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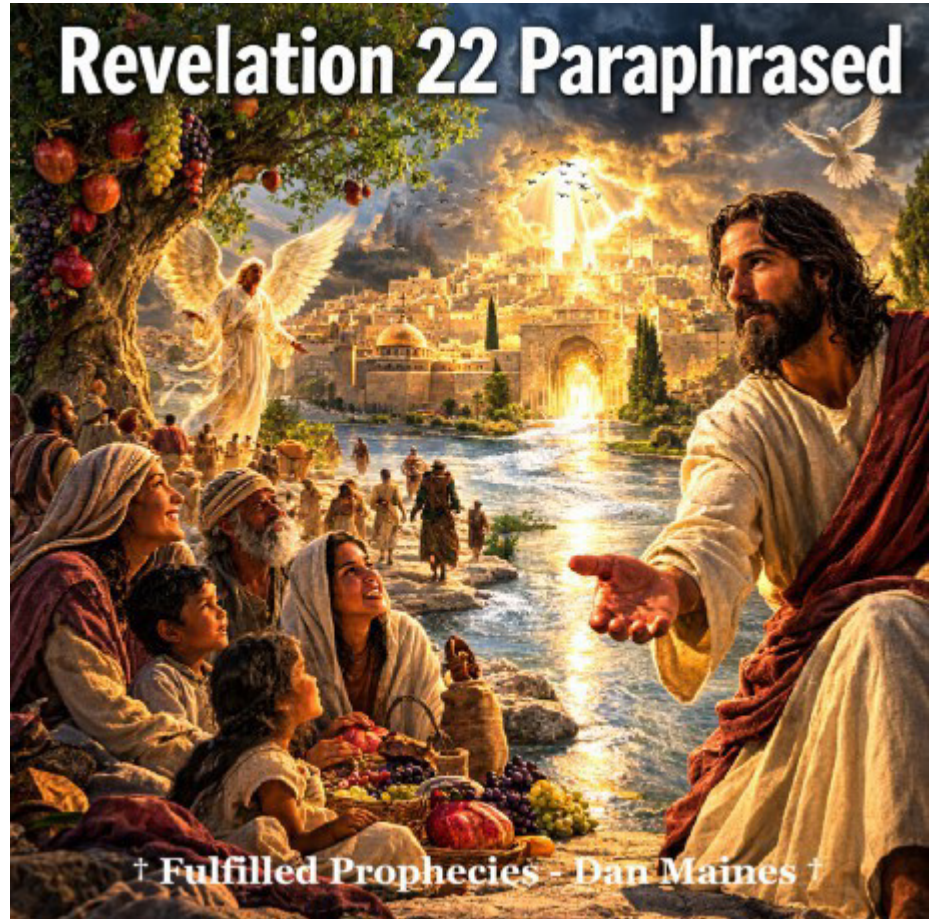
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Revelation 22 Paraphrased



By Dan Maines

Revelation 22 Paraphrased

Introduction

† Revelation closes the story that began in Genesis. The curse, the separation, and the loss of access to the tree of life are all brought to completion in Christ's victory and the end of the Old Covenant world.

† The final chapter shows the restored garden imagery, the river of life, the tree of life, and the complete removal of the curse, which points to the covenantal restoration that came through

Christ and the judgment of Jerusalem in AD 70 (Genesis 2:9; Ezekiel 47:1-12).

† This chapter isn't describing a distant future world, it's showing the completed kingdom that believers now live in through Christ, where access to life has been restored and the old order has passed away (Hebrews 12:28).

Revelation 22:1

Then he showed me a river filled with the water of life, bright and pure like crystal, flowing out from the throne of God and from the Lamb.

† The river of life reflects the prophetic vision of living waters flowing from God's presence, symbolizing the life that flows from Christ to His people (Ezekiel 47:1; John 7:38).

† The throne of God and the Lamb together shows the shared authority of the Father and the Son over the restored kingdom (Revelation 3:21).

† The life described here is the spiritual life believers now receive through Christ, not a physical river but the continual source of eternal life in the kingdom (John 4:14).

Revelation 22:2

In the center of the city's main street and on both sides of the river was the tree of life, producing twelve crops of fruit and giving fruit every month, and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

† The return of the tree of life shows the restoration of what was lost in Eden, access to life with God has been reopened through Christ (Genesis 3:22-24).

† The twelve fruits reflect covenant completeness and continual provision for God's people (Galatians 5:22-23).

† The healing of the nations shows the expansion of the covenant beyond Israel to all nations through the gospel (Isaiah

2:2-3).

Revelation 22:3

Nothing under the curse will remain any longer. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and His servants will worship Him.

† The curse introduced in Genesis is removed through Christ's redemption, which brought freedom from the law's condemnation (Galatians 3:13).

† The throne in the city shows God's direct presence among His people in the new covenant kingdom (Ephesians 2:19-22).

† Worship here reflects continual fellowship with God rather than temple rituals that ended with the destruction of Jerusalem (John 4:21-23).

Revelation 22:4

They will see His face, and His name will be written on their foreheads.

† Seeing God's face represents restored fellowship that humanity lost in Eden (Genesis 3:8).

† The name on their foreheads identifies believers as belonging to God and contrasts the mark of the beast earlier in Revelation (Revelation 7:3).

† This imagery shows covenant identity and protection for those who belong to Christ (2 Timothy 2:19).

Revelation 22:5

Night will no longer exist. They won't need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, because the Lord God will give them light, and they will reign forever.

† The removal of night symbolizes the end of spiritual darkness that once covered the world before Christ (Isaiah 60:19).

† God's presence as light shows the complete guidance and life found in Him (John 8:12).

† Believers reigning reflects the kingdom authority given to Christ's people (Revelation 1:6).

Revelation 22:6

Then he said to me, these words are trustworthy and true. The Lord, the God who speaks through the prophets, sent His angel to show His servants what must happen soon.

† The phrase must happen soon confirms the events described in Revelation were near to the original audience (Revelation 1:1).

† God speaking through the prophets ties Revelation to the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy (Luke 24:44).

† This reinforces the fulfilled perspective that these events occurred within that generation.

Revelation 22:7

Look, I am coming quickly. Blessed is the one who keeps the words written in this prophecy.

† Christ's coming quickly refers to His judgment coming against Jerusalem and the Old Covenant system (Matthew 24:30-34).

† The blessing is for those who remained faithful during the approaching crisis (Revelation 1:3).

† The warning was urgent for the first century believers facing persecution and upheaval.

Revelation 22:8

I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. When I heard and saw them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the

angel who showed them to me.

† John's reaction reflects the overwhelming nature of the revelation he witnessed.

† The response also shows how powerful the vision of God's plan and judgment was.

† Yet worship belongs only to God, which the angel immediately clarifies.

Revelation 22:9

But he said to me, don't do that. I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers the prophets and with those who keep the words of this book. Worship God.

† The angel refuses worship, confirming that only God is worthy of worship (Matthew 4:10).

† Angels are servants alongside believers, not objects of worship (Hebrews 1:14).

† This reinforces the authority and centrality of God alone in the kingdom.

Revelation 22:10

Then he told me, do not seal the words of this prophecy, because the time is near.

† Unlike Daniel's prophecy that was sealed for the distant future, Revelation was to remain open because fulfillment was near (Daniel 12:4).

† This statement directly contradicts the idea that Revelation refers to events thousands of years later.

† The urgency again confirms the first century context.

Revelation 22:11

Let the one who does wrong continue in wrongdoing, and the one who is filthy remain filthy. Let the one who is righteous continue in righteousness, and the one who is holy remain holy.

† This reflects the approaching judgment where people's choices would soon reach their consequences (Daniel 12:10).

† It shows the final separation between the faithful and the rebellious.

† The coming judgment would expose the true condition of every person.

Revelation 22:12

Look, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me to give to each person according to what he has done.

† This refers to Christ coming in judgment within that generation (Matthew 16:27-28).

† The reward reflects both judgment and vindication.

† Faithful believers would receive life while the persecutors would face judgment.

Revelation 22:13

I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.

† Christ declares His eternal authority over all creation and history (Isaiah 44:6).

† This affirms His sovereignty over the fulfillment of prophecy.

† Everything begins and ends under His authority.

Revelation 22:14

Blessed are those who wash their robes so they may have the right to the tree of life and may enter the city through the gates.

† Washing robes represents purification through Christ's sacrifice (Revelation 7:14).

† Access to the tree of life shows restored fellowship with God.

† The city represents the covenant community of believers.

Revelation 22:15

Outside are the dogs, the sorcerers, the immoral, the murderers, the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

† This shows the separation between those in the kingdom and those who reject God.

† The language reflects covenant exclusion rather than physical geography.

† It parallels the warnings given throughout the New Testament about remaining faithful.

Revelation 22:16

I, Jesus, sent My angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and descendant of David, the bright morning star.

† Christ identifies Himself as both the promised king and the fulfillment of Davidic prophecy (Isaiah 11:1).

† The morning star symbolizes the dawn of the new covenant age (2 Peter 1:19).

† The message was specifically for the first century churches.

Revelation 22:17

The Spirit and the bride say come. Let the one who hears say come. Let the one who is thirsty come, let the one who desires take the water of life freely.

† The bride represents the covenant people of God inviting others into the kingdom (Revelation 21:2).

† The invitation shows the gospel continuing to call people into life through Christ.

† This reflects the open invitation given throughout the New Testament (John 7:37).

Revelation 22:18

I warn everyone who hears the words of this prophecy, if anyone adds to them God will add to him the plagues written in this book.

† This is a solemn warning not to distort the message of the prophecy.

† The same type of warning appears in the law regarding God's word (Deuteronomy 4:2).

† The message was to be preserved exactly as given.

Revelation 22:19

If anyone takes away from the words of this prophecy God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city described in this book.

† Altering the message brings covenant consequences.

† Faithfulness to God's word is essential to remaining in the covenant community.

† This reinforces the seriousness of Revelation's message.

Revelation 22:20

He who testifies to these things says yes, I am coming quickly. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

† The repeated statement coming quickly again anchors fulfillment in the first century timeframe.

† Early believers prayed for Christ's vindication and deliverance from persecution.

† The coming refers to His covenant judgment and kingdom victory.

Revelation 22:21

The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all.

† Revelation ends with grace, reminding believers that salvation and life come through Christ alone (Ephesians 2:8).

† The closing blessing reinforces the hope and assurance given to the churches.

† The entire message of Revelation ultimately points to Christ's victory and the believer's security in Him.

Historical References

† Eusebius records the destruction of Jerusalem as the fulfillment of Christ's warnings about that generation.

† Josephus describes the catastrophic fall of Jerusalem in AD 70 and the judgment that came upon the city.

† Tacitus also records the Roman destruction of Jerusalem and the end of the Jewish temple system.

How It Applies To Us Today

† We now live in the kingdom that Christ established after the judgment of the Old Covenant world.

† Access to the tree of life is available through Christ right now, not in a distant future.

† Our calling today is to live as citizens of the New Jerusalem, walking in the life Christ has given us.

Q & A Appendix

Q: If the New Jerusalem has already come, what does it represent?

A: It represents the covenant people of God, the church, the dwelling place of God with His people (Revelation 21:2; Ephesians 2:19-22).

Q: What is the tree of life in this chapter?

A: It represents the eternal life restored through Christ after the curse was removed (Revelation 22:2; John 10:10).

Q: Why does Revelation say Jesus was coming quickly?

A: Because the judgment described in the book was about to occur in that generation (Matthew 24:34; Revelation 1:1).

Q: What is the river of life in Revelation 22?

A: It represents the life that flows from God through Christ to His people. Jesus spoke of this life as living water given through Him (John 4:14; John 7:38).

Q: What does it mean that there will be no more curse?

A: The curse introduced after Adam's fall was removed through Christ's redemption. He became a curse for us so that believers could receive life and freedom from the law's condemnation (Genesis 3:17; Galatians 3:13).

Q: What does it mean that God's servants will see His face?

A: It describes restored fellowship with God that was lost in Eden. Through Christ believers now have direct access to God and stand in His presence (Hebrews 10:19-22; 2 Corinthians 3:18).

Q: Why does Revelation keep saying Jesus was coming quickly?

A: The book was written about events that were about to happen to that generation, specifically the judgment on Jerusalem and the end of the Old Covenant system (Matthew

24:34; Revelation 1:1).

Q: What does the tree of life represent in the New Jerusalem?

A: It represents restored access to eternal life through Christ. What was lost in Eden is restored in the kingdom through Him (Genesis 3:22-24; Revelation 22:2).

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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Source Index

† Genesis 2:9; Genesis 3:22-24; Isaiah 2:2-3; Isaiah 44:6; Isaiah 60:19; Ezekiel 47:1-12; Daniel 12:4,10; Matthew 4:10; Matthew 16:27-28; Matthew 24:30-34; John 4:14; John 7:37-38; John 8:12; John 10:10; Luke 24:44; 2 Peter 1:19; Galatians 3:13; Ephesians 2:8; Ephesians 2:19-22; Hebrews 1:14; Hebrews 12:28; 2 Timothy 2:19; Revelation 1:1,3; Revelation 3:21; Revelation 7:3,14; Revelation 21:2.

† Josephus, Wars of the Jews Book 6; Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History Book 3; Tacitus, Histories 5.13.

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