigning of the saints**

(5) “And they shall reign forever and ever.”

We will be servants but more than servants, sons and daughters of God. We will receive our promised inheritance and possess it forever.

Galatians 4:6-7, “And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, ‘Abba, Father!’ Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.”

Indescribable Beauty, Unimaginable Joy!

2. John’s Epilogue (6-21)

For John’s Book and the Entire Bible

- **The trustworthiness of the text**

(6) “Then he said to me, ‘These words are faithful and true’.”

Twice in the book Jesus is referred to as “faithful and true” (3:14, 19:11). Since this book is “The Revelation of Jesus Christ” (1:1) He affirms its inspiration and reliability.

(6) “And the Lord God of the holy prophets sent His angel to show His servants the things which must shortly take place.”

Everything John Has Recorded Will Surely Come to Pass

- **The certainty of Christ’s return**

(7) “Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.”

The New Testament writers believed in the immanency of Christ’s return. That means that Christ could return at any moment. The word “quickly” can mean suddenly. Those who heed this message will be blessed. The book began with the same message. (1:3) “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 word for time is not *chronos* which is clock time but *kairos* which is seasons or periods of time.

The Return of Jesus Christ Is the Next Event on God’s Prophetic Calendar

- **The response to the Revelation**

(8-9) “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. 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’.”

John names himself for the first time since (1:9). John is so overcome with amazement he falls down to worship.

He is immediately rebuked by the angel. Holy angels never receive worship. We saw in the beginning that God sent his revelation to John through an angel (1:1).

The Proper Response to this Revelation is Worship

- **The command concerning the Revelation**

(10) “And he said to me, ‘Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand’.”

Daniel had been instructed to seal his prophecy, [Daniel 12:9](#).

John was instructed to send copies of his prophecy to the churches ([1:11](#)). Since the writing of Revelation God’s prophecies are becoming increasingly clear. Revelation means “to unveil or disclose”.

(11) “He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still.”

Present choices become permanent in character. Those who heed the warnings will escape the curses. There is no neutral position.

People’s Response to the Words of Scripture Seal Their Eternal Destiny

- **The testimony of Jesus Christ**

(12) “And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.

Now Jesus is again the speaker.. He personally prophesies concerning the immanency of His return and promises to reward His saints.

(13) “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last.”

Five times in this book He is seen by this title ([1:8](#), [11](#); [2:8](#); [21:6](#)). God signed His name to the beginning and the end of this prophecy ([1:8](#)).

(14) “Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.”

Note that Jesus defines true believers by their lifestyles.

(15) “But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie.”

This is a final reminder that those who love sin will be eternally separated from fellowship with God.

(16) “I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches.”

This is the last time the word “churches” appears. The last time was ([3:22](#)).

(16) “I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star.”

Jesus is bothThe “Root” refers to His humanity.