

REVELATION

The Removal of the
Curse

(Revelation 22:1~5)

Romans 8:20-23: For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope 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. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. 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.

Revelation 22:3: 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.

We should live as citizens of the New Jerusalem today.

1. The description of the New Jerusalem

A. John saw a river of the water of life.

- ❖ Revelation 22:1-2: 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 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.
- ❖ The river flows in the middle of the main divided highway.

1. The description of the New Jerusalem

A. John saw a river of the water of life.

❖ The Garden of Eden had a river that flowed out of it and divided into four rivers.

❖ Ezekiel 47 describes a river flowing from the Millennial temple out of Jerusalem and to the Dead Sea.



1. The description of the New Jerusalem

A. John saw a river of the water of life.

❖ A river in a city was the best way to provide fresh water and protect a city from a siege.

❖ The New Jerusalem won't face attack, but a supply of fresh water reminds of its security.

❖ In Revelation 2-3, which city did *not* have a good water supply?

1. The description of the New Jerusalem

A. John saw a river of the water of life.



1. The description of the New Jerusalem

B. John also saw the tree of life in the 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. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

1. The Tree of Life is near the river.

❖ Some picture a massive tree with roots that reach both sides of the river.

❖ Some picture multiple trees with some on each side of the river.

1. The description of the New Jerusalem

B. John also saw the tree of life in the city.

1. The Tree of Life is near the river.

❖ Ezekiel 47:12-13: And on the banks, on both sides of the river, there will grow all kinds of **trees** for food. Their leaves will not wither, nor their fruit fail, but **they will bear fresh fruit every month**, because the water for them flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and **their leaves for healing**.

1. The description of the New Jerusalem

B. John also saw the tree of life in the city.

2. The Tree of Life produces twelve fruits.

❖ Producing fruit each month provides a perpetual supply of food.

❖ The wording implies that these are twelve different kinds of fruit.

1. The description of the New Jerusalem

B. John also saw the tree of life in the city.

3. The leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

- ❖ The trees in Ezekiel 47 provide healing during the Millennium.
- ❖ Why would the nations need healing in eternity?
- ❖ Some see the leaves as maintaining good health and helping us enjoy the blessings of eternity more fully.

1. The description of the New Jerusalem

B. John also saw the tree of life in the city.

3. The leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

- ❖ Present-day believers are resurrected at the Rapture.
- ❖ Believers who die during the Tribulation are resurrected at the beginning of the Millennium.
- ❖ What happens to those who survive the Tribulation?

1. The description of the New Jerusalem

B. John also saw the tree of life in the city.

3. The leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

❖ Zechariah 14:16: **Then everyone who survives of all the nations** that have come against Jerusalem shall go up year after year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Booths.

❖ *Perhaps* the healing of the nations refers to these ones receiving eternal bodies through the tree of life.

2. The curse is fully and finally removed.

❖ Revelation 22:3: 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.

A. When Adam and Eve sinned, God announced that the ground is cursed.

❖ When God finished Creation, He said that all things were “very good.”

2. The curse is fully and finally removed.

A. When Adam and Eve sinned, God announced that the ground is cursed.

❖ How does Genesis end?

❖ How does the Old Testament end?

❖ Malachi 4:6: And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.

❖ How does the Bible end?

2. The curse is fully and finally removed.

B. God's throne will be with His people.

- ❖ God dwelling with His people has already been repeatedly emphasized. Why is it repeated here?
- ❖ Sin brought the curse, and sin separates us from God. The removal of the curse and the removal of sin means God will dwell with His people again.

2. The curse is fully and finally removed.

C. The believer's relationship with God during eternity

1. We will see God face to face.

❖ Revelation 22:4: They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.

❖ We can see Christ at His Second Coming and during the Millennium, but this verse also refers to God the Father.

❖ Matthew 5:8: Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

2. The curse is fully and finally removed.

C. The believer's relationship with God during eternity

2. We will have God's name on our foreheads.

- ❖ The 144,000 Jewish men in Revelation 7 were sealed on their foreheads.
- ❖ Unbelievers were sealed with the mark of the beast.
- ❖ We will have the privilege of carrying God's name for all of eternity.

2. The curse is fully and finally removed.

C. The believer's relationship with God during eternity

3. We will have the privilege of serving God.

❖ Revelation 22:3: 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.

❖ “latreuō” means to serve God by carrying out religious duties. It means to worship God by serving Him.

❖ In Genesis, was work created to be a good thing or a bad thing?

2. The curse is fully and finally removed.

C. The believer's relationship with God during eternity

4. We will have the privilege of reigning with God.

❖ Revelation 22:5: 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.

❖ Revelation 3:21: The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne.

Conclusion: What do we do with what God has revealed?

- This final description of the New Jerusalem emphasizes the removal of the curse.
- Revelation 3:19: Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent.
- When we struggle, God disciplines us for our good.

Conclusion: What do we do with what God has revealed?

- As citizens of the New Jerusalem, we should seek to live as He has designed for us to live.
- Titus 2:14: who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.
- We should live as citizens of the New Jerusalem today.

NEXT TIME:

Revelation 22:6-10

- Final

Encouragements