

# REVELATION 22

## A FINAL MESSAGE

### OUTLINE

KEY FEATURES OF THE NEW JERUSALEM (1-5)

SEVERAL FINAL MESSAGES (6-17)

A WARNING GIVEN (18-19)

A PROMISE, A PRAYER, A BENEDICTION (20-21)

### KEY FEATURES OF THE NEW JERUSALEM (1-5)

#### *The River of Life (1)*

The River Is Pure and Crystal Clear. This is a literal river in the New Jerusalem that flows from the throne of God symbolizing the holiness and purity of both God and the city. Those who take a symbolic view of the Book of Revelation interpret it as the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer (see John 7:37-39).

#### *A Tree of Life (2)*

The first mention of the Tree of Life is in the Book of Genesis (2:9; 3:22). If Adam had continued to eat from it, he would have lived forever. We see the Tree of Life mentioned here. It is “in the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river”, this means it is in a place of prominence and visibility.

- It bears twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month.
- The leaves are for the healing of the nations. The word “healing” (from the Grk. *therapeian*) can be understood as health-giving. Some have asked the question, “Why would healing be necessary in the eternal state?” Two views are suggested:
  - Possibly the leaves are symbolic of healing indicating the absence of all sickness.
  - The leaves are used to sustain the eternal health of the inhabitants.

### *The Presence of God (3-5)*

- There will be no more curse. The first curse led to sin and sickness; there will be no more curse only health and healing in the New Jerusalem. The throne of God will be there and His servants will serve Him (3).
- His servants shall see Him. Previously it was said that no man could see God and live (Ex. 33:20), not even Moses could look into the face of God but at His backside (33:23). Here God's servants will be able to see His face. Jesus said that only the pure in heart shall see God (Matt. 5:8), and John said we shall see him as he is (1 Jn. 3:2). To see God's face is an expression meaning we will see some representation of Him.
- His name will be in their foreheads. There are two views as to what this means—Since God's name stands for His character, God's character will be clearly manifested in and on His people. Or a literal name will be stamped on their foreheads symbolizing ownership.
- God will be the light of the city. God is light (1 Jn. 1:5), and there is no need for any other light.
- His servants will reign with Him forever

### SEVERAL FINAL MESSAGES (6-19)

#### *The Words of This Prophecy are True and Will Take Place Soon (6)*

The words of the Book of Revelation are faithful and true (they testify to the reality of things to come). These are also words that were spoken to the prophets of old and will come to pass quickly (take place soon).

#### *Christ Is Coming Again (7a)*

Christ said He is coming quickly. The Greek word is *tachy* and can be translated either soon, i.e., in the near future or quickly, i.e., rapidly and swiftly (See Mark 13:33-37).

#### *There Is a Blessing for Those Who Keep the Words of This Prophecy (7b)*

Those who keep (from the Greek participle *tereo*, meaning to hold fast or guard) the words of the Book of Revelation will receive a blessing. Those who read these words about the future should strive to live holy, godly and blameless lives (2 Pet. 3:10-14).

#### *Only God Is to be Worshipped (8-9)*

John fell down at the feet of the angel to worship him. The angel reprimanded John and told him that only God is to be worshipped. This was the second time that John was given this command (19:10).

*Do Not Seal Up the Words of This Prophecy (10).*

There were times that God commanded those to whom He revealed things to seal it up or not write them down (see Daniel 12:4-12). Even earlier in this book John saw some things that were not to be recorded (10:4), but here the words of this book were to be written for all to read.

*The Righteous Will Be Rewarded and the Wicked Will Be Punished (11-13)*

- What a person is in this life (unjust, filthy, righteous, holy), they will be throughout all eternity. Those who are confronted with the Truth of God can either submit to it and become righteous and holy, or resist it and remain unjust and filthy. The life that a person chooses on earth will be the life they identify with in eternity (11).
- Jesus is coming “quickly” from the Greek word *tachos*, a tachometer is a device for indicating speed of rotation. Jesus is coming speedily. In verse 12 we see every person will receive a reward for what has been done in this life—The Judgment Seat of Christ for the believer (1 Cor. 3:11-15). The Great White Throne Judgment for the Unbeliever (Rev. 20:11-15).
- Christ is the Eternal Judge the Alpha and Omega (13). Alpha (first letter in the Greek alphabet) and Omega (last letter in the Greek alphabet). He was here from the beginning in eternity past (Jn. 1:1) and He will be around for future eternity (Lk, 21:23). Truly He is God from everlasting to everlasting (Ps. 90:2).
- In verses 14-15 we see a description of the righteous and the wicked. The Righteous have white robes symbolizing the fact that they have purified themselves from a sinful way of life. They had been defiled by sin, but washed in the blood of the Lamb. Now they can enter through the gates and eat from the tree of life. The wicked are referred to as dogs, this refers to their uncleanness. They have committed acts of sorceries, fornication, murder, idolatry and lies. Some of these individuals may have masqueraded as saints, but like a dog, their nature was never changed (2 Pet. 2:22). When it says that these individuals are without, it does not mean that they are outside of the gate. It means that they are in their eternal place of condemnation and judgment.
- In verse 16 Jesus says He sent His angel to share the message with the saints in the Church. He identifies His earthly lineage—“the root of the offspring of David.” He also identifies His Christological purpose—to bring light to darkness, as “the bright and morning star.” The darkest time of the night is just before dawn and that is when the morning star shines the brightest. Jesus is the Morning Star.
- While there is time the Spirit and the Bride say “Come” (17). The invitation is to sinners who will hear and are thirsty, i.e., thirsting for the Living Water. They can drink from the water of life freely and have eternal salvation and escape judgment. Note: There are some who see this as a twofold invitation, for Christ to come back to the world and for the world to come to Christ.

### A WARNING GIVEN

The readers are admonished to not add anything to the writing of this prophecy (Book of Revelation) lest the horrible things written in it come upon those who do so. Also, anyone who would endeavor to take away from the things written in this book (that being an indication of where their heart is) God will not allow him to eat from the tree of life nor inherit the blessings recorded in this book.

### A PROMISE, A PRAYER, A BENEDICTION (20-21)

#### *A Promise*

Jesus said He is coming soon.

#### *A Prayer*

In response to the coming of Christ the saints say, "Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus."

#### *A Benediction*

"The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen."