

“The New Jerusalem (2) and Concluding Remarks Revelation 22

Revelation 22 is a _____ of chapter 21. There is no reason for the chapter division break. If anything, it should have come at verse 6, known as the “Epilogue” or “concluding word.”

Question: What else does the angel show John regarding the New Jerusalem?

Answer: “Then the angel showed me the _____ of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ² down the middle of the great street of the city.” (Rev. 22:1-2a NIV)

Descriptive words/phrases:

1. Water of life or _____ water – already mentioned in Rev. 21:6 (“drink without cost from the spring of the water of life”).

Literal = a flow of water that _____ or brings enjoyment to the inhabitants of the city.

Symbolic – In John 4, Jesus tells the Samaritan woman that she can have living water that will quench her thirst, i.e. himself/the _____. John 7 speaks about the living water as a symbol of the Holy Spirit who brings life. A “river” symbolized a continuous flow of blessings.

2. It is crystal clear – no _____.
3. Its source is the _____. This is different than the Millennial Temple of Ezekiel 47 where the water flows out of the temple. There is no temple in the eternal state for God and the Lamb, are present to worship and life flows out of Him.

It affirms the confessions that say that the Holy Spirit _____ from the Father *and* the Son.

Question: What else did John see? V. 2b

Answer: "On each side of the river stood the _____ of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the _____ of the tree are for the healing of the nations." (Rev. 22:2 NIV)

Note: In the New Jerusalem we have life, and not just life, but _____ life (Jn.10:10) – this is the point. We have the water of life and now we have a tree of life (the word "tree" has no determiner; it is an anarthrous noun – which means it doesn't have a qualifier, e.g. "the."). It also speaks to the pre-fall _____ space where Adam was placed and where Eve was created.

Note: A tree of life is on each side of or lines the river implying easy _____.

Note: It bears _____ crops or twelve differing kinds of fruit corresponding to each month. Some have concluded that there must still be time in the eternal state but that cannot be true because the state of things is eternal – by very nature without time. So what does it mean? Twelve is a number of _____. John is simply using human terms to say that the fruit will never be lacking. It will always be producing for the enjoyment of the inhabitants.

Note: The leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

Two issues: I thought there was no _____ or disease in heaven, and I thought that _____ were non-existent.

Answers: The Greek word for "healing" is our English word, "_____." While therapeutics can be directed at healing disease, it can also mean the prevention of such diseases or simply health-giving. We know there is no sickness or disease in heaven for that was abolished with the new heavens and the new earth. It, therefore, must mean something that speaks to the eternal _____ and well-being of the inhabitants.

Will there still be _____ identity? Yes. It appears so. If you remember the discussion on 21:26, the glory of the nations is the ethnic beauty created by God through differing ways of worship, in their differing offerings, etc... diversity of inhabitants will still be part of the creative beauty of God.

Question: What other information does the angel give to John? V. 3

Answer: ³ "No longer will there be any _____. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him." (Rev. 22:3 NIV)

Note: This is an interesting statement for a couple of reasons.

First, it _____ what we have determined about the water, trees, and leaves. They have nothing to do with the lingering effects of sin, i.e. sickness, disease, ethnic dissention.

Second, regarding the tree that brings life, it is a direct _____ to the curse found in Deuteronomy 21:22-23.

²² "If someone guilty of a capital offense is put to death and their body is exposed on a pole, ²³ you must not leave the body hanging on the pole overnight. Be sure to bury it that same day, because anyone who is hung on a pole is under God's curse. You must not desecrate the land the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance." (Deut. 21:22-23 NIV)

This lack of curse is also connected to the very _____ of God where no imperfection, no impurity, can exist and where we can serve him with perfection, purity, and wholeheartedness.

Question: What other blessed descriptions does the angel give? V. 4.

Answer: ⁴ "They will see his _____, and his name will be on their foreheads." (Rev. 22:4 NIV)

Note: I am reminded of the truth that John gave his readers in 1 John 3:2 – a prophetic truth that came true at the _____ but is now coming true for eternity.

² "Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is." (1 Jn. 3:2 NIV)

Note: The name on the forehead also reminds us of personal _____, i.e. we are His, but also the _____ of being His. We take his name. Much like a marriage union. Cf. 14:1.

Verse 5 reminds us of 21:25 but further defines it.

⁵ "There will be no more _____. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever." (Rev. 22:5 NIV)

A further implication is that there will be no need to _____ or to rest; there will be boundless energy.

Epilogue: Concluding statements

Question: What did the angel say to John as part of the concluding words?

Answer: ⁶ "The angel said to me, 'These words are _____ and true. The Lord, the God who inspires the prophets, sent his angel to show his servants the things that must soon take place.'" (Rev. 22:6 NIV)

It reminds us of the indisputable, _____ of the Word of God.

It also reminds us of the _____ pattern that was given to us at the beginning.

"The revelation from Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must _____ take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, ² who testifies to everything he saw-- that is, the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ.": (Rev. 1:1-2 NIV)

The conversation changes to first person singular at this point.

Question: Who is speaking? What does he say?

Answer: ⁷ "Look, _____ am coming soon! Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy written in this scroll." (Rev. 22:7 NIV)

The "I" is _____, and He reminds us of the blessing of paying attention to His words.

Note: This is once again a reminder of how the letter began.

³ "Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to _____ what is written in it, because the time is near." (Rev. 1:3 NIV)

Question: What did John do upon hearing these things? V. 8

Answer: ⁸ I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I had heard and seen them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who had been showing them to me. (Rev. 22:8 NIV)

A repeat offense of chapter 19:10.

Question: What was the angel's response? V. 9

Answer: ⁹ "But he said to me, 'Don't do that! I am a fellow _____ with you and with your fellow prophets and with all who keep the words of this scroll. Worship God!'" (Rev. 22:9 NIV)

Question: What other command did he give John? V. 10

Answer: ¹⁰ "Then he told me, 'Do not _____ up the words of the prophecy of this scroll, because the time is near.'" (Rev. 22:10 NIV)

Note: The book is called "_____" because God's intentions are to reveal to the church the things that will come. This is the exact opposite of what the angel told Daniel in his revelation, Cp. Daniel 8:26. Revelation fulfills Daniel 8:26.

²⁶ "The vision of the evenings and mornings that has been given you is true, but _____ the vision, for it concerns the distant future." (Dan. 8:26 NIV)

Question: What does the following statement from the angel mean?

¹¹" Let the one who does wrong _____ to do wrong; let the vile person continue to be vile; let the one who does right _____ to do right; and let the holy person continue to be holy." (Rev. 22:11 NIV)

Answer: This contrastive statement heightens the idea that in the end times people will follow their _____ desire. If you desire evil things, you will continue to head down that road. If you desire the things of God, you will head down that road. You will reap what you sow. Yet the opportunity for repentance remains. _____.

The text changes back to first person singular again (Jesus).

Question: What does He tell us? Vv. 12-16.

Answer:

v. 12 - ¹²"Look, I am coming soon! My _____ is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done. (Rev. 22:12 NIV)

The term "reward" means a _____. Its primary meaning is a negative divine payback for disobedience but can also mean a positive gift.

Note: The reward is based on what a person has _____.

v. 13 - ¹³"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the _____ and the Last, the Beginning and the End." (Rev. 22:13 NIV)

Note: Once again, Jesus reminds us of something that he said in the _____ of the revelation about himself.

⁸"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty." (Rev. 1:8 NIV)

Cp. Isaiah 46:10, "¹⁰I make known the _____ from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say, 'My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.'"

vv. 14 – 15 ¹⁴ "Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the _____ to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city.

¹⁵ _____ are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

(Rev. 22:14-15 NIV)

Note: Jesus reiterates and _____ the distinction of who is in and who is not, to those granted entrance and to those who are not.

v. 16a - ¹⁶ "I, Jesus, have _____ my angel to give you this testimony for the churches." (Rev. 22:16 NIV)

Note: This verse conveys several things:

1. Jesus' _____ - sent
2. Jesus' _____ – his angel
3. Jesus' _____ – to the churches for their edification

v. 16b – "I am the _____ and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning _____." (Rev. 22:16 NIV)

Note: The Root and Offspring of David are Old Testament references to his connection to earthly _____.

"A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit." (Isa. 11:1 NIV)

² He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. (Isa. 53:2 NIV)

Note: The "Morning Star" is a reference to Numbers 24:17.

¹⁷ "I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near. A _____ will come out of Jacob; a scepter will rise out of Israel. He will crush the foreheads of Moab, the skulls of all the people of Sheth. (Num. 24:17 NIV)

Promised to the church in Thyatira to everyone who is a _____.

²⁶ “To the one who is victorious and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations-- ²⁷ that one ‘will rule them with an iron scepter and will dash them to pieces like pottery’-- just as I have received authority from my Father.

²⁸ I will also give that one the morning star.” (Rev. 2:26-28 NIV)

There are two _____ given at this point. What are they? V.17

Answer:

(1) ¹⁷ “The Spirit and the bride say, ‘ _____!’

This is an invitation for Jesus to come and take us home.

(2) And let the one who hears say, ‘ _____!’ Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life.” (Rev. 22:17 NIV)

This is an invitation to _____ that there is still time to come to a saving knowledge of Jesus.

John also includes two warnings. What are they? Vv. 18-19.

(1) ¹⁸ “I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this scroll: If anyone _____ anything to them, God will add to that person the plagues described in this scroll.

(2) ¹⁹ And if anyone takes words _____ from this scroll of prophecy, God will take away from that person any share in the tree of life and in the Holy City, which are described in this scroll.” (Rev. 22:18-19 NIV)

Note: It speaks to the _____ and the truthfulness of the revelation.

One more statement an invitation. V. 20

²⁰ “He who testifies to these things says, ‘Yes, I am coming _____.’ Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. (Rev. 22:20 NIV)

Benediction:

²¹ “The _____ of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen.” (Rev. 22:21 NIV)