

Morning Sermon 5/22/2022 – “The Glories of the New Jerusalem, continued...”
Revelation 22:1-5

How do we know this chapter continues the same theme from the 21st chapter?

*The start of this chapter makes it obvious –
“22 And he showed me...” Who showed me?*

*The same angel who was showing John the Bride, the Lamb’s wife in the last chapter,
Revelation 21:9 (NKJV)*

⁹ Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, “Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb’s wife.”

*mentioned in Revelation 21:9 he starts “showing” John in 21:10, and continues that “showing”
all the way until :5 of chapter 22 –*

*Now, this is not just showing us the Bride personally, and remember the Bride of Christ is not a
literal individual but the entire church / but these verse show the Bride in relation to God the
Father and her husband, Jesus Christ, the Lamb –*

So, the next thing we are shown is:

I. The river of the water of life, which is, Who is, the Holy Spirit –

22 And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. Revelation 22:1 (NKJV)

1. This John has already shown us in his Gospel –

³⁷ On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. ³⁸ He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.” ³⁹ But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. John 7:37–39 (NKJV)

Plus –

¹⁰ Jesus answered and said to her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, ‘Give Me a drink,’ you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.” John 4:10 (NKJV)

¹³ Jesus answered and said to her, “Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.” John 4:13–14 (NKJV)

2. *This water of life flows from the throne of God and the Lamb, not a literal throne (a big chair) but a reference to God's sovereign rule, God rules, He gives according to His own will, now we are to ask –*

you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.” John 4:10 (NKJV)

⁹ “So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. ¹¹ If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? ¹² Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? ¹³ If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!” Luke 11:9–13 (NKJV)

We are not making demands, when we ask for the Holy Spirit / Living Water --- we are petitioning a King! Or Kings - from the throne of God and of the Lamb. Revelation 22:1 (NKJV)

The Nicene Creed communicates this truth that the Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and Son, the throne of God (the Father) and the Lamb (Jesus Christ)

²⁶ But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. John 14:26 (NKJV)

²² And when He (Jesus) had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. John 20:22 (NKJV)

II. The tree of life, which is Christ's cross, which destroys the curse –

² In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. Revelation 22:2 (NKJV)

1. *This takes us back to the Garden of Eden, before sin was in the world –*

⁹ And out of the ground the LORD God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Genesis 2:9 (NKJV)

Now, I believe the trees in Genesis 2:9 were literal trees, and yet like the literal Temple in the Old Testament had a symbolic spiritual counterpart in the New Testament, so these trees had symbolic significance:

- A. *The tree of the knowledge of good and evil was obviously a test of obedience for Adam and Eve –*

¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” Genesis 2:16–17 (NKJV)

- B. *Note, there was a sense that every tree in the Garden was a tree of life, in that God allowed our first parents to eat “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat;...”*

They were all, except the tree of the knowledge of Good and Evil, healthful, lawful, non-forbidden trees ...

C. *Obedience for Adam and Eve did not seem difficult as they could eat from many healthful trees and only one was forbidden ... the right choice was a pleasant easy choice*

...

D. *Yet, after Adam and Eve sinned, they were cast from the Garden of Eden “drove out” and the tree of life (eternal life) was off limits / guarded –*

22 Then the LORD God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever”—

23 therefore the LORD God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. 24 So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life. Genesis 3:22–24 (NKJV)

2. *Sin makes this tree of life much harder to get to as it is guarded and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life. Genesis 3:22–24 (NKJV)*

The tree of life in the N. T. is a different thing –

18 Therefore, as through one man’s offense *judgment* came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man’s righteous act *the free gift* came to all men, resulting in justification of life. 19 For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man’s obedience many will be made righteous. Romans 5:18–19 (NKJV)

3. *In the N. T. the tree of life is chosen by Jesus Christ in the garden of Gethsemane, the olive press, in the N.T. Christ’s cross is the tree of life, Christ’s cross ends the curse – Genesis 3:17 (NKJV) 17 Then to Adam He said, “Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat of it’: “Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life.*

Galatians 3:13–14 (NKJV) 13 Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”), 14 that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

**3 And there shall be no more curse... Revelation 22:3 *Is because of Christ’s work on the cross* ↑
One tree brought about the curse, this tree takes the curse away! ↑**

Matthew 26:36–46 (NKJV) *In Gethsemane, Jesus prays three times that there might be another way to bring salvation, but the cross is the only way!*

Compare these verses –

The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. Revelation 22:2

Isaiah 53:5 (NKJV) 5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.

4. *Twelve fruits – again twelve is the number of God’s people, are we not the fruit of Christ’s labor?*

Matthew 3:8 (NKJV) ⁸ Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance,

Matthew 3:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

John the Baptist wasn’t talking about literal trees. In Revelation 22, I do not believe this are literal trees either. 12 is the number of God’s people. I believe the cross of Christ is a fruitful tree! 12 months means it is fruitful, in season and out of season!

People are also compared to trees in Scripture – Psalm 1

III. The throne of God and the Lamb / His servants, walking, ruling in light - ... but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. ⁴They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. ⁵There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever. Revelation 22:3b-5 (NKJV)

1. *God and Christ (the Lamb) rule –*

... but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it ... Revelation 22:3 B

- A. *This is the answer to the Lord’s Prayer –*

Matthew 6:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ **Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

- B. *We will be happy, obedient servants –*

and His servants shall serve Him. ⁴They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. See Revelation 22:14–15

2. *Seeing God’s face, implies a delight in Him, a closeness, intimacy -*

3. *His Name on “their foreheads”*

The assertion that “his name [will be] on their foreheads” intensifies the notion of intimate fellowship with God.” G. K. Beale

4. *God’s name is one with His character – Ecclesiastes 7:1*

7 A good name is better than precious ointment, ... Ecclesiastes 7:1 A (NKJV) *The character of the redeemed will reflect and match God’s, we will be in His image ...*

5. *Light is moral and spiritual light / reigning implies ruling over sin –*

¹²Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. ¹³And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.

¹⁴For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace. Romans 6:12–14 (NKJV)