

The Wood of Life

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

2 In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

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:

4 And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads.

5 And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

There being no chapter breaks in the original, we are here being shown further details of the vision of New Jerusalem. A river is depicted pouring out from the throne of God and of the Lamb, flowing down the middle of the city's main street. On either side of the river, a tree or wood of life, producing twelve kinds of fruit, and with leaves for the healing of the nations. And there will no longer be any curse... as we ponder this, we can see how it is a kind of Eden revisited and enhanced.

In Eden there were many trees, that *were pleasant to the sight, and good for food*; In that garden there was also one tree described as the tree of life and also on tree described as the tree of knowledge of good and evil. From Eden, where the Elohim walked in the cool of the day, went out one river, which then divided and were designed initially to water the kingdoms of men. Back in Eden there were no nations to heal. That was all still yet to come. But God had provided everything

there for the benefit of man, for his enjoyment, and to assist his fellowship with the Elohim. Before the Fall of man, there was a unity, but it was untested as man initially had no character. He was forbidden to eat of any tree in the garden, except for one – the tree of knowledge of good and evil. It was not necessary for him to partake of that tree. Good and evil existed, because God created both – (Isaiah 45: 7). But it was for God to reveal that to man, when He decided. Man was free to partake of the tree of life – but it seems he chose not to. A river flowed out of Eden, the garden was a delight, and a centre of the glory of God. Man sinned. A curse was placed upon him. So death passed upon all men. And man was ejected from the garden. The flood in the time of Noah erased all vestiges of that garden.

Fast forward six thousand years. That initial peacetime of when men and God were in harmony is a long distant part of history. Six thousand years of wickedness and sin have now passed. But sin although so powerful has not won. The victory is with God though His Son. Although temporarily bruised in the heel by the serpent's bite, Jesus crushed the serpent in the head, and paved the way for the curse placed upon men to be removed. God's will – will be done. Jesus determined this in the garden – of Gethsemane. *Not my will but thine be done*. Jesus created the Edenic Garden in his heart – He recreated the tree of life - the cross. He spoke of the water of the gospel that came from him... *the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life*. (John 4:14) those who are in Christ are described as being part of that garden... Song. 4:12 *A garden enclosed is my sister, my spouse*; The curse is removed from them, they are able to be in fellowship with the Father through the second Adam, and partake freely of the fruits of the Spirit produced in abundance. Yet still this is a private garden. Entrance is forbidden to the wild boar (Psalm 80:13) or the little foxes (Song 2:15) A hedge (Matt 21:33) is maintained to keep the separation, the Ecclesia alone, is the only fertile place found to grow spiritual produce *pleasant to the sight, and good for food*; Christ Jesus is the husbandman of the garden,

who dresses it and keeps it. Entrance is only by the flaming sword of the cherubim.

But this vision in Revelation 22, takes this symbolism to another level, describing the time when the kingdoms of men will be no more, but subsumed into the Kingdom of God. The garden of the Lord will have greatly increased to have filled the whole earth. *There will be no more curse.* The effects of the failure of the First Adam, completely removed, the causes of the failure of that day, completely remedied. The will of God which He intended when He created the earth originally to be inhabited by those who would delight to share in His glory now fulfilled.

No longer just one tree of life in Eden. But the cross of Christ has been replicated by those who were willing to carry their own cross and follow Jesus. The original for tree of life in this Revelation 22 should be trees of life or wood of life – many trees! Psalm 92:12,13 *The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Those that be planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God.*

Jesus said in John 7:38-39 *He that believeth on me, as the scripture has said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.* In the Kingdom of God all men will know the Lord: *for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them* (Jeremiah 31:34) This will be a river gradually getting larger and larger, as more and more are taught the ways of God, and when every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess. Harmony will exist throughout all the earth – as the life giving water of the gospel is issued from the central world government located in Jerusalem *the pure river of life clear as crystal proceeding from the throne of God and the Lamb - for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.* – see Isaiah 2 and Micah 4.

This is the river that the Psalmist dreamed of - Psalms 46:4 *There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High.*

That this is a reversal of Eden, is made plain, when we read in Revelation 22:2 the leaves of the trees were for the healing of the nations. It will be a gradual process, as the Kingdom of God gradually increases in size, to eventually fill the whole earth, as the principle of forgiveness of sins is taught, through faith and works, and the leaves of the trees, will be the shade and the scent, and air purifying effects of the trees of righteousness the righteous saints in the Kingdom, purifying the world through the teaching of Truth. Men will no longer be tempted by serpent like thinking to forever seek to reach for the tree of knowledge of good and evil. The difference to them will be so obvious. They have suffered six thousand years of evil, and now they can experience the good! Instead they will take of the trees of lives and they will also live.

Revelation 22:4 *And they shall see His face, and His Name shall be in their foreheads.* The Lord Jesus is described as *the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person*, (Hebrews 1:3) the very reflection of the character of God, he was God manifest in the flesh. Those who model themselves on Christ, to think, live, work, and talk like him become Christ-like, and reflect his glory – albeit in a limited way. The promise to these is 1 John 3:2 *Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.* The righteous will reflect Christ, who reflects the Father. The righteous will be rewarded with eternal life, and now, no longer energised by Adamic flesh and blood, but by the fusion of the Spirit and Power of Christ, will no longer be under the curse – *no man shall see me and live* (Exodus 33:20) will no longer apply. They will be made higher than the angels (1 Corinthians 6:3) and will be ELOHIM, so not only will they see the face of YAHWEH, but will be part of His manifestation, so of course His name will be in their foreheads,

because in their mortal life, it was His Name which motivated them and defined them. In Eden we read of Adam hearing the voice of the Elohim walking in Eden in the cool of the day – (Genesis 3:8) and they hid themselves. There will be no need to hide anymore. *All things are open and naked with him with whom we have to do* (Hebrews 4:13), and so it will be in the Paradise of God, when the Immortal Saints with Christ as their Head walk among the nations healing, teaching, and praising the Creator of the heavens and the earth.

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