



REVELATION CHAPTER 22 THE LIVING WATER AND TREE OF LIFE

SUMMARY OF REVELATION CHAPTER 22

In Revelation chapter 22 John was shown by an angel the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city.

On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him.

The angel said to John, "These words are trustworthy and true. The Lord, the God who inspires the prophets, sent his angel to show his servants the things that must soon take place." "Look, I am coming soon! Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy written in this scroll."

"I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star."

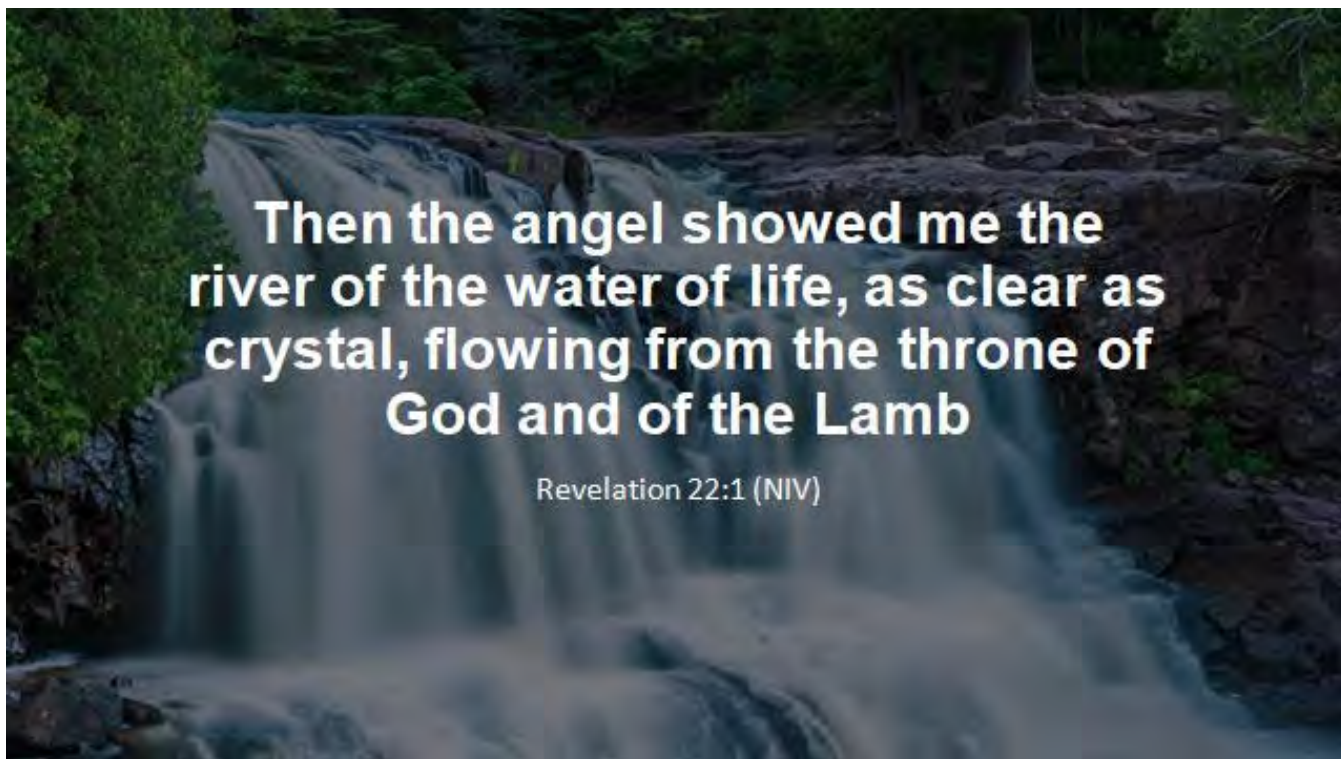


"If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to that person the plagues described in this scroll. And if anyone takes words away from this scroll of prophecy, God will take away from that person any share in the tree of life and in the Holy City, which are described in this scroll." Revelation 22:18-19 (NIV)

REVELATION CHAPTER 22 VERSE BY VERSE COMMENTARY

Revelation 22:1 Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb

“Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal.” All streams of the earthly realm were muddy and polluted; but these in the new Jerusalem are clear, and refreshing. They give life, and preserve life, to those who drink of them, and thus they will flow forever. These tell us of the life and peace of the Holy Spirit, as given to sinners through Jesus Christ. Only those with their name in the Book of Life from the Lamb of God will drink of this heavenly water.



“flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb” God and the Lamb are here spoken of as one. There is one God in three persons, the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

In Revelation 22, we see in the new heavenly Jerusalem the complete fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy of flowing water of salvation written about in Joel, Zechariah and Ezekiel. The Prophet Joel saw a fountain out of the house of the Lord (Joel 3:17-18).

Joel 3:17-18 (NIV)

“Then you will know that I, the Lord your God, dwell in Zion, my holy hill. Jerusalem will be holy; never again will foreigners invade her. “In that day the mountains will drip new wine, and the hills will flow with milk; all the ravines of Judah will run with water. A fountain will flow out of the Lord’s house and will water the valley of acacias.

The prophet Zechariah spoke of living waters from Jerusalem after the Day of the Lord (Zechariah 14:6-9).

Zechariah 14:6-9 (NIV)

On that day there will be neither sunlight nor cold, frosty darkness. It will be a unique day—a day known only to the Lord—with no distinction between day and night. When evening comes, there will be light. On that day living water will flow out from Jerusalem, half of it east to the Dead Sea and half of it west to the Mediterranean Sea, in summer and in winter. The Lord will be king over the whole earth. On that day there will be one Lord, and his name the only name.

Ezekiel had the fullest vision when he beheld the stream which deepened and broadened in its onward progress from under the threshold of the house of God, and carried life in its train: everything lived where the water traveled (Ezekiel 47:1-6).

Ezekiel 47:1-6 (NIV)

The man brought me back to the entrance to the temple, and I saw water coming out from under the threshold of the temple toward the east (for the temple faced east). The water was coming down from under the south side of the temple, south of the altar. He then brought me out through the north gate and led me around the outside to the outer gate facing east, and the water was trickling from the south side. As the man went eastward with a measuring line in his hand, he measured off a thousand cubits and then led me through water that was ankle-deep. He measured off another thousand cubits and led me through water that was knee-deep. He measured off another thousand and led me through water that was up to the waist. He measured off another thousand, but now it was a river that I could not cross, because the water had risen and was deep enough to swim in—a river that no one could cross. He asked me, “Son of man, do you see this?”

Revelation 22:2 down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

“On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month.” The new Jerusalem tree gives fruit every month in the year, so that there are twelve fruit-harvests. It was not like a tree that bears but once a year, or in one season only, but it constantly bears fruit - every month. The idea is that of abundance, not variety. The supply never fails; the tree is never barren.

“And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.” Here the Greek word for Nations” is “ethnon.” In Revelation 21:24 the Greek word for “nations” is “ethne”. In this case, “ethnon” in context mean a collection or group of like minded creatures (resurrected humans, meaning saved believers) walking in the glory of God—meaning those redeemed and healed by Christ. Those with their name in the Book of Life who dwell in the new Jerusalem with God were healed of their spiritual maladies, and had been made to live forever by the Blood of the Lamb.

On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

Revelation 22:2



That the leaves were healing the souls of the saved believers fulfills what Ezekiel saw.

Ezekiel 47:12 NIV)

“Fruit trees of all kinds will grow on both banks of the river. Their leaves will not wither, nor will their fruit fail. Every month they will bear fruit, because the water from the sanctuary flows to them. Their fruit will serve for food and their leaves for healing.”

Revelation 22:3 No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him.

“No longer will there be any curse.” The blessing of God’s presence and the blessing of God’s rule remove all evil over the groaning creation This fulfills what Zechariah wrote.

Zechariah 14:11 (NASB)

People will live in it, and there will no longer be a curse, for Jerusalem will dwell in security.

“The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him.” Now John focuses on the inhabitants instead of the city. They are described as serving Him, seeing Him, and resembling Him. They shall serve Him: they shall offer Him the service of the priesthood—the word employed is that used of temple service. They will be perfect, as Matthew said.

Matthew 5:48 (NIV)

Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Revelation 22:4 They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.

“They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.” Another blessing is given to the saved. The face of God, so as he is not to be seen now; they shall see him as he is; not only the angels, who always behold the face of God, but all the saints, risen and changed, being pure in heart, and perfectly holy; they shall see him face to face. The believers shall have intimate and familiar communion with him; they shall enjoy his favor and receive His unimaginable love; and they shall see the face of the Lamb; they shall behold Christ!!!

While we were still in sin, no one could see God’s face.

Exodus 33:17-20 (NIV)

Then Moses said, “Now show me your glory.” And the Lord said, “I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the Lord, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. But,” he said, “you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live.”

John 1:17-18 (NIV)

For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

Revelation 22:5 There will be no more night. 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.

This verse provides a repeat (Revelation 21:23-25) of the certainty of God’s promises being completely fulfilled in the new Jerusalem. The sun is not needed because the glory of Jesus is the light. It repeats again the great promises in the prior chapter;

Revelation 21:23-25 *“The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there.”*



Revelation 22:5 (NIV)

There will be no more night. 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.

Revelation 22:6 The angel said to me, “These words are trustworthy and true. The Lord, the God who inspires the prophets, sent his angel to show his servants the things that must soon take place.”

“These words are trustworthy and true.” All the words of this book, particularly the things of the last vision, Jesus who is the faithful witness, (Revelation 1:5 and 3:14); from him who was called faithful, (Revelation 19:11); and which God will show himself true and faithful in bringing to pass: and such things as God hath revealed to his prophets under the Old Testament in part, and now to John his Apostle, to show to his people the things that shall come to pass.

To many, these sayings in which are many things new, and unheard of before, and which may seem strange, and even incredible, “*are trustworthy and true*”; not only what are delivered in particular concerning the new Jerusalem state, but all that are written in this book can be trusted because it is from Jesus the true God.

Revelation 22:7 “Look, I am coming soon! Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy written in this scroll.”

“Look, I am coming soon!” These are the words not of the angel, but of now of Jesus Christ, the Son of God! It is repeated again Revelation 22:12. Listen to Jesus—He is returning soon!

Revelation 22:12 (NIV)

“Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done.

This personal second coming of Christ to judgment, though it will not be sooner than the time appointed by the Father, yet will be as soon as that time is come. It will be sooner than is generally expected by men. *“Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy written in this scroll.”* Jesus promises a blessing to those who keep or obey the teachings of Revelation. Reading and hearing the Word is not enough, if not followed by obedience.

Revelation 22:8 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.

Revelation 22:9 But he said to me, “Don’t do that! I am a fellow servant with you and with your fellow prophets and with all who keep the words of this scroll. Worship God!”

This is the second time John fell down to worship the angel, the first being in Revelation 19:10 (*“At this I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, “Don’t do that! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers and sisters who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For it is the Spirit of prophecy who bears testimony to Jesus.”*) The visions John saw of the heavenly Jerusalem and the new creation were so overwhelming that, even though previously warned of it, and rebuked, John fell down again to worship an angel. He is told clearly to only worship God—meaning Jesus Christ.

Revelation 22:10 Then he told me, “Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this scroll, because the time is near.

Revelation 22:11 Let the one who does wrong continue to do wrong; let the vile person continue to be vile; let the one who does right continue to do right; and let the holy person continue to be holy.”

The Revelation prophecies and warnings from Jesus are about Islam. The false prophet Mohammad, the Shahada mark, the Kaaba image, the worship of the beast (praying to Baal in the Kaaba), and the Hajj to the great city of Mecca are all things Jesus strongly warns not to do. Since one third of the world has been deceived (and spiritually killed) that Islam is a path (and best) to God, they will be angry at the truth. The book must be kept open, even if the publication of it will displease wicked and filthy men; but let them be displeased! The angel says the truths of God must not be concealed. *“My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done.”* Jesus says *His rewards are with Him.*” Jesus is quoting Isaiah 40:10-11.

Revelation 22:12 “Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done.”

Revelation 22:13 “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.”

Isaiah 40:10-11 (NIV)

See, the Sovereign Lord comes with power, and he rules with a mighty arm. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him. He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.

“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.” Just as in Revelation 21:6, Jesus clarifies that He is eternal, not created. Jesus is truly God.

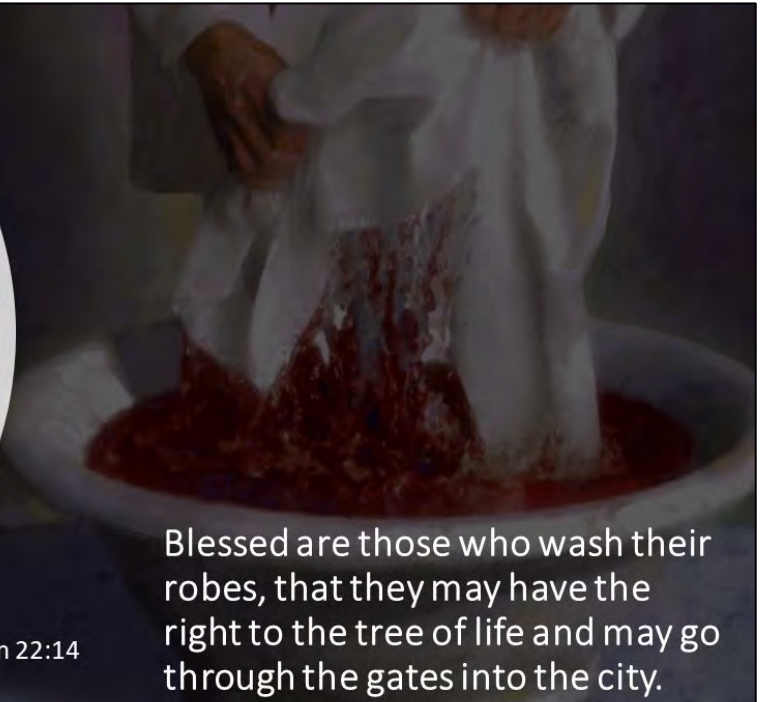
Revelation 22:14 “Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city.”

Revelation 22:15 “Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.”

“Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city.” They have the right and are entitled to approach the tree of life; that this privilege may be granted to them. It is not a right in the sense that they have earned it, but in the sense that the privilege is conferred on them as one of the rewards of God, and that, in virtue of the divine arrangements, they will be entitled to this honor. In this case it is by grace, and all the right which they have to the tree of life is founded on the fact that God has been pleased graciously to confer it on them. Only the blood of Christ gives this right. They would not be forbidden to approach that tree as Adam was, but would be permitted always to partake of it, and would live forever.



Revelation 22:14



Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city.

Revelation 22:16 “I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star.”

Revelation 22:17 The Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let the one who hears say, “Come!” Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life.

Jesus, who is the Spirit of prophecy, has given his bride (the church) this book of Revelation prophecy, in order to assure them of the light of the perfect day approaching. Jesus gives an open and general invitation to mankind, to come and partake freely of the promises and of the privileges of the Gospel. The Spirit, by the sacred word, and by convictions and influence in the sinner's conscience, says, Come to Christ for salvation. Only the sacrifice of Christ counts!

Acts 4:12 (NIV)

Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.

Luke 18:27 (NIV)

Jesus replied, “What is impossible with man is possible with God.”

Acts 4:12

Matthew 7:13-14 (NIV)

Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

Revelation 22:18 I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this scroll: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to that person the plagues described in this scroll.

Revelation 22:19 And if anyone takes words away 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.

Revelation 22:20 He who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Revelation 22:21 The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God’s people. Amen.

A solemn warning on the book of Revelation! Do not add anything to the text, nor take anything away from the text. An earlier warning was written in Deuteronomy.

Deuteronomy 4:2 (NIV)

"You shall not add to the word which I am commanding you, nor take away from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.

Islam claims the Qur’an is the “final revelation” from God. The Qur’an adds and it also takes away! The closing chapter of the Book of Revelation makes clear there is no more Scripture after this. The Qur’an is a false story of Jesus—just a messenger and not the resurrected Son of God. The Qur’an takes away the atoning sacrifice of Jesus; it takes away the only path to God. It adds text proclaiming the virtues of the false prophet Mohammad. It adds text to worship the “we” in Islam, the dragon and the beast. Revelation warns about all this!

Anyone who believes what the Qur’an has taken away from Jesus concerning the truth of His resurrection; that Jesus is the Son of God, and His atoning sacrifice will face the wrath of God: *“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.”*

Anyone who believes what the Qur’an has added about worship to the image of the beast (praying to the Kaaba) will face the wrath of God: *“If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to that person the plagues described in this scroll.”*

Those that are in the lake of fire from believing the Qur’an and praying to the beast Baal and his image the Kaaba will only be able to watch the Lamb as they suffer.

Revelation 14:10-11 (NIV)

They, too, will drink the wine of God’s fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. They will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment will rise for ever and ever. There will be no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and its image, or for anyone who receives the mark of its name.

WARNING: THE QUR'AN ADDS AND TAKES AWAY FROM THE TEXT OF REVELATION!

The Book of Revelation concludes (Revelation 22:18-19) with powerful warnings from God. Do not add nor take away from the Book of Revelation! The false prophet, image and mark actions of Islam, and the taking away of the atoning sacrifice of Jesus are the sources of these Revelation warnings. The warnings make sense, since the entire Revelation prophecy is about the release of Baal, Islam and the false prophet Mohammad. Listen to Jesus and avoid the false prophet's teachings.

Revelation 22:18 I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this scroll: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to that person the plagues described in this scroll.

Revelation 22:19 And if anyone takes words away 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.

A solemn warning on the book of Revelation! Do not add anything to the text, nor take anything away from the text. Do not believe the Qur'an is the final revelation from God.



REVELATION WARNED THE QUR'AN WOULD ADD TEXT AND TAKE AWAY THE TRUTH

The added text warnings in Revelation 22:18 are about the Qur'an! Here is how the Qur'an adds the very actions that bring on the specific Revelation plagues from God! The Qur'an adds the teaching of the false prophet Mohammad, it adds his mark, a statement of faith to a false god, and the Qur'an adds prayer and worship to the image he sets up to honor the beast. Qur'an 7:57 says Mohammad's name is in the Bible. Qur'an 21:25 gives the Islamic statement of faith, the Shahada. Qur'an 2:127 and 2:144 require prayer to the image of the beast, the Kaaba.

The taking away of words warnings in Revelation 22:19 are also about the Qur'an! Here is how the Qur'an takes words away and eliminate the salvation from God, and your share in the tree of life in the New Jerusalem. Qur'an 4:171 takes away the Deity of Jesus, and says Jesus is not God. Qur'an 4:157 takes away the sacrifice of Christ, and says Jesus was not crucified. Qur'an 17:111 says Jesus was not the Son of God. Qur'an 5:75 says Jesus was not God but just a messenger of Allah. The Qur'an adds, and it also takes away! The closing chapter of the Book of Revelation makes clear there is no more Scripture after Revelation. The Bible is final!