

Blessed is he who reads  
and those who hear the  
words of this prophecy,  
and keep those things  
which are written in it;  
for the time is near.

Rev. 1:3

# Verse by Verse Through the Book of Revelation

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## REVELATION CHAPTER 22

This chapter gives details of the heavenly New Jerusalem. It discusses the water of life, the tree of life, the light of the city of God (Himself) and instructs us that nothing may be added to the word of God or taken away from the word of God!



1. **And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.** The angel had shown John the exterior of the city and now calls his attention to certain things in the inside.
2. **In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations** The tree is a symbol of eternal life from the source of life. Ellen White says in Great Controversy page 645 that “All blemishes and deformities are left in the grave. Restored to the tree of life in the long-lost Eden, the redeemed will “grow up” to the full stature of the race in its primeval glory. The last lingering traces of the curse of sin will be removed, and Christ’s faithful ones will appear “in the beauty of the Lord our God,” in mind and soul and body...” It would appear as though we might eat the leaves of the Tree of Life.
3. **And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him:** This suggests that God and Christ will reign in the city. “Servants” is from the Greek word ‘latreuo’ and refers to worship or ministering.

4. **And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads.** “They shall see his face” is a phrase denoting intimate relations with another person and mutual confidence. Compare the experience of Moses in Ex. 33:20-23.
  5. **And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.** This verse draws a word picture emphasizing the insignificance of created light in the presence of God. The saints will enjoy the freedom and abundance of kings!
  6. **And he said unto me, These sayings are faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew unto his servants the things which must shortly be done.** The Holy Spirit had illuminated John’s spirit as He had the spirits of the Old Testament prophets.
  7. **Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.** This refers to the second coming of Jesus.
  8. **And I John saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which shewed me these things.** The grandeur of the vision must have completely overwhelmed the prophet and made him feel extremely humble. Moreover, the angel had been quoting Jesus as if the Lord Himself were speaking—so maybe it was natural for John to fall on his face in worship. But the angel quickly corrected his mistake.  
How different from the Pope! In Vatican City, when the Pope appears, the people standing in the plaza are expected to bow down—and they do.
  9. **Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellow servant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God.** Compare ch. 19:10, where apparently the same group is described as “thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus.” The sayings of this book are the testimony of Jesus. (See ch. 1:2) *So, when we study the Book of Revelation we are, in fact, studying the words of Jesus Christ Himself to us!*
  10. **And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book for the time is at hand.** This is opposite to the command given Daniel concerning his book (Dan. 12:4).
  11. **He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.** These words are true when we die but they are also applicable to the time when each person’s future is irrevocably settled. Such a decree comes at the close of the investigative judgment (see ch. 14:7). The free
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will of man is not to be interfered with. Men are to be permitted to live the life of their own choosing, so that their true character may become apparent to the entire universe!

By their own painful experience they learned the evil of sin, its power, its guilt, its woe; and they look upon it with abhorrence. A sense of the infinite sacrifice made for them—so that they can live forever with Jesus—humbles them in their own sight, and fills their hearts with gratitude and praise which those who have never fallen cannot appreciate.

12. **And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.** “Work” is translated from the Greek word *ergon* meaning “and act done.” Apparently, our acts will be important in the judgment. While we can’t perform acts to find merit with God. However, once we are committed to Him, all of our acts (and behaviors) will be in accordance with His will for our lives.
  13. **I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.** These are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, used as descriptive of the Lord as the Creator of all things and as the beginning and final revelation of God to men.
  14. **Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.** The phrase “do his commandments” would be better translated “that wash their robes.” Of the early translations, only the Sinaiticus and the Alexandrinus contain this section of Revelation and both of these read “that wash their robes.” (No fragment of the Book of Revelation was found with the Dead Sea Scrolls so we have only those later manuscripts to go by.) In actual fact both readings suit the context and are in harmony with John’s teaching elsewhere. We should build the doctrine of obedience to God’s commandments on those other passages of Scripture dealing with obedience on which there are no questionable translation passages.
  15. **For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.** Dogs was a figure for a vile, shameless person (See on Phil. 3:2)
  16. **I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.** The term bright and morning star was also used in the prophecy of Balaam in Num. 24:17. Peter refers to Christ as the “day star” 2 Peter 1:19. The purpose of this text is to authenticate the message!
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17. **And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.** The Holy Spirit is the one who energizes the Christian life of believers, who gives them the strength to live the victorious life, to overcome the devil and to go safely through the time of trouble. We consider this an appeal to the unbelieving world to accept the gospel.

Whosoever will means that the call is universal. No one is excluded from the possibilities of salvation.

18. **For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:** The term “every man” designates the individual. Men and women will be saved as individuals, not as churches or congregations. Salvation is strictly personal.

19. **And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.** The guilty one will suffer three major losses: 1) loss of any part in the corporate life of the city of the new earth; 2) loss of immortality and the consequent suffering of eternal death and 3) loss of all the blessings and promises of the Revelation.

A complete and staggering loss is here presented that nothing in this life can even remotely compensate for.

20. **He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.** He is Christ that testifies to these things. The Master reaffirms the surety and imminence of His second coming.

The ‘even so, come, Lord Jesus’ is most likely spoken by John. If so it should be connected to verse 21. It seems to be an exclamation of John’s response to the visions he has had.

21. **The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.** This verse is a benediction seemingly deep from the heart of the apostle, reaching out to all who read the words of his visions.

The original Greek had “for all saints” instead of “you all.” The Amen was added later in newer manuscripts and was not in the original.

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