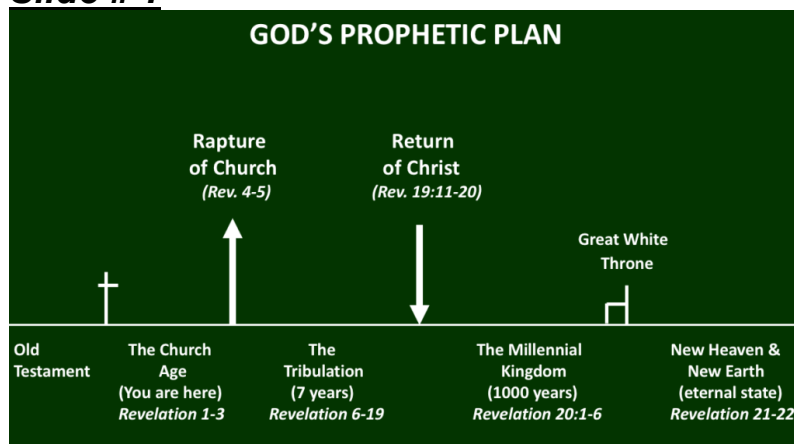


## Prayer

The Bible ALONE is a truly prophetic book. In their book titled, “Charting the End Times,” Tim LaHaye and Thomas Ice say, “Prophecy is history written in advance. Only the Bible has dependable prophecy.” Fully 28% of the Bible, when it was written, was prophetic. There are about 1000 prophecies in the Bible, and about half of them have been fulfilled. They have all literally been fulfilled. And just as sure as half have been fulfilled, so will the rest of them yet be. That’s what the book of Revelation is all about!

In the Bible, we are given an overview of God’s prophetic plan, which is all brought to consummation in the book of Revelation.

## Slide # 1



## Slide # 2

### Revelation 1:19 – Inspired Outline

Revelation 1:19 (NKJV)

19 “Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

- “have seen” – Past (Vision of Christ) – **Ch. 1**
- “which are” – Present (Church Age) – Ch. 2-3
- “after this” – Future (Post-Church Age) – Ch. 4-22
  - - Scene in heaven – Ch. 4-5
  - - Tribulation – Ch. 6-18
  - - Second Coming – Ch. 19
  - - Kingdom – Ch. 20
  - - **Eternal State – Ch. 21-22**

The last two chapters of the Bible describe the eternal destiny of God's people as well as giving a severe warning concerning those who will not be there. This special place is called THE NEW JERUSALEM.

In our study, we have noted in particular these traits about this city.

### **Slide # 3**

#### **THE NEW JERUSALEM**

A holy city

A prepared city

An indescribably beautiful city

A city where God intimately dwells with His people

A city where never again will the effects of sin be felt

In Revelation 21, we were given an OUTSIDE view of the city in terms of its golden makeup and extravagant colors. We are also given an INSIDE view in terms of God's presence, which permeates and lights the entire city. In effect, the NEW JERUSALEM will be the worship center of the NEW universe.

Today in our study of Revelation 22:1-5, the emphasis is on the quality of life for those who reside in the city. And what we find here is PARADISE RESTORED. What was lost in Genesis 3 is now restored – only on an even grander scale. Where sin abounded – grace abounded much more!

The five verses that begin Revelation 22 show that God's redemption will return the new creation to the Garden of Eden state and to the Creator's intention for humanity. – **Robert Thomas**

#### **Revelation 22:1 (NKJV)**

**1 And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb.**

Once again, the angel giving the tour, or who we might call "**the presenter angel**," has more to show John (cf. Rev. 21:9).

Many want to spiritualize the text at this point. But Mark Hitchcock says...

There is no reason in the text – nor is there any solid reason otherwise – to abandon the literal meaning of very specific details that are presented concerning our eternal home. – **Mark Hitchcock**

He now shows him “**a pure river of water of life.**”

This river is absolutely totally pure, having no pollution or contamination. Everything about this city is pure and holy. It is the “holy city” (Rev. 21:2; 22:19).

In our backyard, we have the Missouri River, sometimes called “The Big Muddy.” However, I have been on vacation and found that up in South Dakota, if you go far enough up, it is not muddy at all. It is clear way down deep into the water. You can see the fish swimming – it is beautiful – but somewhere along the way it becomes the “Big Muddy”. I think that is a commentary on humanity. Everything mankind touches he dirties as he goes along.

But there will be no Big Muddy in heaven – only the pure river of water of life. We noted earlier that there will be no more sea in the new creation (Rev. 21:1), but as noted here, there will be a river.

And specifically, it is called the “**water of life.**”

“This is not to be confused with the river issuing from the millennial sanctuary (Ezek. 47:1, 12) nor with that of the living waters going forth from Jerusalem (Zech. 14:8) also in the millennial scene. These millennial streams anticipate, however, this future river which is in the new Jerusalem...” - **John Walvoord**

Water is often used in Scripture as representative of eternal life. Isaiah 12:3 says with joy the people of God “will draw water from the wells of salvation.”

Jesus told the Samaritan woman that had she asked, He would have given her “living water.” (Jn. 4:10). And then Jesus spoke of this water in reference to eternal life.

#### **Slide # 4**

**John 4:14 (NKJV)**

**14** but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."

Again, in John 7 Jesus cried out...

### **Slide # 5**

#### **John 7:37–38 (NKJV)**

**37** On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.

**38** He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."

In Revelation 7:17 we see that Christ, in the context of the "midst of the throne," will lead the Tribulation saints "***to living fountains of waters.***"

Consistently, we see the connection between the metaphor of "water" and the satisfaction of eternal life. In Christ we have the satisfaction of life. In Christ, our spiritual thirst is quenched.

And note the emphasis on this river. It is PURE, and it is "***clear as crystal.***" This symbolizes HOLINESS, as everything in this city is holy.

Being clear as crystal, it is bright and sparkling. Apparently, it looked like shimmering water that sparkles and glistens as it cascades from the throne of God and of the Lamb.

And observe that this water of life proceeds from the throne of God and of the Lamb. This indicates that God is the source. He is the author of life.

In Jeremiah 2:13, God refers to Himself as "***the fountain of living waters***" (cf. Jer. 17:13).

### **Slide # 6**

#### **Psalms 36:9 (NKJV)**

**9** For with You is the fountain of life; In Your light we see light.

"The point of the passage is to teach that in the eternal state God's people will live at the source of the life-giving stream, the very presence of God Himself". - **Robert Thomas**

Eternal life in heaven denotes more than mere existence – it speaks of QUALITY of life. Life that is fresh, that is satisfying, that is full of enjoyment.

This will be the ultimate fulfillment of experiencing life “more abundantly.”

### **Slide # 7**

#### **John 10:10 (NKJV)**

**10** The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

Throne emphasizes God’s sovereign rule! He is the supreme king over all. He is KING of the New Jerusalem. He is KING of the new heavens and earth. He is KING of the universe. He is forever on His throne.

But note that the throne in view is said to be the throne of God and of the Lamb. Remember how Christ in the millennial kingdom sits on His throne in Jerusalem (cf. Jer. 3:17; Zech. 14:16-17). This is referred to as Christ’s kingdom, but then at the end of the Millennial Reign it says that Christ delivers the kingdom to the Father (cf. Rev. 5:6, 13; 6:16; 7:10, 17).

### **Slide # 8**

#### **1 Corinthians 15:24 (NKJV)**

**24** Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power.

This marks a change in kingdom protocol. Now the kingdom in the Eternal State will be marked by the rule of God the Father, but that is not the whole story. In Revelation 11:15, it says that Christ “shall reign forever and ever!”

And indeed He will, but note the arrangement in the Eternal State. Now the Father and the Son will share the same throne. We see that here in Revelation 22:1 and again in verse 3.

The throne (singular) is linked to both God and the Lamb, showing the equality of the two. Indeed, they function as ONE on the throne forever and ever (cf. Jn. 10:30).

“They share the same glory, the same throne, and the same temple significance.” – ***Expositors***

Note the combination of “the throne of God and of the Lamb.” This speaks to the dual reality of God being the source of life and also Him being the provider of salvation. God is sovereign! God is Savior. He is God – He is the Lamb.

But what does this river emanating from God’s throne mean to God’s people? Will we drink it? Will we swim in it? We are not told explicitly, but...

### **Slide # 9**

#### **Psalm 46:4 (NKJV)**

**4 There is a river whose streams shall make glad the city of God,  
The holy place of the tabernacle of the Most High.**

Whatever all is involved we are going to thoroughly enjoy this river which depicts the quality of eternal life and all the blessings involved in salvation. Here the absolute fullness of life will be experienced as it emanates forth from the throne of God. God’s people will be eternally refreshed and satisfied in every way.

God has the corner on true pleasure. The world, the flesh, and the devil offer fleeting counterfeits. They take what God has ordained as true pleasure and pervert it. The result is an ever-increasing thirst for pleasure that satisfies, yet never finding it. For many, this ends in suicide!

Life in God’s city is characterized by purity, pleasure, and prosperity, but all are directly linked to a right relationship with God’s throne.

**– John Phillips**

#### **Revelation 22:2 (NKJV)**

**2 In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.**

“A good bit of uncertainty surrounds the city’s layout as described in v. 2”. – **Robert Thomas**

The focus at this point is on the TREE OF LIFE. That takes us back to Genesis, where we last saw this tree in Genesis 2 and 3 (cf. Gen. 2:9, 3:22-24).

### **Slide # 10**

### **Genesis 3:22–24 (NKJV)**

**22** Then the LORD God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever”—

**23** therefore the LORD God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken.

**24** So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.

The idea is that if man were to have eaten of this tree in his fallen condition, he would then have been locked into that fallen condition forever.

Will Durant, the historian, when he turned 70, said: ***“To live forever would be the greatest curse imaginable.”***

Well, he is right if we are talking about sin-cursed bodies that are continually breaking down. That would be miserable beyond comprehension. Life gets harder. The older you get, the more you break down.

However, to have a glorified body like Christ’s and live forever will be blissful beyond imagination.

Here in the New Jerusalem we again see the Tree of Life, which would seem to speak to the fact of PARADISE RESTORED. In fact, Revelation 2:7 uses the very word “paradise” in this context.

### **Slide # 11**

### **Revelation 2:7 (NKJV)**

**7** “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.” ’

The word “Paradise” refers to the idea of a beautiful Garden or Park. This is paradise restored. The implication is that a new and better – everlasting EDEN has come where God’s people will forever enjoy intimate fellowship with God in the context of a beautiful garden environment!

“Evidently God is returning to His original plan for a redeemed mankind.” – ***Paul Benware***

In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life.

The phrase “***its street***” connects back to the city of New Jerusalem mentioned in chapter 21.

This is the golden street mentioned in 21:21, and the picture seems to be of a very broad street. The word street (Gk. plateia) literally means “broad place” and is related to our word plaza. So this would seem to be a very WIDE street – how wide we are not told. Remember, this is a very unique city being a 1500-mile cube. So how wide is the street – a mile? No one knows, other than the language itself would imply it is very wide.

It would seem it is so wide as to have a river running right down the middle of it. And then on either side of the river is the tree of life. So the river is running down the middle of the golden street, and on both sides of the river is the tree of life. That is the picture.

There is some discussion as to whether this TREE OF LIFE is spoken of collectively but actually involves a good number of trees on either side of the river. This would seem to fit the typology as seen in the millennial kingdom where we find a river flowing from the sanctuary that will have trees on either side with health-providing qualities (cf. Ezek. 47:1, 7, 12, Zech. 14:8).

If it is a singular tree, we still have a problem in our understanding because the singular tree is said to be on both sides of the river. However, THE TREE OF LIFE does seem to tie more closely with the singular tree of Genesis than plural trees along the living waters in the millennial arrangement.

It is a case where we have a hard time visualizing it – but once we see it, we will say, “***Oh yeah, now I get it.***”

No artistry can begin to get this right, but one has visualized it something like this – although we know this doesn’t even begin to do it justice.

### **Slide # 12**



This tree of life bore twelve fruits, with each tree yielding its fruit every month.

Again, the language here is a little hard to follow.

Whether a singular compound tree is in view or whether the tree of life is spoken of collectively, involving a number of different trees – whatever all is involved concerning this TREE OF LIFE in terms of the number – it clearly says that it bore 12 fruits, yielding a different fruit every month.

Now the question is this. Does this mean it gives the same kind of fruit every month with the idea of an abundant supply of fruit, or does it mean that it yields a different kind of fruit every month? Is it a 12-fold abundant supply or 12 different kinds of fruit?

“The month-by-month output...argues the probability of [twelve kinds of fruit]” – **Robert Thomas**

This would mean that we will have a different flavor of the month every month. But the language is not clear enough to make a definitive judgment. We will find out. But it is clear that this tree or trees will yield their fruit every month. We have questions, don't we? Will there be leftovers? What will be done with them? So much remains to be seen.

But Revelation 2:7 is clear that we as overcomers will eat from this tree of life, signifying the sharing in of eternal life in our glorified form forever and ever.

**“Every month”** indicates that there will still be a marking of time. We often hear that in eternity there will be no “time,” but this does not seem to be the case as indicated here.

“There will still be a flow of time ... and some means... of measuring time. ... It is not that time will cease, as some teach, but that time will never end...” – **Henry M. Morris**

Time is not inherently connected with a fallen world or with imperfection. Time existed at creation before sin and the Fall according to Genesis 1-2. – **Michael Vlach**

We know that the New Jerusalem will not be lighted by the sun or moon or any other created light (Rev. 21:23-25), and we know that the citizens of the new earth will also walk in the light of the New Jerusalem, but many scholars think that this does not necessarily cancel out the reality of a sun and moon in relation to the new earth. The city has no need of these other lights, but what of the new earth? We are not explicitly told.

Some think that the sun and moon will still exist in reference to the new earth, and this may tie in with the time factor as seen in the text here in Revelation 22, where the emphasis at this point is on the nations which will come and go out of the city.

Again, we will find out! We are trying to put the pieces together with very limited information, and yet all the information we have been given is there for our consideration and contemplation. It is sufficient for us, but not extensive, and part of the reason may be that God has given us just enough to whet our appetite and cause us to long with anticipation for the glories that are to come.

And then it says, ***“The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.”***

In the millennial scene, we find that the leaves of the trees along the river flowing from the sanctuary are medicine for the people (Ezek. 47:12). There seems to be some parallel thought between the Ezekiel 47 passage and the New Eden we have pictured in Revelation 22.

However, there is a major distinction. While the curse will be largely removed in the millennial kingdom, it will not be completely removed, as death will still, on some level, be represented (cf. Isa. 65:20). But now, in the eternal state, there is no more curse, as the very next verse clearly states. We noted earlier in Revelation 21:4 that there will be no more sorrow, pain, or death.

So how do we explain this “healing” of the nations in relation to the eternal state?

“*Therapeia* (healing), however, does not imply illness. Perhaps a better way to translate it would be “life-giving”, “health-giving”, or “therapeutic”. The leaves of the tree can be likened to supernatural vitamins, since vitamins are taken not to treat illness, but to promote general health.” – **John MacArthur**

But why would we in glorified bodies need to take vitamins? You know the older you get, the more of this stuff you take! You would think part of heaven would be the absence of vitamin taking, as we will live in bodies that will never break down! The effects of sin will all be removed!

Therefore, I take it that the idea in view is that of enrichment or life-enhancement for our enjoyment. Somehow this will evidently enrich the experience of the nations (or various people groups) in their experience in the New Jerusalem.

Robert Thomas proposes that these “nations” are those believers who survived the Millennial Reign in mortal bodies who are then given bodies similar to that which Adam and Eve had at the beginning of creation.

“The discussion of “the nations” at v. 24....proposed that these are mortals surviving to the end of the Millennium and then having their mortality transformed to a new state resembling that of Adam and Eve before the entrance of sin in Genesis 3. ... Healing,...then, must connote a promoting of health of the nations such as will be an ongoing service in the new creation.... Those who have entered the new heaven and the new earth in an unresurrected state will have a means for perpetuating their health.”

– **Robert Thomas**

That is one view. But I take it that there will be no flesh and blood mortals in the eternal state of the kingdom, in keeping with 1 Corinthians 15:50.

### **Slide # 13**

**1 Corinthians 15:50 (NKJV)**

**50** Now this I say, brethren, that **flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God;** nor does corruption inherit incorruption.

The word “nations” (Gk. *ethnos*) is a general word referring to different ethnic groups. It is plural and can be translated as “peoples.” It is often translated as “nations” or “Gentiles.” The basic idea is that of varying “people groups.”

We noted in chapter 21 that there are very specific people groups mentioned, as seen in the bride who is the Lamb’s wife (the church), as well as the 12 tribes of Israel. But then there is the general “all peoples” word translated as “nations.”

Thus, the leaves of the tree of life are for the healing of all people groupings that will be in the eternal state and share in the life of the New Jerusalem.

Both water and food are mentioned in Revelation 22:1-5. Perhaps we will not have to eat or drink out of necessity but will do so for enjoyment and quality of life in the eternal city.

Eating is a blessing and a pleasure. It is one reason we give thanks before we eat. Eating is often associated with fellowship in the Bible.

In the OT, Israel had the feasts – which involved eating. In the N.T., we find Jesus and disciples often eating together – most memorable is the *LAST SUPPER*. After the resurrection, Jesus ate with His disciples. He said He would drink wine with His disciples in the kingdom (Mt. 26:29).

**Revelation 3:20 (NKJV)**

20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

In the Bible, eating is consistently associated with fellowship, and our fellowship in the eternal state will be perfect.

Therefore, I think it is reasonable to conclude that very possibly we will enjoy eating in conjunction with our fellowship with the Lord and each other in a way that is totally satisfying and enjoyable. The tree of life will undoubtedly enhance our LIFE experience in the New Jerusalem.

I find it exciting to know that a RIVER is going to be in my eternal home. I always thought it would be neat to have a home overlooking a valley and a river. I grew up on the farm, and we had a river running through our land. I loved it and have fond memories.

I find it exciting to read of food – because one of the pleasures in this life is eating – how much more so in the eternal state. The tree of life will undoubtedly enhance our experience in glory.

**Slide # 14**

**Exodus 24:9-11 (NKJV)**

9 Then Moses went up, also Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel,

10 and they saw the God of Israel. And there was under His feet as it were a paved work of sapphire stone, and it was like the very heavens in its clarity.

11 But on the nobles of the children of Israel He did not lay His hand. So they saw God, and they ate and drank.

**Revelation 22:3 (NKJV)**

**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.**

The idea of curse goes back to Genesis 3, when Adam and Eve were banned from the tree of life and all the principles of death and decay set in because of sin. But now, in the eternal state in the New Jerusalem, there will be no more curse here. There will be no more crying, no more pain, no more death! All the effects of sin will be gone! Nothing will ever break down. All is ever new in the NEW heaven, the new earth, and the new Jerusalem. There shall be no more curse.

Note that, in contrast to curse, is the presence of God's throne and that of the Lamb. It is the Lamb who has made the removal of the curse possible.

### **Slide # 15**

#### **Galatians 3:13 (NKJV)**

**13** Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"),

Jesus, the Lamb of God, redeemed us from the curse, making it possible for us to experience the new creation where there is no more curse. Praise God, the curse will be completely removed and paradise restored. As it was in the beginning, so shall it be in the end – although even better.

Whereas prior to the curse God had fellowship with Adam and Eve, so now again unhindered fellowship and service will take place. Instead of the barrier of a curse, the intimate presence of God will be experienced. No more sin – no more curse! This is the HOLY city where the HOLY people live.

### **Slide # 16**



Again, the throne of God and of the Lamb are linked – demonstrating their unity.

“Two persons sit on one throne, but they are not two separate entities. God is one (1 Tim. 2:5; Gal. 3:20), and the Father and the Son are one (Jn. 10:30). Man in his finiteness cannot grasp the truth of the infinite being of the triune God.” – **Robert Thomas**

Again, we note the DUAL emphasis on “the throne of God and of the Lamb as seen in verse 1 and now again in verse 3. In view is the sovereign God and the sovereign Savior Who is on the throne. It’s all about Him! He is the total reason we will be there. He will forever be on the throne – forever ruling as God and Savior!

Note that 4 times in the immediate context we have this linkage of God the Father and the Lamb emphasized.

### **Slide # 17**

1. 21:22 – **Lord God Almighty** and **the Lamb** are its temple.
2. 21:23 - ...glory of **God** illuminated it. **The Lamb** is its light.
3. 22:1 – ...throne of **God** and of **the Lamb**.
4. 22:3 – ...throne of **God** and of **the Lamb**.

It is very clear that Jesus is ONE with the Father as they share the eternal throne.

The Father and the Son are clearly prominent, but what about the Spirit? A sound theology shows that whenever the Father and the Son are represented, the Holy Spirit is also inherently present. Some believe that the “river of the water of life” serves as vivid symbol of the Spirit.

### **Slide # 18**

#### **John 7:38–39 (NKJV)**

**38** He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow **rivers of living water.**”

**39** But this He spoke concerning **the Spirit**, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

In addition, the Spirit throughout the book is consistently mentioned in reference to the throne (cf. Rev. 1:4; 3:1; 4:5; 5:6). As we come to the end of the book, it assumes this reality is still a reality.

The Spirit’s role is often a “***behind-the-scenes***” role. The Spirit would testify of Christ (Jn. 15:26). He would not speak of Himself but rather glorify Christ (Jn. 16:13-14). The Spirit never makes it about Himself. He, behind the scenes, convicts, draws, transforms, indwells, comforts, empowers, gifts, teaches, and seals. But all of these, while vital, are carried out in a more concealed manner, allowing the Spirit to be in the background. In this the Scriptures are very consistent.

As a point of observation, this is one of the major errors of the “Charismatic Movement,” which has moved the focus from the Son to the Spirit, resulting in a multitude of heretical errors!

And then, in reference to no more curse and the presence of the throne, it says, “**and His servants shall serve Him.**”

*Servants* (Gk. *doulos*) is literally “slaves”. Jesus, as the Lamb, bought us with His blood, and we literally belong to Him (1 Cor. 6:19-20). The book of Revelation began with this emphasis and concludes there too (cf. Rev. 1:1).

Note that they “shall serve Him”.

The singular pronoun... “Him”... capitalizes on the unity of the Father and the Son. – **Robert Thomas**

The word serve (Gk. *latreuo*) is a specialized word from which we get our English word “liturgical.” It denotes priestly service or religious service to God. It is sometimes translated as worship. It is the idea of worshipful service. This is the purpose for which we were created and redeemed! Our purpose is that of worshipful service!

In the eternal state, with sin out of the way, we as God’s people will be very active in serving our God, and all our service will be an act of worship.

We will not be just sitting around, playing on harps, being eternally bored. No, we will be ACTIVE in service.

I like to believe that God’s Mandate to have dominion over the earth may well be enlarged eventually to cover the whole creation [see Rev. 21:7 – “inherit all things”] Would it not be a wonderful future to be able to travel to distant stars and planets, explore them, and then write about their nature and uniqueness in God’s plan for a book in God’s library? Others could read our reports, and we could read theirs, and all would still further increase our awe at God’s great creation and our love and devotion to Him. The universe and its intricate complexities are infinite, and the time to study them will be endless. – **Henry M. Morris**

It is in eternity that the bride will reign with Christ. Who knows but what He will give to each saint: a world or a solar system or a galactic system to operate. Remember that Adam was given dominion over the old creation on this earth. – **J. Vernon McGee**

There will be things to do – service to render – responsibilities to carry out. What it all entails, we again are left to contemplate. But I do think it will be far greater than we can even begin to imagine!

**Revelation 22:4 (NKJV)**

**4 They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads.**

To see the face of God is to experience Him in all His glory. This was not possible for sinful mortal man. Adam and Eve sinned and hid themselves from God's presence. Moses was able to get a glimpse of God's glory, which put him on his face worshiping and lit up his face to the point where he had to be veiled to talk to the people (Ex. 34:29-35; 2 Cor. 3:7-18; also see Jn. 14:8-9).

Mortality cannot handle the full-frontal glory of God – it would kill us. Exodus 33:20 says, “**No man can see God and live.**” 1 Corinthians 13:12 says that now we see as in a mirror dimly, but then we will see “face to face.” 1 John 3:2 says when He is revealed “we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.”

Jesus said...

**Slide # 19**

**Matthew 5:8 (NKJV)**

**8 Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God.**

But it awaits the eternal state when all the saved will have this experience in relation to the New Jerusalem.

Even in the Millennium, not all the saved will see God in His full glory. People often ask: “Why will there be sacrifices in the Millennium?” Well, because people will still be living in moral bodies, and therefore there will still be the need for ceremonial cleansing in order to get close to God.

In the context of both Leviticus and Ezekiel 40-48 (related to the Millennial Kingdom), the issue of ceremonial cleansing is directly related to the **PRESENCE of God** where people are still in their **mortal bodies and therefore subject to uncleanness.**

However, in the eternal state there will be no mortality. All God's people will have been transformed and have glorified bodies suited to seeing God face to face.

There is also an escalation of God's presence in the Eternal Kingdom. During the Millennium, Jesus was physically present. But during the Eternal Kingdom, both God the Father and God the Son share the same throne in the New Jerusalem and dwell among their people(s). – **Michael Vlach**

Face to face indicates intimate personal relationship.

To “see His face” is an ancient idiom meaning we will be granted an audience. – **Ed Hindson**

Knowing God intimately will be the greatest thing about glory in the eternal state. Everything else is an added bonus!

And, **“His name shall be on their foreheads.”**

This speaks of identification and ownership – they are His slaves (cf. Rev. 3:12; 7:3; 9:4; 14:1). But it also probably relates to the first part of the sentence in that we will see Him and reflect His glory. God's name – His person shall be reflected through the countenance of His people. They will reflect the divine glory in their persons.

#### **Revelation 22:5 (NKJV)**

**5 There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.**

There will be no dark and gloomy days in the New Jerusalem. In fact, there will be no night – only bright days. There shall be no night there is stressed TWICE in this context, as seen in 21:25 and then here in 22:5. There will be nothing scary, threatening or evil there (1 Jn. 1:5).

This city has no need of secondary or created light. It is God-lit! This was also stressed in 21:23.

For the Lord God gives them light: This phrase is thought to allude to Psalm 118:27 which in turn is thought to be a condensed form of the priestly blessing in Numbers 6:25.

“...the fuller idea implied in Rev. 22:5 is , ‘The Lord will cause His face [cf. Rev. 22:4] to shine upon them.’ – **Robert Thomas**

In Numbers 6:24-26 the priests were told to bless God's people in this way and so put God's name upon them.

### **Slide # 20**

#### **Numbers 6:24–26 (NKJV)**

**24** “The LORD bless you and keep you;

**25** The LORD make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you;

**26** The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace.” ’

The people of Israel were thus blessed with the presence of God but in the eternal state the presence of God will be immediate, direct, and full as God will literally light on them and bless them with the countenance of His concentrated presence.

### **And they shall reign forever and ever.**

In verse 3 we find they shall serve, but here we find they shall reign. Both are true! The context relates to the citizens of the holy city – the New Jerusalem. They are serving, and they are reigning (cf. Dan. 7:18, 27). By grace they will share in the eternal reign of God (cf. Rev. 11:15). In Revelation 3:21, Christ promised the overcomers that He would grant them to sit with Him on His throne as He sits with the Father on His throne!

In Revelation 20:6 we find that there are those who will reign with Christ for 1000 years, but here we see those who will “reign forever and ever.” Again, we see a distinction between the kingdom of Christ (the millennial reign) and the eternal kingdom in the eternal state. What is in view here is the eternal state.

Now the question is this – over whom are they reigning?

1. Some think that the idea is that there will be no distinction of status – we will simply all serve as kings sharing in God's reign. There will only be kings and no subjects. I question that because to reign normally means having jurisdiction and authority over others.
2. Some think the “kings” of the New Jerusalem (in particular the bride of Christ) will reign over “the kings of the earth” (21:24), who in turn will reign over the peoples of the earth. Thus there will forever be varying levels of authority and service in keeping with eternal rewards.

Christ gave the parable in Luke 19:12-27, in which, depending on the level of faithful service in this life, some will reign over 10 cities, some over 5 cities, and some will have nothing.

Again, a lot remains to be seen!

**A.T. Pierson summarizes....**

There shall be no more curse – perfect sinlessness.

The throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it – perfect government.

His servants shall serve Him – perfect service

They shall see His face – perfect communion

His name shall be on their foreheads – perfect resemblance

There shall be no night there – perfect blessedness

They shall reign forever and ever – perfect glory.

“The Bible is a window in this prison life, through which we look into eternity.” – **Timothy Dwight**

And the window is cracked the furthest in Revelation 21-22, and yet it is cracked just a little.

There is a Latin phrase, “**Ne plus ultra**” which literally means “no more beyond.” There is a historical legend that this phrase was inscribed on the Pillars of Hercules at the Strait of Gibraltar.

When the ancient mariners sailing along the coastlines of the Mediterranean came to this point they would draw back.

It was one thing to hug the coastlines and to sail from isle to isle, but it was something else to venture forth into the great unknown whence came the fearful billows of the mighty deep. “Ne plus ultra” they said, “There is nothing beyond.” – **John Phillips**

Inscribed on our minds concerning the ETERNAL STATE is “**Ne plus ultra**” – nothing beyond! It is awesome beyond comprehension!

Depending on which side of Christ you are on, it is either terrible beyond comprehension or wonderful beyond comprehension!

**John 3:18 (NKJV)**

**18** “He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

Live Ready! Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved!