

**Seeing God and
Reigning in a Global
Eden Forever**

Revelation 22:1-5



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.

Two Cities—the city of man; the City of God

Babylon	New Jerusalem
Great prostitute	Bride of Christ
Sinful	Holy
Unclean	Nothing unclean will enter it
Detestable	Nor anyone detestable
Full of the nations	Full of the nations
Weeping and mourning	No weeping; nor mourning

Revelation 22:1



- 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

The most common question I have received over this year long study has been:

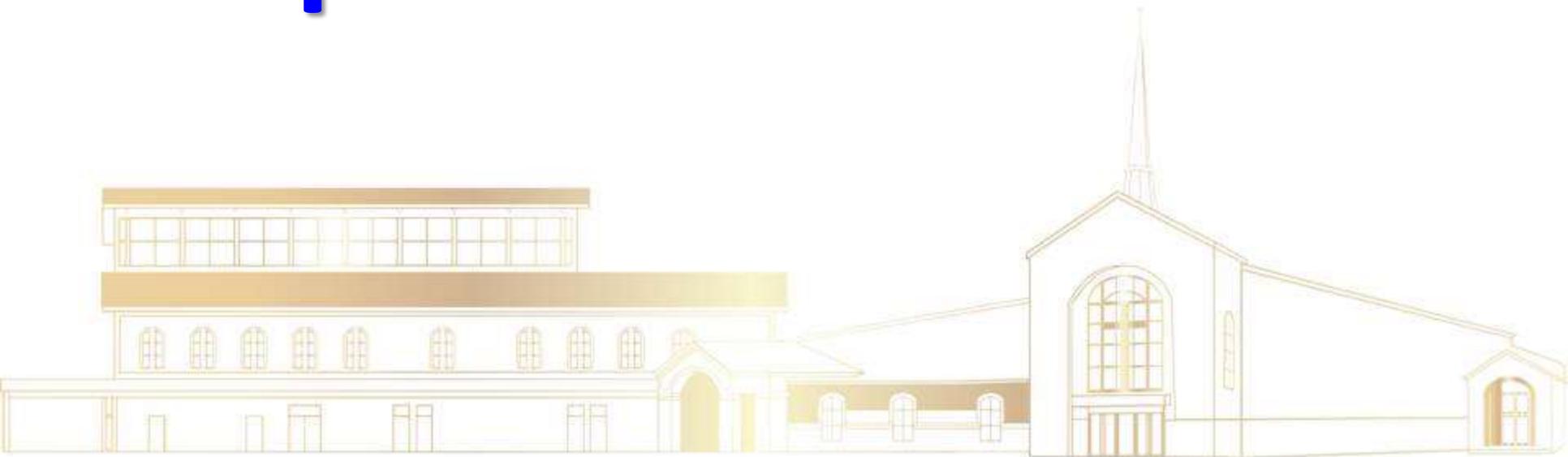
How do I know what is literal and what is figurative?

Lets talk about “the river of water of life.”



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**Consider the
importance of a river.**



The river may or may not be literal.

A river is a source of

- Water to drink
- Food to eat
- Cleaning and bathing

Consider John 4:



John 4:10

- 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.”



John 4:11–12

- “Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? ¹² Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock.”



John 4:13–14

- 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.”



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**Is this water
literal or figurative?**



John 7:38

- Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, **‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’ ”**

Is it an accident that the John who writes about ‘rivers of living water’ writes about a river of water that gives life in Rev 22?



IMO: Ezekiel and John saw the same thing or so substantially similar that God intended for the reader to make a connection.

Turn back to Ezekiel:

1.Ezekiel 40:2 and 48:35

2.Ezekiel 47



Is there continuity between Ezekiel and Revelation?

Ezekiel 40:2

In visions of God he brought me to the land of Israel, and set me down on a very high mountain, on which was a structure **like a city** to the south.

Ezekiel 48:35

The circumference of the city shall be 18,000 cubits. **And the name of the city** from that time on shall be, The LORD Is There.”



This is what I think:

Everything between Ezekiel 40:2 and 48:35 is describing the New Heaven and New Earth and the New Jerusalem—the city of God—the Lord is There.



Revelation 22:1



- 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

Ezekiel 47:1–2

- Then he brought me back to the door of **the temple**, and behold, water was issuing from below the threshold of the temple toward the east (for the temple faced east). **The water was flowing down from below the south end of the threshold of the temple**, south of the altar. ² Then he brought me out by way of the north gate and led me around on the outside to the outer gate that faces toward the east; and behold, the water was trickling out on the south side.



Revelation 22:1



- Then the angel showed me the river of the **water of life**, bright as crystal,

Ezekiel 47:9

- And wherever the river goes, **every living creature that swarms will live**, and there will be very many fish. For this water goes there, that the waters of the sea may become fresh; so everything **will live where the river goes.**



The river provides life.

This vision shows us that God is the source of life. The water flows from the throne of God—reminding the reader that God is the ultimate sustainer of all life. Thus God will provide life for all in this His city.



Revelation 22:2



- 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.

Ezekiel 47:3–5

- Going on eastward with a measuring line in his hand, the man measured a thousand cubits, and then led me through the water, and it was ankle-deep. ⁴ Again he measured a thousand, and led me through the water, and it was knee-deep. Again he measured a thousand, and led me through the water, and it was waist-deep. ⁵ Again he measured a thousand, and it was a river that I could not pass through, for the water had risen. It was deep enough to swim in, **a river that could not be passed through.**



Revelation 22:2



- through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life

Ezekiel 47:7

- As I went back, I saw on the bank of the river very many trees on the one side and on the other.



Revelation 22:2



- the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month.

Ezekiel 47:12

- Their leaves will not wither, nor their fruit fail, but they **will bear fresh fruit every month,**



Revelation 22:2



- **The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.**

Ezekiel 47:12

- Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for healing.”

And Isaiah



Isaiah 53:5

- But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, **and with his wounds we are healed.**



Healing

When Christ was dwelling among his people His ministry was characterized by healing everyone everywhere.

And now when God is dwelling with His people and His people are dwelling with Him and the trees on the bank of His river flowing from His throne provide all the healing His people need.

This is a poetic and powerful way of saying God keeps us free of sickness and disease.



The River of Life and Tree of Life

Ezekiel 47:1-12	Revelation 22:1-2
Water is flowing from the temple (1)	Water flowing from the throne of God (1)
The river (5)	Of the river (1)
on the bank of the river very many trees on the one side and on the other. (7)	on either side of the river, the tree of life (2)
every living creature that swarms will live...will live (9)	Water of life (1)
Fresh fruit every month (12)	yielding its fruit each month (2)
and their leaves for healing.” (12)	leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. (2)

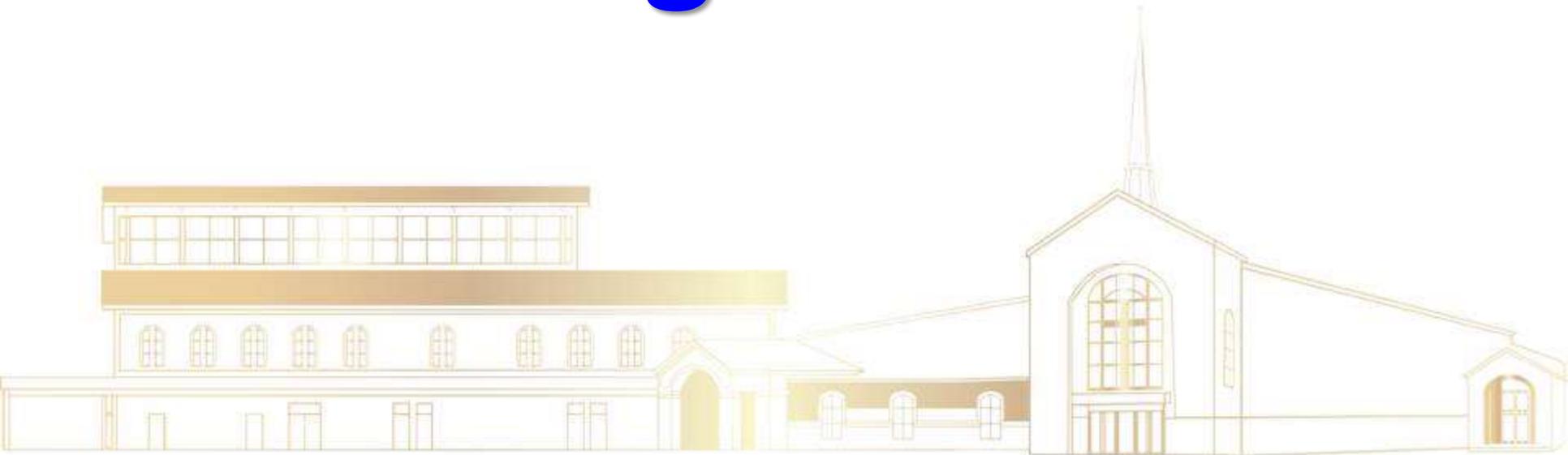
Revelation 22:3



- No longer will there be anything accursed,

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**That's Literal—
nothing accursed!**



No sin, sadness or sorrow

No death, disease, dehydration, or dementia

No sickness, fever, or allergic reactions

No thorns, insect bites or shark attacks

**Swimming in the ocean with no
concern for the rip current.**



Genesis 3:14 & 17

- The LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, **cursed are you** above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life.
- And to Adam he said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ **cursed is the ground** because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;



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**Living in a world w/o
anything accursed is a
BIG Deal!**



Consider the implications of the idea that there isn't a curse to remove.

Without a curse to remove—eat, drink and be merry—for tomorrow we may die.



If there isn't a curse to remove (as so many would suggest) then we humans must fix the earth (society) ourselves and there is nothing more to life than a biological existence on planet earth for one lifetime.

Satan, sin and the curse explain what's wrong with us, others, and the earth.



Christians understand we live in a fallen world.

And we long to live in a world that isn't fallen—a world where the curse has been lifted by the Sovereign God the Universe.

**That's
2 Peter 3:13**



2 Peter 3:13

- But according to his promise **we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth** in which righteousness dwells.



The Revelation of Jesus Christ
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Turn to Romans 8:18ff



Romans 8:18

- For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.



Romans 8:19

- For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God.



Romans 8:20

- For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, **but because of him who subjected it**, in hope



Romans 8:21

- that the creation itself will be set free from **its bondage to corruption** and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.



Romans 8:22

- For we know that the **whole creation has been groaning** together in the pains of childbirth until now.



Romans 8:23

- And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, **groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.**



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**This is the
“ALREADY—NOT YET”
tension**



Adoption & Redemption

The Adoption/Redemption is NOT YET complete because we have yet to see our Father face to face and our physical bodies are still subject to the curse.



Our Sovereign God Lifts the Curse

This is when the lion and the lamb can lay down together.

The curse keeps this from happening.

This is why you can't have the lion laying down with the lamb in the millennial kingdom and still have death.

Death is part of the curse.



Revelation 22:3



- but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him.

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W-O-R-S-H-I-P

to ascribe worth



It is impossible for me to put too much emphasis on worshipping the Lord.

If you didn't join the church in worshipping the Lord this morning in song than there is something broke in you that the Holy Spirit needs to make new.



**How do we
worship the
Lord?**



- **With our mouths, hands**
 - > How can you be a Christian and not praise Him?
- **In offerings and gifts**
 - > How can you be a Christian and give nothing?
- **By obeying and submitting to Him**
 - > How can you be a Christian and live in consistent disobedience?





What does it say about our worship when we spent more on our one week Disney vacation than we gave to the church in the entire year?



Romans 12:1

- I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as **a living sacrifice**, holy and acceptable to God, which is **your spiritual worship.**



Why don't you make a commitment something like this:

If we can't afford to give freewill offerings of love and affection to God's church we can't afford Disney vacations, travel ball, Bahamas cruises, a new car, crab legs, a new gun, etc. etc.



Revelation 22:4



- **They will see his face,** and his name will be on their foreheads.

If you are NOT longing to see God's face then you have the Demas disease.

Demas was in love with this present world and abandoned Christ.

2 Tim 4:10



Matthew 5:8

- “Blessed are the pure in heart, **for they shall see God.**



1 John 3:2

- Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, **because we shall see him as he is.**



Revelation 22:4



• and his name will be on their foreheads.

This is presented in stark contrast to the mark of the beast.

Revelation 14:11



- **And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever, and they have no rest, day or night, these worshipers of the beast and its image, and whoever receives the mark of its name.”**

references can be found in [Revelation 14:9](#), [11](#), [15:2](#), [16:2](#), [19:20](#), and [20:4](#). This mark acts as a seal for the followers of Antichrist and the false prophet (the spokesperson for the Antichrist). The false prophet (the second beast) is the one who causes people to take this mark. The mark is literally placed in the hand or forehead and is not simply a card someone carries.

What is the mark of the beast?

Watch later Share



It is possible that the technology we are seeing today represents the beginning stages of what may eventually be used as the mark of the beast.

MORE VIDEOS

0:57 / 3:09

YouTube

If we sensationalize the mark of the beast like so many are prone to do—what must we also do with Revelation 22:4?

Is God's name being tattooed on our foreheads?



Revelation 22:5



- **And night will be no more.**

Nothing sinful or unclean will be present even in the most remote corner of the kingdom.

Revelation 22:5



- They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

NOT 1000 Years

To Reign

- **Is to exercise dominion**
- **Possess or express sovereign power**

**Adam was God's King
in the Garden**



But how do we reign if there aren't sinners on the earth?

Some say: This is why we need a millennial kingdom so we can reign over sinners.

Genesis 1:26-28 answers this.



Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them **have dominion** over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” ²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. ²⁸ And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and **subdue it**, and **have dominion** over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”



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**Adam was reigning
over the earth before
sin entered the
Garden.**



Redeemed mankind, as the pinnacle of God's creation, will reign over everything else that God has created on the new earth forever without the curse.

Picture a global Garden of Eden without the "be fruitful and multiply mandate" and without the Serpent.



**Here is the most important
question any could ever ask
you:**

**What do you believe about
God, His Son, the Gospel
and the Word of God?**

