

“Life”

Revelation 22:1-5

There are a number of things in these verses that relate to the new life we will have in eternity – things that are a result of our new life in Christ. Although we received a great deal more than heaven when we die when we got saved, we DO receive heaven, and all that’s there.

These verses are not dealing with the Millennium, as some believe, but are a continuation of the previous chapter and the description of the New Jerusalem and all that heaven holds. This is seen in the first verse where it says, “he shewed me,” speaking of the angel of 21:9.



I. RIVER OF LIFE – VS. 1

A. Called a “pure river of water of life”

1. "Pure" – clear, clean, in a natural sense unsoiled (in this case, untouched by sin)
2. "River of water" – as opposed to something else – shows water is still in eternity
3. "Of life" – this river represents, in one way, the work of the Spirit in the life of the believer, and for all eternity that river of water of life will flow to show that our salvation is forever

John 4:10–11

¹⁰ Jesus answered and said unto her, *If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.*

¹¹ The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast thou that living water?

John 4:14

¹⁴ *But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.*

4. "Clear as crystal" – self-explanatory

B. "Proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb"

1. This is different than the river mentioned in Ezekiel 47 – that is during the Millennium

2. It originates from the Throne – the throne here is of a different character than it has during the Millennium, but we still see God on the throne, in the person of the “Lamb,” or of the Redeemer

II. TREE OF LIFE – VS. 2

A. The “tree of life” is seen in the “midst of the street of it” (the New Jerusalem), and “on either side of the river”

1. There are two ways of looking at this – it could be that the river is small enough, and the tree of life large enough for the tree to be seen on both sides of the river, or it could be that there is a row of trees on either side of the river
2. It’s not really important which is right – what is important is that it is there

B. This tree is most likely the same tree as was in the Garden of Eden until sometime after Adam and Eve had to leave and the Flood took place

Genesis 3:22–24

²² And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever:

²³ Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken.

²⁴ So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.

C. *The tree of life is seen as bearing "twelve manner of fruit" – possibly one a month, or all twelve different fruit at the same time*

D. *A note of interest is the term "month"*

1. Time, as we know it today, ceases in eternity – there is no night there – so this term would be odd
2. It is more than likely given so John would understand the fruit-bearing of the tree of life

E. *"The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations"*

1. First of all, there is no disease in heaven so there's no need for healing from disease or pain – so, that can't be the meaning here
2. The word translated "healing" here is one we get our word "therapeutic" from (it's a transliterated word) – so the healing spoken of is that of something that gives pleasure, and can be understood as "health-giving" – or, life-giving

III. REWARDS OF LIFE – VS. 3-5

A. *The first reward mentioned is that there will be no more curse – eternity in heaven will be what God intended for man to be in the Garden of Eden state of original creation*

[Genesis 3:16–19](#)

¹⁶ Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.

¹⁷ And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;

¹⁸ Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field;

¹⁹ In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

B. There will be fellowship with the Godhead in person – vs. 3b-4

1. The throne “of God and of the Lamb” is mentioned first here, because all of the fellowship we will have will begin from there
2. “His servants shall serve Him” – that is, all of created beings, both redeemed man from all ages and the angelic beings

Revelation 7:15

¹⁵ Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.

3. “They shall see His face” – that is, the face of God in the person of the Lamb. C. I. Scofield makes this observation (on John 1:18): “The divine essence, God, in His

own triune Person, no human being in the flesh has seen. But God, veiled in angelic form, and especially as incarnate in Jesus Christ, has been seen of men.”

John 1:18

¹⁸ No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.

Colossians 2:9

⁹ For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

4. “His name shall be in their foreheads” – what is meant by this is unclear, other than to say that it should be taken literally – as the mark of the beast was in the foreheads of his followers, so also is the His name in the foreheads of the servants of Christ

C. Vs. 5a – the fact of the Lord being the light in eternity is stated again here, pointing to the importance of this truth

1. “There shall be no night there” – no night means no darkness, and with that is the idea that there won’t be any sin or harm or evil
2. “They need no candle, neither light of the sun” – no needs like we have today because we will have a glorified body then and the need for the life-giving light source of the sun will be no more
3. “For the Lord God giveth them light” – the omnipresence of God throughout eternity,

no matter where we are, will be all the light that is needed

Psalm 36:9

⁹ For with thee is the fountain of life: in thy light shall we see light.

Proverbs 4:18–19

¹⁸ But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

¹⁹ The way of the wicked is as darkness: they know not at what they stumble.

Isaiah 60:19–20

¹⁹ The sun shall be no more thy light by day; neither for brightness shall the moon give light unto thee: but the LORD shall be unto thee an everlasting light, and thy God thy glory.

²⁰ Thy sun shall no more go down; neither shall thy moon withdraw itself: for the LORD shall be thine everlasting light, and the days of thy mourning shall be ended.

D. The final thing mentioned here is that we "shall reign for ever and ever" – reign over what it doesn't say – all we know is that we will reign

Conclusion: Words cannot describe the blessedness and beauty of heaven, nor can we comprehend what eternity will be. All we know is that an infinite God has it planned out already. What we need to be concerned about is whether we're going there for sure and what are we doing to get others to go there?

One morning at breakfast, I decided to teach my nearly four-

year-old Caleb his first Bible verse--John 3:16. I slowly enunciated the words: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in him shall not perish but have everlasting life."

The second time I said the verse even slower, encouraging Caleb to fill in certain words. When I got to "... shall not perish but have everlasting [blank]," Caleb proudly answered, "fun!" I couldn't have said it better myself.

-- Doug Vogel, Ft. Wayne, Indiana. Christian Reader, "Kids of the Kingdom."