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The River of Life  
Revelation 22:1-7

INTRO: Sometimes it is hard for us to even imagine what it is going to be like in eternity when we live with the Lord God of heaven, when He walks and talks with us (Vs 3-4a). Yes, one day, we will see the face of our precious Savior, the one who died for our sins, was buried, and rose again. Although it is hard for us to fathom the beauty and wonders of the eternity, we know that what the Bible says about it is true. For the angel said to John: "These sayings are faithful and true..." (Vs 6a).

The last chapter of the book of the Revelation is a chapter of victory, a chapter of triumph. It is a chapter about the ultimate triumph of Christ.

Note with me how the first book of the Bible, the book of Genesis, and the last book of the Bible, the book of Revelation, are contrasted.

In Genesis+ "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."

In Rev+ "I saw a new heaven and a new earth."

In Genesis+ "The darkness He called night."

In Rev+ "There shall be not night there."

In Genesis+ "Thou shalt surely die."

In Rev+ "Death shall be no more."

In Genesis+ "I will greatly multiply your pain."

In Rev+ "Neither shall there be any more pain."

In Genesis+ "Cursed is the ground for your sake."

In Rev+ "There shall be no more curse."

In Genesis+ "Driven from the tree of life."

In Rev+ The tree of life appears.

In Genesis+ Satan appears

In Rev+ Satan disappears.

1. VS 1, THE RIVER OF LIFE

1. Rivers open the Bible (Gen 2:10) and a river closes it (Rev 22:1).
2. Think of it! Here is a river that flows from the throne of God and of the Lamb. A river flowing out of the New Jerusalem.
  1. Since the source, the spring, of this river is the throne of God; it is the purest of all rivers.
  2. It's water is clean, pure, clear as crystal. It needs no fluoride, no purification.
3. Throughout history, water has been indispensable for life, for refreshment, for health.
  1. This river can only be enjoyed by those who have drank from the well of living waters.

1. It is essential that you believe in Jesus, that you trust Him, that you drink at the fountain of life.
2. John 4:7-14; 6:35; 7:37-39.
2. This river will be a massive one for it will supply water for the irrigation of all vegetation on the new earth it seems.

## 2. VS 2, THE TREE OF LIFE

1. This is a literal tree just as literal as the tree of life in Genesis.
  1. The Bible opens with a tree of life and closes with a tree of life.
  2. The tree will be in the midst of the street of the city, the new Jerusalem. Picture here the most beautiful boulevard ever. The street of gold with the tree of life in the midst.
    1. The tree also is on the bank of the river.
    2. In Genesis 3:22-24, God drove Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden to keep them from eating of the fruit. Now in revelation 22, it is freely available with no restrictions.
2. Twelve manner of fruits will grow on the tree of life.
  1. Everyone has access to the tree; it is available to all.
  2. The bride and the nations of the saved will eat of the fruit.
    1. We will eat in eternity.
    2. Jesus ate literal food after the resurrection. We shall do the same in eternity (John 21:9-14; Acts 10:40-41).
3. The leaves of the tree of life are for the healing of the nation.
  1. This is not physical healing (Rev 21:4).
  2. It seems that the leaves have ministry+ the healing of the nations. It is possible that they are the purpose of maintaining fellowship throughout eternity (Eze 47:12).
  3. The church is the bride of Christ. Others will make up the nations dwelling on the earth (Rev 21:24-29).

## 3. VSS 3-5, NO MORE CURSE

1. Vs 3, The curse that was pronounced upon the earth, upon the Garden of Eden, that garden that witnessed Satan's rebellion and man's fall, is now removed forever (Gen 3:1-7).
  1. This new garden will be far superior to the first. Oh, how Adam and Eve will marvel at it!
  2. The curse will not come again. Eternity's beauty will not be marred.
    1. The last word in the Old Testament is curse (Malachi 4:6).
    2. The New Testament begins with the genealogy of Jesus Christ who bore our curse (Matt 1; Gal 3:13).
    3. The Bible ends with a benediction instead of a curse (Rev 22:3, 21).
3. The Throne of God will be in the New Jerusalem.
  1. The government will be perfect+ theocracy.
  2. God Himself shall rule.

4. We will worship and serve Him.
  1. God's children will be ceaselessly active.
  2. The Greek word for "serve" is *latreuo* meaning to keep on serving Him and worshipping Him.
2. Vs 4, We "shall see his face." We shall behold the King of Kings and Lord of Lords in all of His glory.
  1. Face to face with Christ my Savior.  
Face to face what will it be.  
When with rapture I behold Him,  
Jesus Christ who died for me.
  2. His name shall be in their foreheads.
    1. This is a sign of ownership and security. We will understand the nature of God. We will at last have true wisdom.
    2. Forehead+ we will perfectly and publicly reflect the character of God for we shall be like Christ (I Jn 3:1-3).
3. Vs 5, No night will be known in eternity.
  1. Today only one half of the world can have light at one time. Then all the world will be illuminated.
  2. In eternity future, there will be:
    1. No night+ no evils of darkness. No rape, murder, robbery, etc.
    2. No candles+ no electric lights, etc.
    3. No sunlight. We'll have SON light.
  3. God will give light to this wonderful home (Rev 21:23).
    1. All those who have believed on Jesus, the light of the world, will have eternal light (Col 1:12-14).
    2. Those who die without Christ will spend eternity in eternal darkness (Rev 20:15).
  4. The redeemed will reign with Christ forever.
4. VSS 6-7, JESUS IS COMING BACK
  1. Vs 6, We can believe the Bible; it is God's inspired, infallible Word. It's "sayings are faithful and true."
    1. The book of Revelation is to be preached and believed; it is not a sealed book (Rev 22:10).
    2. The God of the Bible is faithful and true, and the sayings of the Book are true.
  2. Vs 7, Jesus says: "Behold, I come quickly."
    1. Mark it down! Jesus is coming again.
    2. He will return as He left (Acts 1:9-11; I Thes 4:16-18).
    3. Are you ready?
    4. Keep the Word of God, receive it, believe it, and be blessed by it.

CONCLUSION: Eternity will be so very wonderful for all who believe. Hell awaits those who reject Christ.