

- Order of Service -

Call to Worship

Welcoming Prayer

- 13, Come Thou Fount
- 7, Wonderful, merciful Savior
- His mercy is more
- 284, Rock of Ages

Q & A

Announcements and Prayer requests

Greeting

Message in the Word -

The New Jerusalem: Our city brimming with life eternal

What will it be like for us? Part 5

John 4:7-14, Revelation 22:1-6

Amazing Grace- "When we've been there, 10,000 years..."

Sending prayer

You may notice we don't pass an offering plate

We invite you to participate in the ministry, and the offering box in the foyer is for your gifts and offerings for the Lord's work.

- 2 Corinthians 9:7-8, Galatians 6:6 -

Grace Bible Fellowship

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love. truth. grace.

"We are identified with Jesus Christ in his crucifixion, death, burial, resurrection, ascension, and heavenly seating"



Teaching -

Eric Peterman

The New Jerusalem: Our city brimming with life eternal

What will it be like for us? Part 5

John 4:7-14, Revelation 22:1-6

- June 12th, 2022 -

The New Jerusalem: Our city brimming with life eternal

What will it be like for us? Part 5

John 4:7-14, Revelation 22:1-6

Jesus told the Samaritan woman at the well that if she truly understood who He was, to receive Him as such, that He would graciously gift her, "living waters", with no effort on her part. The free gift was unlike the water she had to labor hard for every day. Jesus then marries the possession of those free, living waters to the reality of life eternal. The free gift, the importation of God's Holy Spirit and His works, the Spirit of Life is in mind here. In Rev 21 Jesus' angel takes John to see the magnificent external architecture and beauty of the New Jerusalem our eternal city. Now in our first five verses Rev 22 we see the living, intimate interior of our eternal home. And there we find Living Waters! There in that future eternal age, the inward spiritual source of eternal life in this present age, the Spirit of Holiness, is mated and joined with the outward physical reality of a joyful living river in the center of the city! Truly, God dwells with humanity!

Twelve wonders to behold!

Wonder #1: In v1a we have a novel hydrology in the New Jerusalem! See Rev 21:1c. *no longer any sea*. Here we have a river, a living river, but no sea into which it empties and no evaporation to produce rain! Now that is very different from this earth!

Wonder #2: The Throne of God and of the Lamb (See 1 Cor 15:24) – The Throne of Christ in the millennium will not end but will change its location – a forever reign.

Wonder #3: The headwaters of this alive river springs from the Throne of God and of the Lamb. We see that the throne of Christ has moved from Jerusalem in the millennial kingdom to the eternal city and from that Throne gushes forth a water that is itself alive and lifegiving. Note: This should not be confused with the river that flows from the temple in the millennial kingdom. But note the progression of the waters: 1) Spiritually, from within believers in this age via the Spirit, 2) from the temple in the millennium, (Ezek 47:3-12) 3) From God and the Lamb in the eternal city (they will be the city's temple, 21:21-22).

Wonder #4: A central boulevard (of clear gold, from ch21) in the city pointing to the Throne, in the midst of which boulevard flows this river.

Wonder #5: The Tree of Life, on both sides of the river. (Gen 2:9, 3:22-24) *Question?* Is this one tree growing over the river, with the river passing under it's roots connected to each bank, or is The Tree of Life a species with two rows of Trees of Life growing in a line in the street on both banks.

Wonder #6: It bears 12 fruits, and it bears them monthly. (Perhaps a different kind each month?). One key point is that the eternal state is not timeless for us. The passage or progression of time is noted here. "Forever and ever" is *aionion ton aionion* – age upon age. It's just that unlike on earth, there is no end of life or end of time. The quality is of a Living Time, brimming with life and joy, without end.

Wonder #7: Leaves for "healing" - *therapaion*. Since there is no death or sorrow, the leaves and fruit seem to enhance the pleasure and well-being of the citizens.

Wonder #8: v3, No curse on creation, and we will "serve him" - this word is *latreuow*, from which we derive "liturgy". In other words, one of our pleasures will be to act as priests in worship to the Lord God and the Lamb!

Wonder #9: v4, We will see God face-to-face! We will be of such purity in body and soul, that we can gaze at God with delight and God can return the gaze with delight in us, his glorified children.

Wonder #10: v4b, We will bear the personal mark of God, indicating the personal identification with Him and His cause.

Wonder #11: v5a, The light emanating from God's own being will surpass all other sources of light! The city, it's very substance will be vibrantly alive with the light of God. And we ourselves will resonate with the same light of glory!

Wonder #12: v4b, Our reign in the 1,000 year kingdom will be extended and expanded and elevated into the rolling ages of the eternal city and the new earth and the new heavens! What God's original delightful design and command for Adam and Eve was (Gen 1:26-28), once broken by sin, will come to full, glorified power and authority in a humanity created after the Last Adam. Paradise lost will become not just regained, but far surpassed. The creatures will leap with joy to our loving rulership. Where death and fear have ruled, partly healed in the millennium, will be forgotten and replaced by stunning life in the animal and plant kingdoms! We will dwell with them and one another and the holy angels in the new creation. **Amen! Come soon Jesus!**

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