

## Revelation 22 Eternity

### **22:1,2**

This is a pretty generalized description, but it appears that the idea is that a stream flows down the middle of the beautiful city, and the tree is capable of covering both parts of the stream. Since the tree is called *the* tree of life, it appears to be the same tree from the Garden of Eden.

The river: See, **Psalm 46:4; Joel 3:18; Zechariah 14:8**

The tree of life, for Adam, became a tree of death. Here, it is for life only. The tree that bridges these accounts is the tree of the cross. There, the tree for Jesus is a tree of death. For us, the cross is a tree of life. The cross serves as both. It allows us access to the tree of life where we can eat and live forever.

It seems the leaves of the tree would not need to be for the healing of the nations, when in heaven there are no ills to heal. But the Greek word for healing here is *therapeian*, our word for therapeutic. It better gives the understanding of “health-giving” than it does healing. This tree will promote our well-being rather than cure any ills that won’t exist in heaven.

See **Ezekiel 47:12**

### **22:3**

Every negative thing mankind has ever experienced is a result of the curse. From stubbed-toes to genocide, all negativity has its roots in the curse. So, it is a big deal for this verse to say, “And there shall be no more curse”.

To accomplish this, Jesus took the curse upon Himself, by...

Becoming a man

Taking on the shameful nakedness of Adam

Becoming our Bread

Sweating from His brow

Taking on the thorns and thistles as a crown

So, “There shall be no more curse”

The fact that we will be serving Him in heaven is not a toil. It is a triumph.

Consider **Joshua 1:1,2**

#### **22:4**

First, we are told **Exodus 33:20,23**, then **Matthew 5:8** which finds its fulfillment in **Revelation 22:4**

This is likely the name that was concealed throughout all of Scripture (Why do you ask Me my name, seeing it is wonderful?) Now, it is on our foreheads indicating that we are truly His.

#### **22:5**

Verse 3 seems to indicate we will be serving God. Verse 5 that we will be reigning with Him forever. This fits perfectly into the understanding that “whoever wants to be greatest among you must be servant of all”.

Several themes that connect the beginning of the Bible with the end of the Bible were just demonstrated in these verses.

The Bible begins with a river (**Gen 2:10**) and ends with a river

The Bible begins with the tree of life and ends with the tree of life

The Bible begins in innocence and ends with a return to innocence

Sin enters in in **Genesis 3** and is not allowed to enter in

**Revelation 22:3**

The sun is created in **Genesis 1** and is no longer needed in

**Revelation 22**

Redemption is first mentioned in **Genesis 3:15** and is fully realized in **Revelation 22:4**

We were banished from God’s presence in **Revelation 3** and we are dwelling forever with Him in **Revelation 22:5**

#### **22:6**

Here is a proclamation of the inspired nature of this letter. The angel tells Jewish John that the same God who inspired the prophets of old has delivered to him this message of Revelation.

#### **22:7**

The beatitude for keeping the words of this book are especially true due to the fact that it is a revelation of Jesus from a heavenly host, amongst whom is Jesus Himself!

#### **22:8**

John Calvin said that the human mind is an idol factory. Here, John (for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time [**Rev. 19:10**]) tries to worship an angel and both times receives rebuke for it.

(But they must be awesome in appearance!)

**22:9**

An angel, it seems, would have lots of room to brag to a human about being an angel. But instead we see them more willing to associate with us than compare themselves with God, who alone is worthy of worship.

**22:10**

The command to not seal the prophecies links the end times prophecies here to Daniel's prophecies, where he is told to seal them **Daniel 8:26**.

**22:11**

It seems to me that when John receives this revelation and is told not to seal it, that it is to be read. If it is to be read, then the one who continues in his ways will reap exactly what he has sown.

**22:12,13**

This idea has been shared in **II Corinthians 5:9-11** and in **Ecclesiastes 12:13,14**

The fact that He is the Beginning and the End states His ability to judge us, the people of ages gone by, and those still to come.

**22:14**

"Do His commandments" in other versions is rendered "who have washed their robes".

It is HOIPLUNONTESTASSTOLAS vs. HOIPOIOUNTESTASENTOLAS

The first would speak towards **Philippians 2:12,13**; while the latter would speak more towards the receiving of the cleansing of the baptismal waters through the washing of the Word.

**22:15**

This list of sinners includes dogs. What is likely meant is that they are outside of the redeemed. Jesus referred to the Syro-Phoenician woman as a dog because she was Gentile. Jews despised Gentiles and dogs were disgusting street dwellers. Those who claim Christianity but go back to their worldliness are called 'dogs who return to their vomit'.

**22:16**

Here, Jesus backs up the angels claim of verse 9 that the authority of these words come from Jesus Himself.

“Root and Offspring of David” is a claim to come before David (Root) and to come from David’s lineage (Offspring). He comes before *and* after David

The Bright Morning Star was also mentioned by Peter in **II Peter 1:19**

### **22:17**

3 opportunities given for mankind to come to Jesus.

1. Jesus (speaking as the Spirit... “Hear what the Spirit (Jesus) is saying to the churches”)

2. We who have received the invitation to come, now reiterate that invitation to others **John 1:39** becomes **John 1:46**.

3. The response to the call to come. We all thirst and come to our own wells to draw water that does not satisfy (like the woman of Samaria). Here we are called to forever quench our thirst. See also **Isaiah 55:1**

### **22:18**

Various issues with this verse, as it was a common warning to add to the end of important letters. We should probably shy away from using this verse to prove verbal inspiration. The true impact of the verse, though, is that God is able to punish those who would alter the truth of His message (**Galatians 1:8**).

“Book of Life” is likely better translated as the “Tree of Life” which other translations have. It is the difference between *‘lingo’* and *‘libro’*.

### **22:20**

John adds his support to Jesus’ statement that He is coming quickly. John, like Paul, knows that will be better by far than our lives are now **Philippians 1:19-26**

### **22:21**

As with our total Christian experience, grace has the last word. Amen.