

The interior of the New Jerusalem on earth...

NLT Rev 22:1 Then the angel showed me a river with the water of life, clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb.

- From the throne of God and of the Lamb: This river of provision comes right from God's throne. Clear as crystal: God's provision in the New Jerusalem is described with pure, absolutely unpolluted waters. "Its waters are literal waters, of a nature and quality answering to that of the golden city to which they belong. Man on earth never knew such waters, as men on earth never knew such a city; but the city is a sublime reality."

verse 2 It flowed down the center of the main street. On each side of the river grew a tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, with a fresh crop each month. The leaves were used for medicine to heal the nations.

- The tree of life: The Bible begins with a tree of life:

NLT Gen 3:22 Then the LORD God said, "Look, the human beings have become like us, knowing both good and evil. What if they reach out, take fruit from the tree of life, and eat it? Then they will live forever!" 23 So the LORD God banished them from the Garden of Eden, and he sent Adam out to cultivate the ground from which he had been made. 24 After sending them out, the LORD God stationed mighty cherubim to the east of the Garden of Eden. And he placed a flaming sword that flashed back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life. . Now we see the tree of life again.

- Street... river... tree... fruit... leaves: Are pictures of heaven/earth literal And it produces fruit monthly Apparently, heaven will still mark time, but not in the same way we are on this side of eternity.
- In the ancient Greek language, The word for ‘healing’ is therapeian, from which the English word therapeutic is derived, Rather than meaning ‘healing,’ it should be understood as ‘health-giving,’ as the word in its root meaning has the idea of serving or ministering to increase enjoyment!.” **Not healing from sickness...for that was part of the curse....as verse 3 tells us**

verse 3 No longer will there be a curse upon anything. For the throne of God and of the Lamb will be there, and his servants will worship him. ⁴ And they will see his face, and his name will be written on their foreheads. ⁵ And there will be no night there—no need for lamps or sun—for the Lord God will shine on them. And they will reign forever and ever.

- **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.**

The opposite of the curse:

NLT Gen 3:17 And to the man he said, “Since you listened to your wife and ate from the tree whose fruit I commanded you not to eat, the ground is cursed because of you. All your life you will struggle to scratch a living from it.

- **To look into the face of Christ signifies to be well acquainted with his person, his office, his character, his work.**

- **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.**

NLT 1 John 3:2 Dear friends, we are already God’s children, but **he** has not yet shown us what we will be like when Christ appears. But we do know that we will be like **him**, for we will see **him** as **he** really is.

- **So the saints in heaven shall have more knowledge of Christ than the most advanced below. As one has said, the babe in Christ admitted to heaven discovers more of Christ in a single hour than is known by all the divines of the assemblies of the church on earth.” (Spurgeon)**
- 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.

The angel and Jesus add words of verification:

NLT Rev 22:6 Then the angel said to me, “Everything you have heard and seen is trustworthy and true. The Lord God, who inspires his prophets,^[b] has sent his angel to tell his servants what will happen soon.⁷ “Look, I am coming soon! Blessed are those who obey the words of prophecy written in this book.”

- **These words are faithful and true: The angel that showed John all this reminds John that it isn’t too good to be true. John is assured that it is in fact faithful and true.**

- **The word quickly in the ancient Greek isn't exactly the same as our word for "quickly." "The word 'quickly' might with accuracy be rendered 'suddenly.'**
- **Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book: This blessing reminds us that prophecy gives us a word to keep, not merely material for interesting discussions and debates. The main intent of prophecy is to lead us to trust and obey God, and apply His truth to the way we live.**

NLT Rev 22:8 I, John, am the one who heard and saw all these things. And when I heard and saw them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed them to me. ⁹ But he said, "No, don't worship me. I am a servant of God, just like you and your brothers the prophets, as well as all who obey what is written in this book. Worship only God!" ¹⁰ Then he instructed me, "Do not seal up the prophetic words in this book, for the time is near.

- John was overwhelmed and bowed before an angel in worship. In the same way, the angel reminded John that only God is to be worshipped, **and that they were both players on the same team** — along with all who keep the words of this book. **It is striking that even someone who had received all these visions may go astray.**
- Do not seal the words of this prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand: Because the time is at hand, for history runs parallel toward eternal plan

So in the meantime: *NLT REV 22:11 Let the one who is doing harm continue to do harm; let the one who is vile continue to be vile; let*

the one who is righteous continue to live righteously; let the one who is holy continue to be holy.”¹² “Look, I am coming soon, bringing my reward with me to repay all people according to their deeds.¹³ I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.”

- “If the warnings and blessings of this book are not sufficient, there is no more that God has to say.”
- Jesus declares: I am coming soon. Always be ready!! Just as he said

NLT Matt 24:44 You also must be ready all the time, for the Son of Man will come when least expected.

And Bringing my Reward: If Jesus will give to everyone according to his work, does that mean we are saved by our works? No, but it does show that living faith will have works with it

I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last: never forget I have everything under my control...don't get weary

*NLT Hebrews 12:3 Think of all the hostility he endured from sinful people; then you won't become **weary** and give up.*

NLT Rev 22:14 Blessed are those who wash their robes. They will be permitted to enter through the gates of the city and eat the fruit from the tree of life.¹⁵ Outside the city are the dogs—the sorcerers, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idol worshipers, and all who love to live a lie. Washing our robes...some versions keep his commandments...does not earn us eternal life, but it is evidence that

we have been granted eternal life...**we desire clean living because we were washed in the blood of the lamb!**

*NLT Titus 3:5 he saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He **washed** away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit.*

- We shouldn't think that those outside the walls of the new Jerusalem the multitudes will throng, longing to get in. "It simply describes the future with the imagery of the present." Those not washed are out side the kingdom of God...

Jesus brings his word of verification.

verse 16 "I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this message for the churches. I am both the source of David and the heir to his throne.^[e] I am the bright morning star."

- The Root/source and offspring of David: This is a precious Messianic title ([Isaiah 11:1](#)). It shows that Jesus is both the Creator of King David and His descendent. Jesus spoke to this same idea in [Matthew 22:41-46](#).
- d. Bright and Morning Star: This is another Messianic title from the Old Testament ([Numbers 24:17](#)) and the New Testament ([Revelation 2:28](#)). Just as the Morning Star (generally held to be the planet Venus) shines and welcomes the new day, so does Jesus.

verse 17 The Spirit and the bride say, “Come.” Let anyone who hears this say, “Come.” Let anyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone who desires drink freely from the water of life.

- **The Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” it is an invitation to those with a spiritual thirst to come to Jesus? Either sense is certainly true.**
- **Come! anyone who hears and is thirsty... but they can't come unless they hear and deeply feel their thirst.**
- **Anyone who desires, let him take the water of life freely: He will not exclude anyone who comes to Him. An invitation is both an opportunity and a responsibility. If we decline an invitation, we have only ourselves to blame.**

NLT ISA 55:1 Is anyone thirsty? Come and drink—even if you have no money! Come, take your choice of wine or milk—it's all free! 2 Why spend your money on food that does not give you strength? Why pay for food that does you no good? Listen to me, and you will eat what is good. You will enjoy the finest food. 3 “Come to me with your ears wide open. Listen, and you will find life. I will make an everlasting covenant with you. I will give you all the unfailing love I promised to David.

- The call is to anyone>>> ‘anyone’ What a big word that is! anyone! This is an invitation so magnificent that we are in AWE of it!! Anyone who desires salvation in Jesus Christ can come to Him and take the water of life freely.

- One might say, “I don’t understand all the Christian doctrine and theology” — come anyway, because it doesn’t say whoever understands, let him take the water of life freely.
- One might say, “I can’t repent the way I should. My heart is hard and I can’t even weep over my sins or feel bad over them as I should” — come anyway, because it doesn’t say whoever feels, let him take the water of life freely.
- One might say, “I don’t know if I can live the Christian life the way that I should” — come anyway, because it doesn’t say whoever can this life come to him...
- One might say, “I don’t know if I am worthy, it doesn’t say whoever is worthy, let him take the water of life freely. It is free
- **It is really this simple: do you desire Jesus and His salvation?** If this is your desire, then you are freely invited to come, if you are only willing. There is no barrier between you and Jesus except your stubborn will.
- You can’t bring anything to save or justify or commend yourself before God, but you can take the salvation He offers.

It is fitting that this great invitation closes the Book of Revelation and the Bible.

Then a warning is Given...

NLT Rev 22:18 And I solemnly declare to everyone who hears the words of prophecy written in this book: If anyone adds anything to what is written here, God will add to that person the plagues described in this book.¹⁹ And if anyone removes any of the words from this book of prophecy, God will remove that person’s share in the tree of life and in the holy city that are described in this book.

- If anyone adds... if anyone takes away: This means that there is a high price to pay for tampering with the Book of Revelation specifically, and the Scriptures in general.
- What a solemn warning this is to critics who have tampered with this book and other portions of Scripture in arrogant self-confidence that they are equipped intellectually and spiritually to determine what is true and what is not true in the Word of God."
- God here denounces a curse to those who shall pretend any new revelations of his will... as also against all those who shall deny, corrupt, or degrade any part of them."
- Closing words

²⁰ He who is the faithful witness to all these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon!" Amen! Come, Lord Jesus! ²¹ May the grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's holy people.^{lf}

- I am coming soon: To the very end, the Book of Revelation emphasizes readiness and watchfulness. It is the essential message of the book. **Yes** it will happen and **Amen** so be it! come, Lord Jesus! an idea related to an Aramaic expression that was well known in the ancient church: **Maranatha!**

iii. "At the very close of the book is John's confession that the answers to the problems of life do not lie in man's ability to create a better world but in the return of the One whose sovereign power controls the course of human affairs." (Mounce)

The book (and the Bible) ends with a word of grace, and grace for all. end