

The book of Revelation

Chapter 22

1. *The River of Life (22:1-5)*

-The same angel who had been showing John the vision of the city-bride now shows him the river of the water of life. This water is as bright as _____. It flows from the throne of God and the Lamb right through the middle of the city.

-“The angel has one more perspective on the bride’s _____ to show to John. This final camera angle focuses on images of the abundant life, refreshment, and nourishment that the Lord will provide for His people: the river of the water of life and the tree of life.” (Johnson, 319-320)

-“This river is the river of life for it symbolizes eternal life, salvation full and free, the gift of God’s sovereign grace. And what is _____ but fellowship with God...When we say that the river of grace and life proceeds ‘out of’ or ‘from’ the throne of God and the Lamb, we emphasize the fact that our salvation was brought about by the sovereign _____ of God and was merited for us by the redemptive blood of Christ. To Him be all the glory.” (224)

-On either side of the river is the tree of life. This tree has twelve different kinds of fruit one for each month and its leaves are said to bring healing to the nations (“Eternal life heals the scars of sin and misery”). We have an illusion here of _____ restored.

-“Taken together, all these items symbolize the superabundant character of our salvation, an absolutely full measure of most blessed and ever-abiding _____ with God for all the inhabitants of the Holy City.” (225)

-“Recognizing the rich symbolism of John’s visions, we understand that he is not implying that in the new heavens and earth there remain diseased nations, still in need of healing. Rather drawing from the imagery of Ezekiel 47, the comment on the healing power of the tree’s leaves vividly illustrates the next exultant declaration: ‘There will no longer be any _____.’” (Johnson, 322)

-Once again, the throne of God and of the Lamb is said to be in this city. God and Christ reign over all creation but God’s reign is especially seen in the way that He rules and reigns in His _____. The saints will worship Him. They will see His face. His name will be written on their foreheads and they will reign with Him in the light of His glory into eternity.

2. *Conclusion (22:6-21)*

-The angel declares to John the trustworthiness of the words of this prophecy, repeating his already mentioned statement (21:5). This repeated declaration serves to reinforce the certainty of these things. The angel then says that God (the same God of the prophets) sent him to show John these things that must _____ take place.

-The Lord then declares that He is coming soon and blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book. Blessed is the one who does not _____ this book of divine origin (1:3). John then declares that it was he that saw these things. Then John recounts how again he tried to worship an angelic being but is again reminded to worship God! (19:10)

-John is then told to not seal up the words of this prophecy (John is not to keep these things hidden but to freely declare them to the churches). The reason for this is because the church needs these words of encouragement now because these words pertain to their _____ situation.

-In verse 11 we read “Let the evildoer still do evil, and the filthy still be filthy, and the righteous still do right, and the holy still be holy.” The meaning of this is paraphrased by Hendriksen as “Do not hinder the man who, in spite of all pleadings, admonitions, exhortations, etc., has completely hardened himself in his wickedness, do not hinder him from continuing in his unrighteousness, neither hinder the filthy one from continuing in his filth. Similarly, do not hinder the righteous and holy person from continuing in the way of _____.” (227)

-The Lord Jesus declares again that He is coming soon and when He comes, He comes as _____. Christ is the “Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.” These three descriptions declare very plainly the deity of our Lord.

-The seventh and final benediction of the book tells us that the blessed are those “who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates.” Those are blessed who wash their robes in the blood of Christ (meaning those who are _____ by faith alone in Christ alone). It is they who are part of this church and will possess eternal life.

-“Citizenship in the new Jerusalem and free access to the tree that imparts eternal life are not wages earned through our self-improvement efforts. Rather, they are free gifts that flow from the sacrificed Lamb to those who humbly trust Him, thirsting for the water of life that He alone supplies. The bride wears fine linen, bright and clean, because this beautiful raiment has been _____ to her.” (Johnson 327)

-The Lord Jesus then declares that it is He that sent the angel to testify these things to John for the sake of His churches (His bride). The Lord Jesus is the root and descendant from David (truly the _____ Messiah), the bright morning star (Num. 24:17). Christ is the Promised One of old, the Savior of His people and Destroyer of their enemies.

-“The Apocalypse is intended for _____ the churches throughout _____ the centuries...He is the divine and human Savior. The glorious, exalted Savior is the Author of the book of Revelation.” (228)

-The Holy Spirit, along with the Bride, bids men “come.” The Spirit and the Church “always work together” and serve to call out to the people of the earth, “come, let the one who is thirsty come. Let the one who desires to take the water of life-come! God gives of it freely it does not have to be earned it is offered to you ‘without price’ simply as a gift of His wonderful and glorious _____.”

-The tone then quickly shifts from tenderness to sternness with a final warning. This book is of divine origin. Therefore, _____ oh man with these words and do not add to them or take away from them. Do not mock that which is here written. Do not excuse away the words of Christ. For if you do, you will have no share in the tree of life and the holy city but will be designated a place among those who are tormented in the lake of fire.

-It is Christ who testifies to these things. And He declares that He is “coming soon.” May we find ourselves _____. May our love for Him be as it ought so that we long for His coming and say with the blessed apostle, “Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!”

-“May the grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.”