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**Revelation 22:15 -  
Why are the  
unclean and sinful  
listed outside the  
city, and what does  
that imply about  
covenant inclusion  
and exclusion?  
(Revelation 22:15)**



By Dan Maines

**Why are the unclean and sinful listed outside the city, and what does that imply about covenant inclusion and exclusion? (Revelation 22:15)**

Revelation 22:15 says, "Outside are the dogs, the sorcerers, the sexually immoral persons, the murderers, the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices lying."

The imagery of being inside versus outside the city is covenantal. In the Old Covenant, access to God's presence was restricted. Only the clean could enter the temple, while the

unclean were excluded (Leviticus 21:23, Numbers 5:2-3). The city in Revelation represents the New Jerusalem, the fulfilled covenant order, where God dwells with His people (Revelation 21:2-3).

Those who are "inside" are those washed in the blood of the Lamb (Revelation 22:14), who have access to the tree of life and the presence of God. Those "outside" represent covenant breakers, those who refused Christ, who aligned themselves with sin and rebellion. It is not about a geographical city but about covenantal standing.

So the implication is this: Revelation 22:15 shows the final separation that came with the consummation of the New Covenant. The faithful are included in the city, enjoying eternal fellowship with God, while the unfaithful remain outside, cut off from covenant blessings. It reinforces the theme of covenant inclusion for the redeemed, and exclusion for those who rejected Christ and clung to sin.

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