



REVELATION 22

The Final Word

Verses 1–5 – The River, the Tree, and Eternal Life

- v1: The river of life flows from the throne of God and of the Lamb—
 - perfect provision and healing from God Himself.
 - The water that Jesus spoke to the woman at the well about.
- v2: The tree of life, once lost in Genesis 3, is restored.
 - The Bible **does not specify** what the 12 fruits are individually. Instead, the emphasis is on:
 - **Variety**: Not just one kind of fruit—**12 different kinds**
 - **Consistency**: A **new fruit each month**, suggesting **perpetual provision and renewal**
 - Throughout Scripture, **12** represents **governmental completeness** and **divine order**.
 - The leaves are for healing of the nations—no more war, no more division.

Healing

- The word for “healing” is θεραπεία (therapeia)
 - Root of our word therapy
 - It can mean healing, restoration, serving, or nurturing care
 - It does not necessarily imply curing sickness—it can mean sustaining wellness
- So the idea is not that sickness exists in the New Jerusalem, but that the leaves maintain perfect wholeness among all nations.
- Symbol of Eternal Provision
- In the Garden of Eden, the Tree of Life sustained Adam and Eve—until sin cut that off.
- In Revelation, the Tree of Life returns, and its leaves provide perpetual well-being.
- This symbolizes God’s direct, ongoing provision—just as in Eden, but now forever.

Unity for All Nations

- “Healing of the nations” implies reconciliation:
 - Racial healing
 - Cultural healing
 - National wounds healed
 - No more war, division, or injustice

In today’s fractured world—divided by politics, race, class, and power—this is a promise that only Jesus can unite the nations under His kingship.

Ezekiel 47:12 (a parallel vision):

"Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for medicine."

This confirms the prophetic pattern—where the leaves represent life-giving, sustaining grace from God Himself.

Nations

- Revelation clearly speaks of "nations" still existing outside and around the New Jerusalem, even in the eternal state.

Revelation 21:24 (NKJV):

“And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it.”

Revelation 22:2 (NKJV):

“The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.”

These verses are not figurative—they come after the New Heaven and New Earth are established (Rev 21:1). That means this is in the eternal state—not just the Millennium.

WHO?

- These are redeemed people groups from across history—the nations who accepted Christ.
- The word “nations” = Greek *ethnē* (ἔθνη) = ethnic groups, people groups
- They are saved (“nations of those who are saved” – Rev 21:24)
- They walk in the light of the Lamb and the city—so they are not outside in a negative sense
- They still maintain distinct identity, culture, and honor—but are unified under Christ
- God Redeems Ethnic Diversity—not Erases It
- He created nations at Babel (Genesis 10–11), but sin divided them.
- At Pentecost, the Gospel went out to all nations (Acts 2).
- In Revelation 7:9, we see a multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and tongue—before the throne, not erased, but preserved.
- Eternity includes a celebration of redeemed diversity—unified under one King.

The New Jerusalem is the Capital—Not the Entirety

- The New Earth still exists.
 - The New Jerusalem is the heavenly city—like a capital city or holy temple, and people come into it.
 - People dwell on the New Earth, and walk into the city, bringing worship and honor to God (Rev 21:24–26).
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- The New Earth is the restored physical creation.
 - The New Jerusalem comes down to this Earth and becomes its capital city.
 - So heaven and earth merge—God now dwells with man (Rev 21:3).
 - **We Will Dwell in Both**
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- Jesus prepares a place in the Father’s house—that’s the heavenly city.
 - But once it comes down, it is on the New Earth—so you can live in the city and walk on the earth. Think of it like this: You may have a home in the capital (New Jerusalem) but roam freely across the kingdom (New Earth).

The Difference

Truth

The **New Jerusalem** is our eternal home

The **New Earth** is our eternal inheritance

We will **move freely** between both

Eternity is **physical, spiritual, relational**

Explanation

It's where our place is prepared—where God dwells with us

It's the restored Earth—where we reign, worship, and live

The nations bring glory to the city, and God's light fills everything

Not clouds and harps—**a real redeemed world** where God walks with us

Verse 3-6

- No more curse (Genesis reversed), God's people serve Him, see His face, and reign forever.
- This is a true restoring of what God meant from the beginning.
- VS 6 reenforces the truth of God. This will happen there is no question about it.
- However....

VS 7-11

- V7: “Behold, I am coming quickly!”—Jesus repeats this three times in this chapter. Urgency!
- God is not bound by time the way we are.
- What feels like a delay to us is not delay to Him.
- He sees the beginning and end all at once (Isaiah 46:10).
- So when He says “quickly”, He’s speaking from an eternal perspective, not a 24-hour human clock.

The Greek word for “quickly” in Revelation is **ταχύ (tachy)**—same root as “tachometer.”
It doesn’t always mean **soon on a calendar**, but rather:

Suddenly

Without delay once it begins

Speedy in execution

Quickly

in Luke 19:11–13, Jesus tells a parable because people “thought the kingdom of God would appear immediately.”

Instead, the master says:

“Occupy till I come.”

He knew there would be a waiting period.

So “quickly” means:

- Urgently: Be ready now
- Suddenly: It will happen in a moment (like lightning – Matt 24:27)
- Unpredictably: No one knows the day or hour (Matt 24:36)

The Warning Is for Our Faithfulness, Not Date-Setting

Jesus' "quickly" is meant to produce readiness, not impatience or confusion.

Revelation 3:11

"Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have..."

It's not "figure out the timeline," it's:

Stay faithful. Don't drift. Don't fall asleep.

Our View

"It's been 2,000 years!"

"He's delaying."

"How much longer?"

"Come quickly, Lord!"

God's View

"It's only been 2 days" (2 Peter 3:8)

"I'm patient, not willing any should perish" (2 Peter 3:9)

"Trust Me. I'm not slow—I'm precise."

"Yes, I am coming quickly. Be ready."

VS 8-10

- v8–9: John tries to worship the angel again—reminder: worship God only.
- How easily we can start to worship the messenger because of the message!
- v10–11: Don't seal the words—this is for *now*, not a secret. Let people choose which road they walk.
- This is why teaching Revelation and understanding Revelation is SO important NOW.

VS 11

- This verse is often misunderstood!!
- Unjust (ἀδικῶν / *adikōn*):
To act wickedly, violate what is right, or be morally corrupt.
- Filthy (ρυπαρός / *rhuparos*):
Defiled, morally polluted (often tied to idolatry or sexual immorality).
- Righteous (δίκαιος / *dikaios*):
Justified, walking rightly before God.
- Holy (ἁγιασμένος / *hagiazō*):
Set apart, consecrated, sanctified.

“How you die is how you rise.”

This verse comes at the end of the book, after God has unveiled His plan, offered salvation, warned of judgment, and shown the reward for the overcomers.

Now, the final verdict is coming.

It's a declaration that:

At this point in redemptive history—the eternal state—people's destinies are fixed.

Unjust will remain unjust.

Holy will remain holy.

- Free Will Eventually Be Sealed
- God gives free will now. But one day, each person's decision will be set forever:
- The window of mercy will close
- There is no purgatory, no second chance
- It's either washed in the blood or filthy still
- If you die unjust, you'll be unjust forever.
If you die in Christ, you'll be holy forever.

Verses 12–17 – Invitation & Final Promises

- v12: Jesus brings reward for each one according to works—not salvation by works, but works flowing from true faith.
- v13: “I am the Alpha and Omega...”—Jesus is the source and end of all things.
- Let’s talk Bema seat
 - What Is the BEMA Seat Judgment?
 - Greek: *Bēma* = raised platform, tribunal
 - Found in Romans 14:10, 2 Corinthians 5:10, and 1 Corinthians 3:12–15
 - “For we must all appear before the judgment seat (bema) of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body... whether good or bad.”

BEMA Seat

- It is only for believers
- It occurs after the Rapture
- It is not about salvation, but about rewards or loss of rewards
- It evaluates faithfulness, motives, obedience (not sin)

Think of it like an award ceremony, not a courtroom conviction

“My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.”

This is very Bema-style language—especially the phrase:

"according to his work" — parallels 1 Cor 3:13–15 and Matt 16:27

However...

Timing

- The Bema Seat happens:
- After the Rapture, during or just before the Tribulation on Earth
- Before the Second Coming (Rev 19)
- But Revelation 22 is describing:
- The eternal state
- After the New Heaven, New Earth, and New Jerusalem
- It's the final call and conclusion of the book
- So verse 12 is likely:
- A general summary of Christ's role as judge and rewarder
- Meant to apply to all people—believers and unbelievers alike
- Meant to remind the reader that Jesus brings reward and accountability

Rewards Are Tied to Millennial Responsibilities

Here's the big connection most people miss:

Your Bema rewards impact your role during the 1,000-year reign of Christ.

Jesus taught this directly in parables:

For example

Luke 19:17 (Parable of the Minas)

“Well done, good servant; because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities.”

- Faithfulness in this life = rulership in the next
- This is not heaven—it's Jesus' earthly kingdom (Luke 19:11)

• And Revelation 20:4, 6

“They lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years...”

“They shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him...”

Who reigns?

Those who are in Christ

Those who were faithful

Those who overcame (Rev 2–3)

What is may look like

Role	Biblical Support	Description
Rulers over cities or regions	Luke 19:17	Leadership over geographic areas
Priests unto God	Rev 1:6, 5:10, 20:6	Teaching, worship, intercession
Judges and governors	1 Cor 6:2	Help administrate God's justice
Worship leaders	Ezekiel 40–48	Temple worship may resume (Millennial temple)
Witnesses to survivors	Isaiah 2:3	Teach survivors about the King and His ways

There will be survivors of the Tribulation who enter the Millennium in natural (mortal) bodies (Matt 25:31–46, Zech 14:16).

We, in glorified bodies, will reign over and serve them—helping Christ govern the Earth.

STILL THE BODY OF CHRIST!

Again, we see who this applies to.

- v14: Blessing for those who wash their robes—believers made clean by the blood of the Lamb.
- v15: A sober list of those who remain outside—a final reminder: not all are saved.
- Not without the city but without the new Heaven/Earth.
- They are in the lake of fire.

The Morning Star

•v16: Jesus testifies—He is both Root and Offspring of David and the Bright Morning Star. In the ancient world, the morning star was the brightest light in the sky just before dawn, usually referring to the planet Venus.

So when Jesus says, “*I am the Bright Morning Star,*” He’s declaring:
I appear when it’s still dark... but I signal that the night is ending and the day is coming.

- This is a symbol of hope and promise:
- The world is still dark—but Jesus is already shining.
- His return is imminent, like the sun about to rise.
- For the believer, Jesus is the first light of the new day—resurrection, redemption, rule.

Revelation 2:26, 28 (NKJV):

“And he who overcomes... I will give him the morning star.”

Jesus not only *is* the Morning Star—He will share Himself with those who overcome:

- Eternal closeness with Him
 - Shared rule in His kingdom
 - Glorious victory and joy
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- Isaiah 14:12 in the KJV uses the phrase “Lucifer, son of the morning.”
 - This is not the same as Jesus being the Morning Star.
 - Here’s why:
 - In Hebrew, the Isaiah term is *Helel ben Shachar* = “shining one, son of the dawn”
 - It’s describing the fallen pride of a spiritual being (Satan), not an eternal title
 - Jesus shines in righteousness; Lucifer tried to usurp God's throne
 - Satan is a false light who brings darkness.
Jesus is the true light who brings the dawn.

Numbers 24:17

*“I see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but not near;
A Star shall come out of Jacob, a Scepter shall rise out of Israel...”*

This prophecy by Balaam (of all people!) points to:

- The Star = Messiah
- The Scepter = King

When Jesus calls Himself the Morning Star, He's saying:

“I am the promised King from Israel who brings light to the world.”

The Gospel

v17: The Spirit and the Bride say, “Come!”—The gospel invitation. (Think John 4)

- Okay one more time....
- The Church = Body of Christ (present age, prior to Revelation 20:5)
- The Bride = All believers across all ages (after Revelation 20:5 when all things are made new)
- Therefore, the Bride includes Old Testament saints, Tribulation saints, Millennial believers, and the Church
- Revelation 21–22 refers to this final, unified redeemed people of God as the “bride”

- HOWEVER, their message to the world applies today.

- So, the Spirit combined with the message from various group, during various times is the Gospel

- This means the “bride” that John sees is part of this **final and eternal order**, not just a symbolic label for the Church-age saints.

Revelation 21:9–10 (NKJV)

“Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb’s wife. And he... showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven...”

- This connects the bride to the New Jerusalem itself
- The city is where all redeemed will dwell
- The city is called the bride because it is the dwelling place of the redeemed in intimate covenant with Christ

It is not limited to Church-age believers, but includes all believers who have entered eternal life after the final judgment

Hebrews 11:10, 16 (Abraham and the Patriarchs)

“For he waited for the city... whose builder and maker is God... they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country...”

- Old Testament believers were looking forward to this heavenly city (New Jerusalem)
- That puts Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and others in the same eternal dwelling as Church-age saints

Group

Church (Body)

Old Testament Saints

Tribulation & Millennial Saints

Bride (Rev 21–22)

Role

United to Christ now, as His body (Eph 5:23, Col 1:18)

Awaited Messiah in faith (Heb 11)

Redeemed post-Church age

All redeemed from all ages in covenant unity with Christ in the eternal state

So the **Bride = all saints glorified, gathered, and joined to the Lamb** in the **New Jerusalem**.

- The **Spirit** is God's eternal call to salvation
- The **Bride**, here in Revelation 22, represents the **redeemed people of God in the eternal state**—now unified in their invitation
- The invitation is still being extended to the **last generation before Christ's final return**, even as the book closes

One last time...

- In the Old Testament, God (Yahweh) is described as Israel's husband, and Israel is called His wife or bride.

Isaiah 54:5 (NKJV)

*“For your Maker is your husband,
The Lord of hosts is His name;
And your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel...”*

Jeremiah 3:14 (NKJV)

*“Return, O backsliding children,’ says the Lord;
‘for I am married to you.’”*

Ezekiel 16:8 (NKJV)

“Yes, I swore an oath to you and entered into a covenant with you, and you became Mine,” says the Lord God.

Hosea 2:19–20 (NKJV)

*“I will betroth you to Me forever;
Yes, I will betroth you to Me in righteousness and justice...”*

Theme

Old Testament Image

Covenant

God is Israel's Husband

Unfaithfulness

Israel commits spiritual adultery

Divorce/Separation

God disciplines Israel (Jer. 3:8)

Restoration

God promises to betroth her again
(Hos. 2:19)

- The Church is not Israel—they are distinct (Rom 11, 1 Cor 10:32)
- The Bride in Revelation 21–22 is not limited to Israel or the Church
- The Bride is the final, fully redeemed people of God, including:
 - Restored Israel (Hos. 2:19 fulfilled)
 - The Church (Body of Christ, now glorified)
 - Tribulation saints
 - Millennial believers

JESUS IS THE BRIDEGROOM TO BOTH

- In the OT, Yahweh is the husband of Israel
- In the NT, Jesus (God the Son) is the bridegroom to the Church
- In eternity, Jesus is the Lamb who marries the unified bride—all redeemed people joined to Him forever

Biblical Truth

Israel was God's bride in the OT

God promised to restore Israel

The Church is Christ's body (not bride in the same OT sense)

Revelation shows the eternal Bride

The marriage is complete in the New Creation

Meaning

But she became unfaithful and was temporarily set aside

Hosea 2 and Ezekiel 36–37 promise this in the future

But joined with Him now by the Spirit

Made up of **all redeemed believers**, including restored Israel

No more unfaithfulness, only **perfect union with Christ** forever

When does the wedding take place?

Revelation 19:7–8 (NKJV):

*“The marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready...
...to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen...”*

- This signals the wedding is ready—just before the Second Coming
- But who is the wife?

At this point, it's mostly Church and Tribulation saints, but not the full, final gathering of all redeemed.

BUT Millennial saints haven't yet come in, and Old Testament resurrection is still pending.

Revelation 21:2, 9–10

*“Prepared as a bride adorned for her husband...
Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb’s wife*

- This is the eternal state
- This is when the New Jerusalem is revealed and inhabited
- It contains all the redeemed—the completed Bride
- So the final marriage doesn’t fully occur until after:
- The Church has been raptured
- Tribulation saints resurrected
- Israel restored (Rom 11:26)
- Millennium completed
- All saints from all dispensations glorified

Why it matters?

- If you think that only the church is the bride of Christ, you don't understand the complete plan of God and you take the Church and replace everyone else.
- This is replacement theology and NOT correct.
- This is summed up and completed in Revelation chapter 22.

- The Church would be “married” before the rest—leaving OT saints, Israel, Tribulation & Millennial believers out

- That would contradict Ephesians 1:10:
“That in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ...” Think Revelation 21:5!

There is one unified Bride, and one wedding—after all are redeemed and glorified.

What it says when you don't understand

- It says that you don't understand,
- The purpose of the Church and the call of the church.
- Paul's letters to the church Romans through Philemon.
- The whole Old Testament and who Israel is.
- The book of Revelation.
- God's plan and design for marriage.
- The importance of the call to share the gospel according to Revelation 22:17
- And the final promise which God Himself said this is a true and faithful saying

Revelation 21:3 (NKJV)

“And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, ‘Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.’”

VS 18-19

- Directly aimed at the book of Revelation (v. 18: “this prophecy”)
- But also reflective of a broader biblical principle about handling God’s Word
- Adding:
 - Inventing extra visions, prophecies, or judgments not in Revelation
 - Claiming new messages from God that contradict or extend Revelation’s prophecy
 - Making man-made traditions or mystical interpretations equal to its authority
- Taking Away:
 - Dismissing or deleting parts of Revelation (e.g., judgment, hell, wrath, tribulation)
 - Symbolizing away literal truths that God intends to be understood plainly
 - Censoring or altering the gospel message or end-times warnings

- These are not small warnings:
- The word “add plagues” sounds like a parallel to the unbelievers in Revelation
- “Take away your part” = possible reference to false professors (people who appeared to be saved but weren’t truly redeemed)
- IS THIS ABOUT LOSING SALVATION?
- No—for true believers, salvation is secure (John 10:28).
But this does strongly imply:
- Those who willfully corrupt Revelation are likely not truly saved
- They disqualify themselves from the blessings they claim to preach
- False teachers are especially in view here (2 Peter 2, Jude)

VS 20-21

- v20: Jesus says again, “Surely I am coming quickly.” John says, “Even so, come, Lord Jesus!”
- v21: Grace finishes the Bible—what started with a curse in Genesis ends in grace.

- Ch. 1: Jesus glorified
- Ch. 2–3: The letters to the churches—a call to examine our hearts
- Ch. 4–5: Throne room of God—Heaven's worship center
- Ch. 6–18: Judgment of the world—God's wrath and mercy side-by-side
- Ch. 19–20: Return of Christ, Millennial Reign, Great White Throne
- Ch. 21–22: The New Heaven and New Earth—restoration complete

- Revelation mean the revealing of Jesus who is:
 - The Lamb who was slain
 - The Lion who conquers
 - The Judge who is just
 - The King who returns
 - The Bridegroom who calls
 - The Light of the new creation

In Closing

SUMMARY OF THE WHOLE BIBLE

Genesis to Revelation is one unified story:

- Creation – God made all things perfect (Gen 1–2)
- Fall – Sin broke the world (Gen 3)
- Redemption – Jesus died to restore us (Gospels)
- Restoration – God will remake all things (Rev 21–22)

It begins with paradise lost and ends with paradise restored.

It begins with separation and ends with face-to-face fellowship.

It begins with the serpent's lie and ends with Satan's defeat.

It begins with death and ends with eternal life.

It begins with a curse and ends with grace.