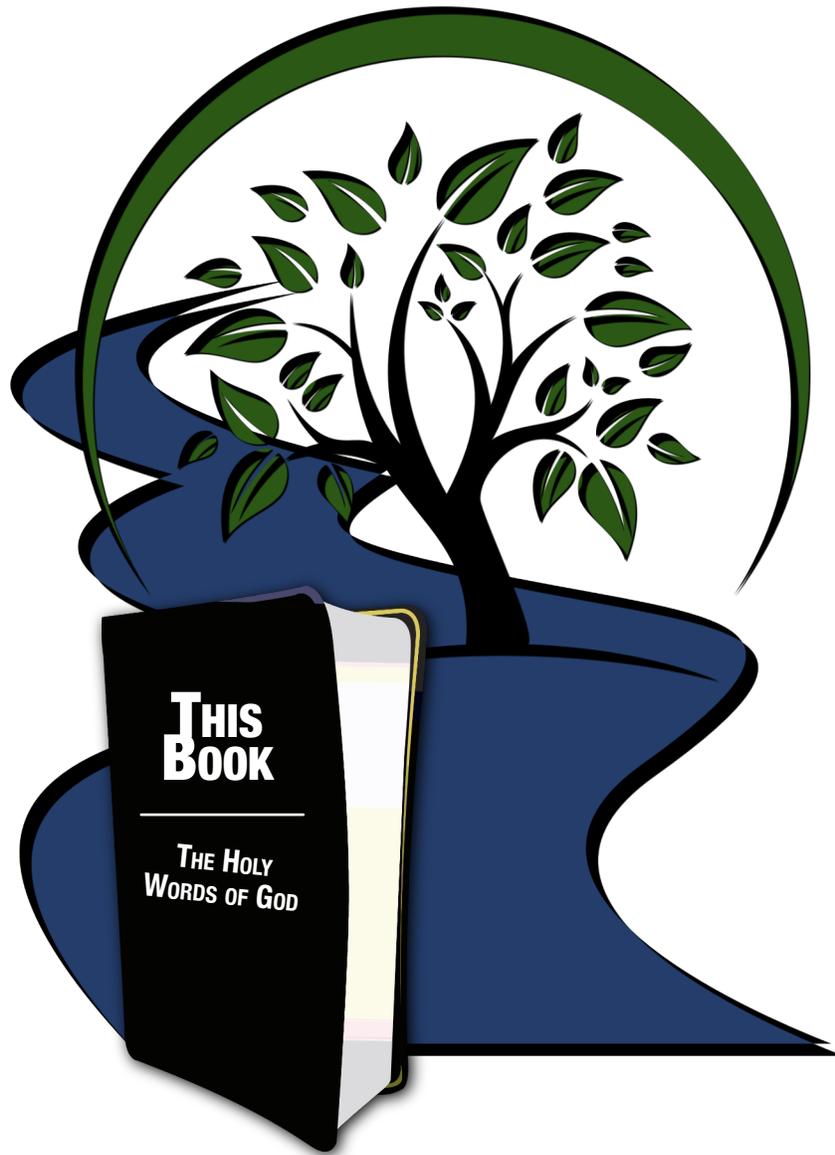


HEAVEN IS LIFE WITH GOD

—*The River of the Water of Life & the Holy Words of God*—



BLESSED IS THE ONE WHO KEEPS THE WORDS OF THE PROPHECY OF [THIS BOOK](#).

(REVELATION 22:7b ESV)

OUTLINE ... (Revelation 22:1-21 ESV)

1. **THIS BOOK** TELLS US THAT HEAVEN IS LIFE WITH GOD, 22:1-5.

- (Revelation 22:1-5 ESV) Then the angel showed me **the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb 2 through the middle of the street of the city;** also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. 3 No longer will there be anything accursed, **but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him.** 4 They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. 5 And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

HEAVEN IS ALL ABOUT GOD AND THE THRONE OF GOD AND THE SALVATION GOD PROVIDES FOR THOSE WHO SERVE AND WORSHIP HIM.

Let's build some perspective ...

The description in verses one through five is a continuation from chapter twenty one of the description of the holy city—the New Jerusalem—of an actual, literal city. But even with the information available to us we will not be able to come close to imagining the wonder and splendor of our new home.

- (1 Corinthians 2:9 ESV) But, as it is written, **“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him.”**

As we previously studied, we do know some things such as the physical dimensions. The city is huge. It is square and depending on which measurement for stadia is used it is either 1,400 or 1,500 miles on each side. So it is either 2,744,000,000 or 3,375,000,000 cubic miles.

And now we learn that the river of God flows from the throne of God through the middle of the street of the city, so this is a river of massive proportions. But this should not surprise us ... this is the river that brings joy to the city of God.

- (Psalm 46:4-5 ESV) **There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation**

of the Most High. 5 God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved; God will help her when morning dawns.

- A. That heaven is life with God is evidenced by this crystal clear river of the water of life **that flows from the throne of God and of the Lamb** through the middle of the street of the city, 22:1-2a.

- (Psalm 78:20 ESV) He struck the rock **so that water gushed out and streams overflowed.**
- (Psalm 105:41-42 ESV) He opened the rock, **and water gushed out; it flowed through the desert like a river.** 42 For he remembered his holy promise, and Abraham, his servant.

- B. The throne of God is a dominant theme in Revelation—**32 references in ESV.**

- (Revelation 4:2 ESV) **At once I was in the Spirit, and behold, a throne** stood in heaven, with one seated on the throne.
- (Revelation 7:10 ESV) and crying out with a loud voice, **“Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!”**

The throne of God speaks to his sovereign rule and by that sovereign rule he cares for the sheep of his pasture.

- (Psalm 79:13 ESV) **But we your people, the sheep of your pasture, will give thanks to you forever;** from generation to generation we will recount your praise.
- (Psalm 100:3 ESV) Know that the Lord, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; **we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.**

- C. Life with God is provided by the water of life, 22:1-2a.

- (Psalm 36:7-9 ESV) How precious is your steadfast love, O God! The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of your wings. 8 They feast on the abundance of your house, **and you give them drink from the river of your delights.** 9 For with you is **the fountain of life;** in your light do we see light.
- (Isaiah 12:2-3 ESV) “Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the LORD GOD is my strength

and my song, and he has become my salvation.” 3 **With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.**

- (Isaiah 55:1 ESV) **Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;** and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.
 - (Jeremiah 2:12–13 ESV) Be appalled, O heavens, at this; be shocked, be utterly desolate, declares the LORD, 13 for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, **the fountain of living waters,** and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water.
 - (John 4:10–11, 13–14 ESV) Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and **he would have given you living water.**” 11 The woman said to him, “Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. **Where do you get that living water?** ... 13 Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, 14 but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. **The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.**”
 - See also John 7:37–38.
 - (Revelation 7:17 ESV) For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, **and he will guide them to springs of living water,** and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.
 - (Revelation 21:6 ESV) And he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty **I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment.**”
- D. Life with God is sustained by the tree of life, 22:2b.
- (Genesis 2:9 ESV) And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. **The tree of life** was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
 - (Genesis 3:22 ESV) Then the LORD God

said, “Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of **the tree of life** and eat, and live forever.”

- (Revelation 2:7 ESV) He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. **To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life,** which is in the paradise of God.
 - (Revelation 22:14 ESV) Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may **have the right to the tree of life** and that they may enter the city by the gates.
- E. No remnants of the accursed of all creation—including humans—will be there, 22:3a.
- F. The accursed will not be there because the throne of God and of the Lamb will be there, 22:3b.
- G. God’s servants—those who submit to him as Lord and King—will be there worshiping him, 22:3c.
- H. God’s worshiping servants will see his face and his name will be written on our foreheads, 22:4.
- I. The Lord God will be our light in heaven, 22:5a.
- J. We will reign in his new heaven and new earth forever and ever, 22:5b.

2. THE WORDS OF **THIS BOOK** ARE FAITHFUL AND TRUE, 22:6-9.

- A. The words of God describing “what must soon take place” are trustworthy and true, 22:6
- (Revelation 22:6 ESV) And he said to me, **“These words are trustworthy and true.** And the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place.”
- B. We are told by God that Jesus is coming soon so the one who keeps these words is blessed, 22:7-9.
- (Revelation 22:7–9 ESV) “And behold, I am coming soon. **Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.**” 8 I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed them to me, 9 but he said to me, “You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers the prophets, and with

those who keep the words of **this book**.
Worship God.”

3. THIS BOOK PROMISES RECOMPENSE AND REPAYMENT, 22:10-15.

- A. We are told by God that John was to make this prophecy known because the time is near, 22:10.
- (Revelation 22:10 ESV) And he said to me, “**Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book**, for the time is near.”
- B. We are told by God that Jesus is coming soon and will bring reward and payment for what each one has done, 22:11-13.
- (Revelation 22:11–13 ESV) Let the evildoer still do evil, and the filthy still be filthy, and the righteous still do right, and the holy still be holy.” 12 “**Behold, I am coming soon**, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done. 13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”
- C. We are told by God that the saved will enter the city and the unsaved will be outside, 22:14-15.
- (Revelation 22:14–15 ESV) **Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates.** 15 Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.
 - (Revelation 7:14 ESV) I said to him, “Sir, you know.” And he said to me, “These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. **They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.**”

4. THIS BOOK EXTENDS A FINAL INVITATION FOR THE CHURCHES, 22:16-17.

- A. We are told by God that Jesus has sent his angel to testify about these things for the churches, 22:16.
- (Revelation 22:16 ESV) I, Jesus, have sent my angel **to testify to you about these**

things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.

... “for the churches”—*Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea.*

- B. The last invitation in the Bible calls for the thirsty to come and take the water of life, 22:17.
- (Revelation 22:17 ESV) The Spirit and the Bride say, “Come.” And let the one who hears say, “Come.” **And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.**

5. THIS BOOK GIVES IT FINAL WARNING AND EXHORTATION, 22:18-21.

- A. The next to last major statement in Scripture is a warning against editing the holy words of God, 22:18-19.
- (Revelation 22:18–19 ESV) **I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them**, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, 19 and **if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy**, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in **this book.**
 - (Deuteronomy 4:2 ESV) **You shall not add to the word** that I command you, **nor take from it, that you may keep** the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you.
 - (Deuteronomy 12:32 ESV) Everything that I command you, you shall be careful to do. **You shall not add to it or take from it.**
- B. Jesus tells us one last time that he is coming soon, 22:20-21.
- (Revelation 22:20–21 ESV) **He who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming soon.”** Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! 21 The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.