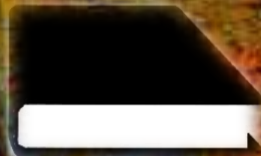


Welcome To Sunday Night Bible Fellowship

Every word inspired.



Every word proclaimed.

“We proclaim Him, warning every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man mature in Christ.” Col 1:28

The Eternal State

Part 7

“Heaven”

Rev. 22:1-5

Oct. 20, 2019

Quiz

Major events in the chapters of the book of Revelation –

- Chapter 1: John, Patmos, Description of Christ
- Chapter 2: 7 churches
- Chapter 3: 7 churches
- Chapter 4: Throne, 4 living creatures
- Chapter 5: Scroll
- Chapter 6: 7 Seal Judgments, 4 Horsemen
- Chapter 7: 144,000 Jewish evangelists, great multitude saved
- Chapter 8: 7 Trumpet Judgments
- Chapter 9: 7 Trumpet Judgments
- Chapter 10: The angel with the little book
- Chapter 11: 2 witnesses
- Chapter 12: Midpoint of Trib., Satan cast out of heaven, goes after Israel
- Chapter 13: Antichrist, fatal wound, resurrected. False Prophet-image, signs

Chapter 14: 144,000, angel pro. the gospel, 2 more angels – judgment.

Chapter 15: Bowl Judgments

Chapter 16: Bowl Judgments, Armageddon

Chapter 17: The impending doom of Babylon – the evil harlot

Chapter 18: The Fall of Babylon

Chapter 19: Marriage of the Lamb, Second Coming, AC & FP-Lake of Fire

Chapter 20: Satan into abyss for 1,000 yrs. First res., Millennium, Satan released, war, Satan - Lake of Fire, GWTJ.

Chapter 21: New Heavens, New Earth, New Jerusalem description

Chapter 22: New Jerusalem cont'd, warnings, rewards, invitation.

Rev 22:1-5

- 1 Then he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb,
- 2 in the middle of its street. On either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.
- 3 There will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His bond-servants will serve Him;
- 4 they will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads.
- 5 And there will no longer be any night; and they will not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God will illumine them; and they will reign forever and ever.

8 additional blessings of Heaven

1. Eternal Life (1,2)

“Then he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal,”

“life” in Greek language –

ζωη - quality of life. Intensive.

βίος – length of life. Extensive.

ψυχη – personality – heart mind & soul. Transmissive.

John 10:10

I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

John 14:6

6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

1 John 5:11-12

11 And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.

12 He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

John 3:16

16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

8 additional blessings of Heaven

1. Eternal Life (1,2)

“Then he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal,”

- The river is the symbol of the constant flow of eternal life from God’s throne. He is the spring; He is the fountain; He is the source of eternal life, and this river symbolizes that as it comes from His throne.

Ps 46:4

4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,

John 7:37-39

37 Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink.

38 "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.'"

39 But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive;

*This perhaps is the part the Holy Spirit will play for all eternity – the producing of joy and happiness, a continuation of what He produces for us now –

Gal 5:21-23

22 But the **fruit** of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience,
kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

23 gentleness, self-control;

- Notice that the river is “clear as crystal.”
- The word “clear” is - λαμπρος meaning “bright, shining” and stresses the beauty and purity.
- The throne is at the highest point and the river flows out and divides eventually flowing out the twelve gates to water the new earth. Drinking this water will provide a heightened enjoyment of life in the new heaven and new earth.
- Rivers usually end up flowing into the sea, but there is no sea.
- In the Garden of Eden there was a beautiful river with four branches and it watered the garden.
- So what you want to imagine is waterfalls of crystal clear water cascading from the throne of God and the Lamb and flowing down the center of the transparent gold street and out the twelve gates to water the luscious gardens that cover the earth.

Rev 22:1-5

- 1 Then he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb,
- 2 in the middle of its street. On either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.
- 3 There will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His bond-servants will serve Him;
- 4 they will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads.
- 5 And there will no longer be any night; and they will not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God will illumine them; and they will reign forever and ever.

“On either side of the river was the tree of life,”

- On either side of the river which runs down the center of the golden streets is **the tree of life** being nourished by the waters of life which are transferred through the root system into the leaves and fruit.
- The definite article “the” is not there. That could indicate plurality.

Gen 2:9

9 Out of the ground the Lord God caused to grow every tree that is pleasing to the sight and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Gen 2:10-14

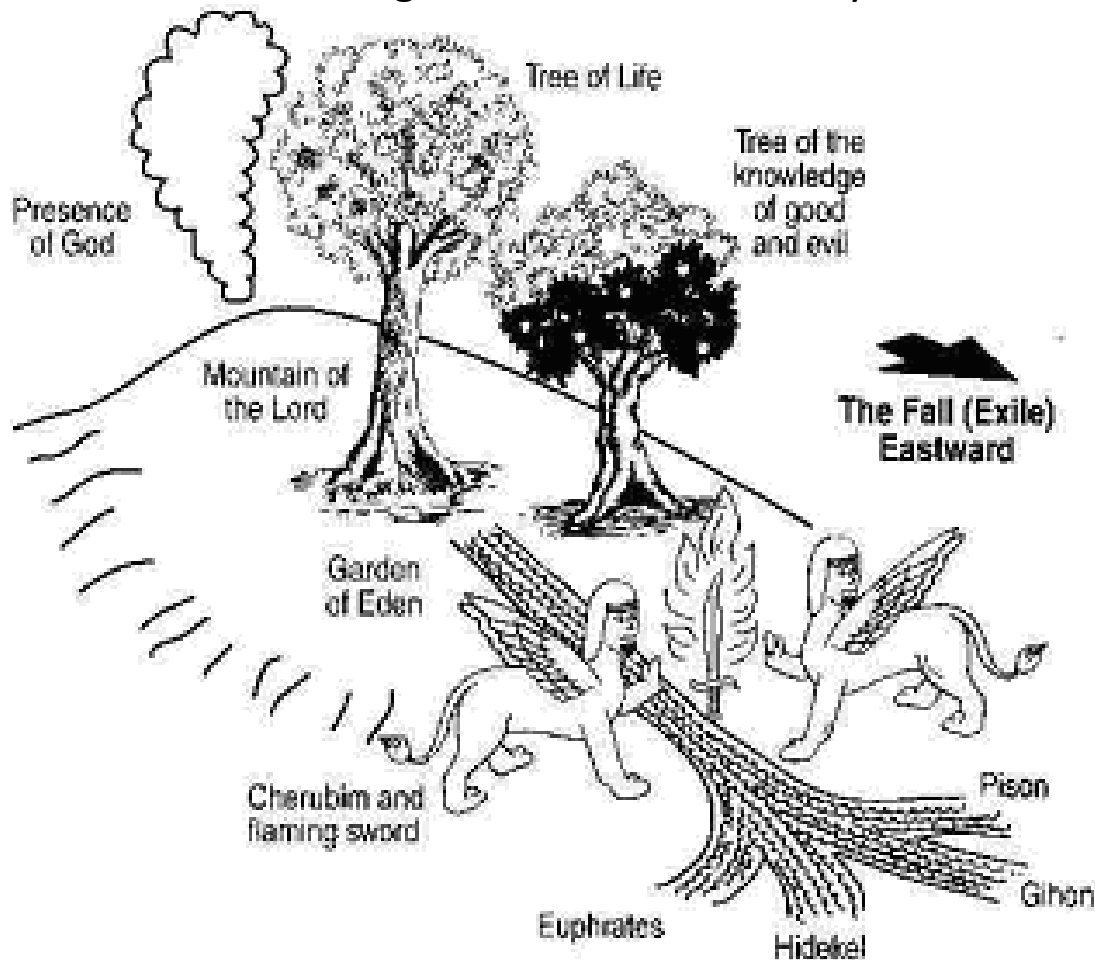
10 Now a river flowed out of Eden to water the garden; and from there it divided and became four rivers.

11 The name of the first is Pishon; it flows around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold.

12 The gold of that land is good; the bdellium and the onyx stone are there.

13 The name of the second river is Gihon; it flows around the whole land of Cush.

14 The name of the third river is Tigris; it flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.



“Tree of Life”

Prov 11:30

30 The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life,
And he who is wise wins souls.

****A righteous life is a blessing to be around.***

Prov 13:12

12 Hope deferred makes the heart sick,
But desire fulfilled is a tree of life.

****When you have something that you desire that you really long for, and God fulfills it, life becomes rich and full and meaningful.***

Prov 15:4

4 A soothing tongue is a tree of life,

****Words spoken in a calm, kind, wise manner brings life to the soul.***

“bearing twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month;”

- What tree do you know that bears 12 different kinds of fruit every month?

Indicates 4 things:

1. **Variety** – nothing will ever get boring. Constantly changing.
2. **Nourishment** – life producing.
3. **Enjoyment** – heightened joyous pleasure.
4. **Symbol** - of blessing.

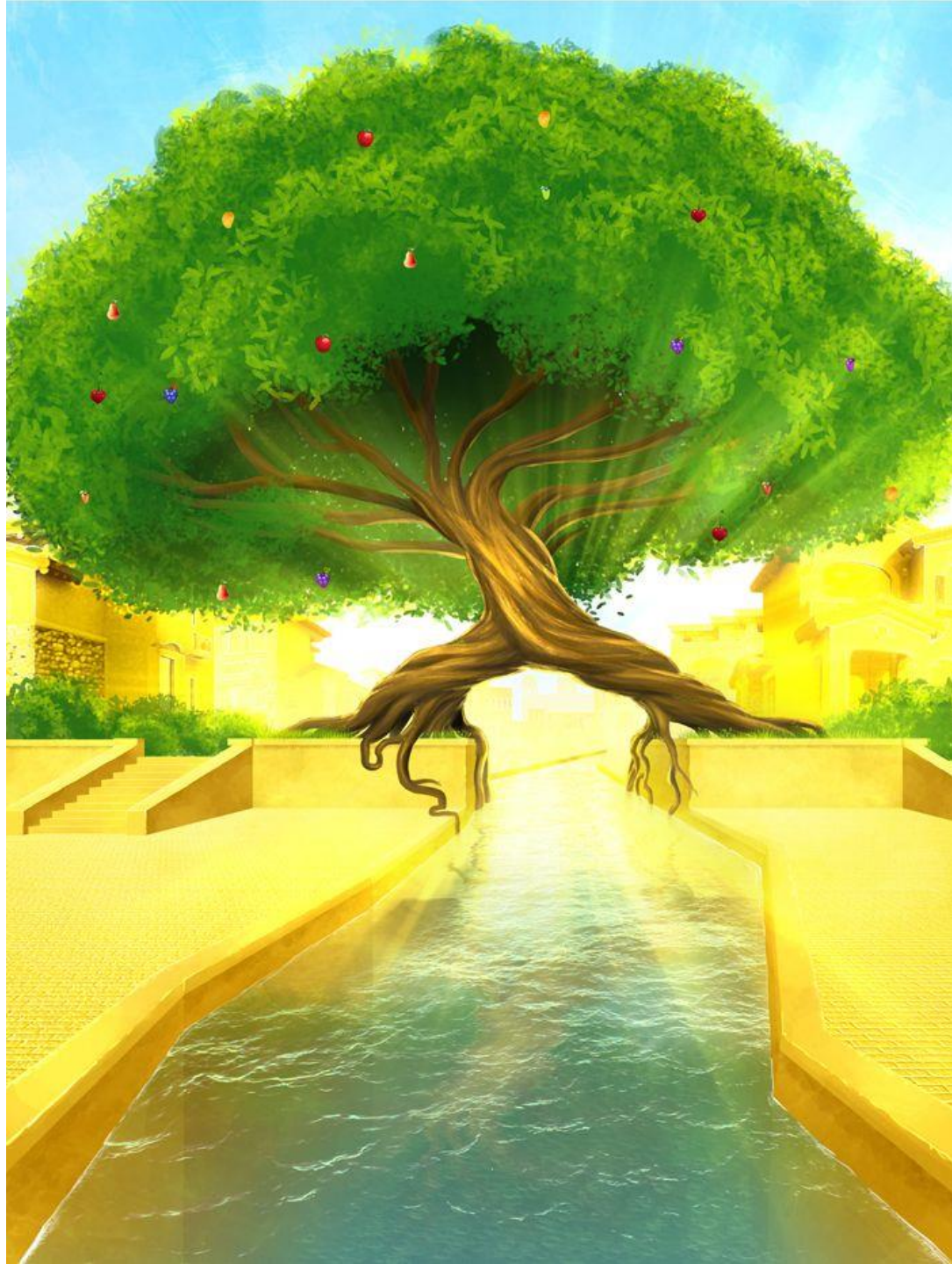
“Eternity is before us, and infinity surrounds us. We shall have an eternity of time to explore and discover the secrets of an infinitely varied and limitless cosmos.”



**“in the middle
of its street.
On either side
of the river
was the tree of
life, bearing
twelve kinds of
fruit, yielding
its fruit every
month; and the
leaves of the
tree were for
the healing of
the nations.”**



Rev. 22:2

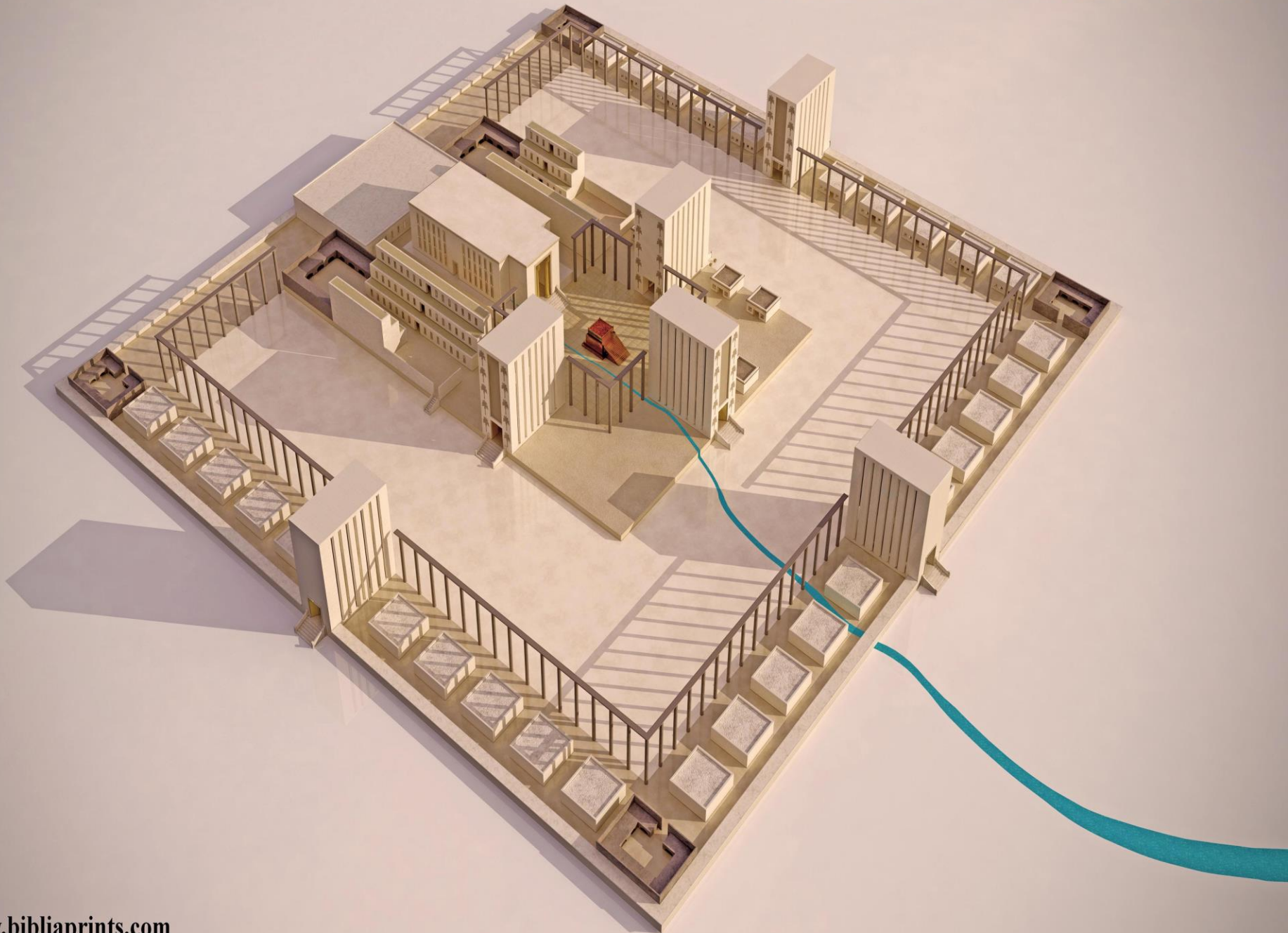


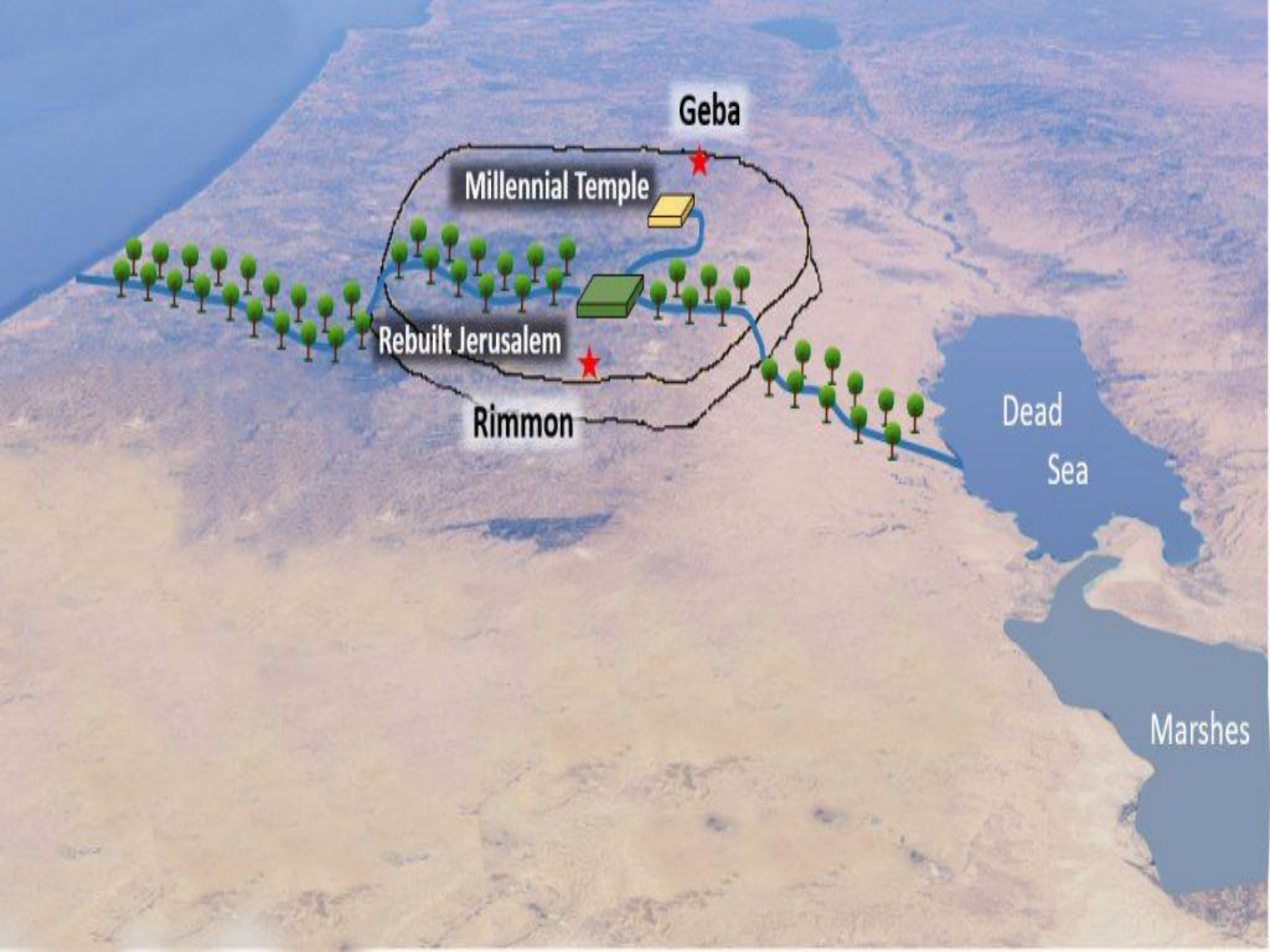
“and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.”

Ezek 47:12

12 "By the river on its bank, on one side and on the other, will grow all kinds of trees for food. Their leaves will not wither and their fruit will not fail. They will bear every month because their water flows from the sanctuary, and their fruit will be for food and their leaves for healing."

EZEKIEL'S TEMPLE VISION





Geba

Millennial Temple

Rebuilt Jerusalem

Rimmon

Dead
Sea

Marshes



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

Ezek 47:12

12 "By the river on its bank, on one side and on the other, will grow all kinds of trees for food. Their leaves will not wither and their fruit will not fail. They will bear every month because their water flows from the sanctuary, and their fruit will be for food and their leaves for healing."

- Even the leaves of the Tree of Life serve in a life-giving way.
- We won't need to be healed of anything.
- So why do the nations need healing?
- “healing” – θεραπεια – therapeutic
- Liddell and Scott – Greek Lexicon – no connection to illness. Better translated ‘health-giving,’ as the word in its root meaning has the idea of “serving or ministering.”
- The leaves therefore will serve everyone around the world to provide life abundantly.
- Summary: The river, the tree, the fruit, and the leaves in the New Jerusalem are all designed to constantly infuse unspeakable joy and life into us in the New Jerusalem.

Rev 22:1-5

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- 3 There will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His bond-servants will serve Him;
- 4 they will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads.
- 5 And there will no longer be any night; and they will not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God will illumine them; and they will reign forever and ever.

2. No longer any curse. (3a)

“There will no longer be any curse;”

The Curse

Gen 3:14-24

14 The Lord God said to the serpent,

"Because you have done this, Cursed are you more than all cattle
,And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you will
go, And dust you will eat All the days of your life;

15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And
between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the
head, And you shall bruise him on the heel."

16 To the woman He said,

"I will greatly multiply Your pain in childbirth, In pain you will bring
forth children; Yet your desire will be for your husband, And he
will rule over you."

17 Then to Adam He said, "Because you have listened to the voice
of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I
commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat from it';

Cursed is the ground because of you; In toil you will eat of it All the
days of your life.

18 "Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; And you will eat
the plants of the field;

19 By the sweat of your face You will eat bread, Till you return to the ground, Because from it you were taken; For you are dust, And to dust you shall return."

20 Now the man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all the living.

21 The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife, and clothed them.

22 Then the Lord God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil; and now, he might stretch out his hand, and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever" —

23 therefore the Lord God sent him out from the garden of Eden, to cultivate the ground from which he was taken.

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

God is no less sovereign (in control) after the fall than before the fall. The only thing that has changed is the setting in which his sovereignty operates. It is not now that satan is sovereign. this is just a further revealing of God's plan and the depth of his sovereignty which will bring him the most glory (most fully display his attributes).

4 Curses:

*Curses are different from the natural consequences and processes of sin.

Gal 6:7

7 "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap."

*They are the direct judgment & sentence by God on the 4 beings in the Garden.

A. Curse on the Serpent. (14)

14 The LORD God said to the serpent,

"Because you have done this, Cursed are you more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you will go, And dust you will eat all the days of your life;

1. This is a curse on the animal, which was the instrument of Satan.
2. The animal has no rational mind, no sense of sin, and no will.
3. The snake knew nothing of the temptation, sin, nor anything of the curse put upon him.
4. The serpent alone was cursed. Cursed only among the domesticated (cattle) and the undomesticated (beasts).
5. All animals feel the effects of the Fall - pain, mistreatment, age, disease, suffering, starvation, decay, death.

Rom 8:20-22

20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope

21 that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

22 For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.

6. So what is the point of cursing the serpent?

Answer: Cursing the serpent was a physical symbol, a constant reminder of the divine judgment by God on Satan.

7. So every time you see a snake crawling around on its belly it is a sign of the humiliation of Satan.

Lev 11:42

42 "Whatever crawls on its belly, . . . you shall not eat them, for they are detestable.

8. Satan wants to constantly be made higher and each time God made him lower.

9. Snakes don't feel the curse, but they illustrate it. "Dust you shall eat".

Ps 72:9

9 Let the nomads of the desert bow before him,
And his enemies lick the dust.

*To "eat dust" was a sign of defeat.

10. Snakes are the most hated animal in the world. That is not a coincidence!

B. Curse on Satan. (15)

15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel."

1. Notice Satan has nothing to say here. He had a lot to say in the Garden but nothing here. Why? Because God is in charge. He is sovereign.

2. Satan has been losing every battle -
Heaven - cast out but took 1/3 of angels with him.
Earth - cursed from the Fall but took fallen man with him.

3. Now God is going to put enmity (conflict, war) between Satan and the woman (15a)

This is not going to be a cakewalk for Satan. He is not going to have dominion over all of mankind.

4. That conflict will continue on down between the 2 lines (seeds):

One seed - Satan and his children.

John 8:44

44 "You are of your father the devil,

Another seed - God and His children.

John 1:12

12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name,

5. In the future there will be a "crush" to Satan's head.

"He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel."

****Notice it is to the heel. Satan comes from behind - sneaks up, uses cleverness, deception, lying, corruption, etc. to inflict his wound.**

C. Curse on the Woman. (16)

16 To the woman He said,

"I will greatly multiply Your pain in childbirth, In pain you will bring forth children; Yet your desire will be for your husband, And he will rule over you."

2 areas where she is cursed:

- 1. Pain and sorrow in having children. (16a)**
- 2. Rebellion toward, and oppression from her husband.
(16b)**

D. Curse on the man (in his domain). (17-19)

17 Then to Adam He said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat from it'; Cursed is the ground because of you; In toil you will eat of it All the days of your life.

18 "Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; And you will eat the plants of the field;

19 By the sweat of your face You will eat bread, Till you return to the ground, Because from it you were taken; For you are dust, And to dust you shall return."

- His sin was that he listened to the voice of his wife. He was more concerned about what his wife wanted than what God wanted.
- He was not deceived, he was not ignorant, there was no gray area here, there was nothing to be confused about - he straight up saw and knew what was going on and what he was doing.
- God curses the ground - man's sphere of life.

3 ways the ground is cursed:

1. It will require of man "toil" (very hard work). (17)
2. It will fight against man and his efforts to "make a living". (18)
 - The ground will produce on its own, without the help of man, "thorns and thistles" - that which is worthless, inedible, toxic, tasteless, instead of the lush wonderful produce of the Garden of Eden.
3. It will require man to "sweat" just to survive - to just get some bread. (19)
 - So you work, and sweat, and slave your entire life only to return to the ground, to become dust - the very material you toiled in to survive.
 - You are dirt to start with; you're going back to dirt; and in the meantime you will work hard (fighting the weeds) and desire just to survive.
 - Adam would do it for over 900 years!!

Ecclesiastics 2: 17-23

17 So I hated life, for the work which had been done under the sun was grievous to me; because everything is futility and striving after wind.

18 Thus I hated all the fruit of my labor for which I had labored under the sun, for I must leave it to the man who will come after me.

19 And who knows whether he will be a wise man or a fool? Yet he will have control over all the fruit of my labor for which I have labored by acting wisely under the sun. This too is vanity.

20 Therefore I completely despaired of all the fruit of my labor for which I had labored under the sun.

21 When there is a man who has labored with wisdom, knowledge and skill, then he gives his legacy to one who has not labored with them. This too is vanity and a great evil.

22 For what does a man get in all his labor and in his striving with which he labors under the sun?

23 Because all his days his task is painful and grievous; even at night his mind does not rest. This too is vanity.

- Many live lives of deep despair because of the curse of sin and the consequences it brings.
- Having no curse means that, if the New Earth will be similarly constructed to this earth, that there will be -
 1. no unfertile places.
 2. no places overgrown with weeds.
 3. the entire surface of the earth will be made to be green and luscious.

“Nothing will ever age, nothing will ever be lost, all work will be productive and enduring. The entropy law, the so-called second law of thermodynamics, will be repealed. Information will nevermore become confused, ordered systems will not deteriorate into disorder, and no longer will energy have to be expended merely to overcome friction and dissipation into nonrecoverable heat. Entropy will from now on be conserved along with energy and mass and momentum. Though “time” will continue on forever, “time’s arrow” will no longer be directed downward.”

- Henry Morris

The curse is gone:

1. The serpent is **gone** and no longer present in the New Heavens and the New Earth.
2. Satan is **gone**, and cast into outer darkness in the Lake of Fire.
3. The pain of childbirth for the woman is **gone**. Rebellion toward the husband and oppression from her husband is **gone**.
4. The struggle to make a living for man is **gone**.