

## Lesson 37

### Revelation 22:1-6 (NASB)

<sup>1</sup> Then he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb,

<sup>2</sup> in the middle of its street. On either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve *kinds* of fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

<sup>3</sup> There will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His bond-servants will serve Him;

<sup>4</sup> they will see His face, and His name *will be* on their foreheads.

<sup>5</sup> And there will no longer be *any* night; and they will not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God will illumine them; and they will reign forever and ever.

<sup>6</sup> And he said to me, "These words are faithful and true"; and the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, sent His angel to show to His bond-servants the things which must soon take place.

## 5. THE RIVER OF THE WATER OF LIFE ([22:1-2A](#))

[22:1-2a](#). In the opening verses of [chapter 22](#) additional facts are given about the New Jerusalem. **The angel showed John the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb.** While this may be a literal river, its symbolism is clear. Out of the throne of God will flow pure water, symbolic of the holiness and purity of God and the city. This reference to a river should not be confused with similar millennial situations such as those in [Ezekiel 47:1, 12](#) and [Zechariah 14:8](#). These refer to literal rivers flowing from the temple and from Jerusalem and will be part of the millennial scene. The river in [Revelation 22:1](#) will be part of the New Jerusalem in the new earth. The water flows **down the middle of the great street of the city.** This apparently refers to a main thoroughfare in the New Jerusalem coming from the throne of God with the river being a narrow stream in the middle of the street. The KJV attaches the phrase "in the midst of the street" to the next sentence rather than to the river.

It is significant also that the Lamb is pictured on the throne (mentioned also in [v. 3](#)). This makes it clear that [1 Corinthians 15:24](#), which states that Christ "hands over the kingdom to God the Father after He has destroyed all dominion, authority, and power," does not mean that Christ's reign on the throne will end but that it will change its character. Christ is King of kings and Lord of lords (cf. [Rev. 17:14; 19:16](#)) for all eternity.

## 6. THE TREE OF LIFE ([22:2B](#))

[22:2b](#). As John contemplated the heavenly city, he saw **the tree of life, bearing 12 crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month.** Interpreters have puzzled over this expression that the tree of life is **on each side of the river.** Some take this as a group of trees. Others say that the river of life is narrow and that it flows on both sides of the tree. The tree of life was referred to in the Garden of Eden ([Gen. 3:22, 24](#)), where it was represented as perpetuating physical life forever. Adam and Eve were forbidden to eat of the fruit of this tree. Earlier in Revelation ([2:7](#)) the saints were promised the "right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God."

While the literal and the symbolic seem to be combined in this tree, there is no reason why it could not be an actual tree with literal fruit. The practical effect would be to continue physical life forever. While the verse does not state that the fruit can be eaten, this is presumably the implication.

The tree's **leaves... are for the healing of the nations**. Based on this statement some have referred this situation back to the millennial times when there will be sickness and healing. However, another meaning seems to be indicated. The word "healing" (*therapeian*) can be understood as "health-giving." The English "therapeutic" is derived from this Greek word. Even though there is no sickness in the eternal state, the tree's fruit and leaves seem to contribute to the physical well-being of those in the eternal state.

## 7. THE THRONE OF GOD ([22:3-4](#))

[22:3-4](#). As if to remind the reader that healing as such is not necessary, John added, **No longer will there be any curse**. As the curse of Adam's sin led to illness requiring healing and death, so in the eternal state there will be no curse; therefore no healing of illness is necessary.

As mentioned earlier, God and the Lamb are in the new city ([21:22-23](#); [22:1](#)). The New Jerusalem will be the temple of God ([21:22](#)), and the throne of God will also be in it. Then John wrote, **His servants will serve Him**. The highest joy and privilege of the saints in eternity will be to serve their blessed Lord, even though it is true that they will also reign with Him ([2 Tim. 2:12](#); [Rev. 5:10](#); [20:4-6](#)). They will have a privileged place before the throne for **they will see His face**. The implication is that they are under the Lord's good favor and in His "inner circle." This intimacy is also indicated by the fact that **His name will be on their foreheads** (cf. [2:17](#); [3:12](#); [7:3](#); [14:1](#)). Their freedom to be in the presence of God indicates that they will then be in their glorified bodies (cf. [1 John 3:2](#)).

## 8. THE SAINTS' REIGN WITH GOD ([22:5](#))

[22:5](#). Once again John wrote that the glory and **light** of the New Jerusalem will be the presence of God, with no artificial illumination (cf. [21:23-24](#)). And once again the statement is made that the servants of God will **reign** with Christ **forever** (cf. [20:6b](#)).

## 1. THE CERTAINTY OF THE RETURN OF CHRIST ([22:6-7](#))

[22:6-7](#). Confirming both the truth and possibility of comprehending the prophecies previously given, the angel told John that the **words** of this book are **trustworthy and true**. The purpose of these communications is not to bewilder and confuse but to reveal many of **the things that must soon take place**.

This directly contradicts the point of view of many scholars that the Book of Revelation is an imponderable mystery for which no key is available today. This book is the Word of God and not the vague imaginations of John. In addition it is intended to describe future events. When taken in its literal, ordinary meaning, this is exactly what it does, even though much of Revelation is

written in symbolic form. The Word of God was not given to be obscure. It was given to be understood by those taught by the Spirit.

The theme of Revelation is stated again in [verse 7](#): **Behold, I am coming soon!** (cf. [1:7](#); [22:12, 20](#)) Also He is coming quickly. The Greek word *tachy* may be translated "soon" (NIV) or "quickly" (NASB, ASV), and from the divine standpoint both are true. The coming of Christ is always soon from the standpoint of the saints' foreview of the future, and when it occurs, it will come suddenly or quickly. Accordingly a special blessing is pronounced on those who believe and heed the prophecy of the book. As stated earlier, this last book of the Bible, so neglected by the church and with its meanings confused by many expositors, contains more promises of blessing than any other book of Scripture. This reference to blessing is the sixth beatitude in the book (the seventh is in [v. 14](#)). The first blessing (in [1:3](#)) is similar to this one in [22:7](#).

The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures by Dallas Seminary Faculty.

### Lesson 37 Rev 22:1-6

#### Open it

1. What disease do you most wish there were a cure for?

**Cancer, in all of its forms**

#### Explore it

2. How did John describe the appearance of the river of life? ([22:1](#))

**Then he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb, in the middle of its street.**

3. What was growing on each side of the river of life? ([22:2](#))

**On either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.**

4. When did the tree that John saw in the city bear fruit? ([22:2](#))

**Every month**

5. Of what value are the leaves on the tree of life? ([22:2](#))

**for the healing of the nations.**

6. What will be missing from the new heavens and new earth? ([22:3](#))

**There will no longer be any curse**

7. What kind of relationship will God have with His people in heaven? ([22:3-4](#))

**There will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His bond-servants will serve Him; <sup>4</sup> they will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads.**

8. Where will the inhabitants of heaven get their light? ([22:5](#))

**The Lord God will illumine them**

9. How long will God's people reign? ([22:5](#))

**They will reign forever and ever**

10. How did the angel assure John? ([22:6](#))

**And he said to me, "These words are faithful and true"; and the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, sent His angel to show to His bond-servants the things which must soon take place.**

### **Get it**

11. What does this passage tell us about God?

**He is always faithful, even when we are not**

12. How can we honor God as creator and sustainer of life?

**Try and be more like Christ, a little more each day**

### **Apply it**

13. How can you honor the life that God created?

**By following Gods commandments**

14. What act or deed can you do today as a "mark of ownership" placed on your life by God?

**Worship him as he is Worthy**