

END TIMES



End Times (Student Lesson Eight)– The New Heaven and Earth- The Eternal City

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The Eternal City and River of Life

The previous chapter focused on the city's physical structure, while this chapter highlights its glorious features. The Holy City is eternal, and unlike the Heavens and Earth during the age of Man, it is not regulated by time and will never come to an end. Like the city, all its features are permanent and eternal.

There are no similarities between the New and Old Heaven and Earth. They are entirely distinct from each other, being extreme opposites in every way. Whatever existed in the Old realm will be absent from the New, and whatever was impossible in the Old has been accomplished in the New.

Revelation 22:1 – 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.

Revelation 22:2 – 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.

Revelation 22:3– 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:

Revelation 22:4 – And they shall see his face; and his name *shall be* in their foreheads.

Revelation 22:5 – 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.

Lesson Notes:

(22:1) – The centerpiece of the Holy City is the Tree of Life planted in the River of Life. The river is clear as crystal and pouring out from the throne of God. The water is pure and untainted from the previous world, making it pristine and clear like crystal.

The depiction of the river flowing from the throne powerfully illustrates life originating directly from God. The purity of life flows from God to all His creation. In the old world, the gift of life was abused and contaminated. The gift of life received by the residents of eternity will remain pure and uninterrupted.

(22:2) – The Tree of Life is planted on both sides of the river basin, with the water passing through or beneath it. The tree produces twelve types of fruits with leaves that have the power to heal all the tribes (nations) of humanity.

Healing Leaves

The healing spoken of is therapeutic in the form of personal care and comfort extended to the residents of eternity. The New Heaven and Earth are without sorrow and pain (Revelation 21:4); therefore, healing cannot be connected to cure sickness or disease because they do not exist in eternity. Therapy comes from residing in the constant presence of God, including the peace and comfort that come from worshipping Him. The leaves of the Tree of Life sustain health and life for the new residents of eternity.

Monthly Fruit

The literal text says the fruit is “*yielded every month.*” Because time regulations do not exist in eternity, this passage cannot be interpreted as a thirty-day monthly schedule as expected in the world and the age of man.

The word is translated as “*month*” in this verse. The Greek word “μήν” [*mane*] is the word translated in this verse as “month.” It is a persuasive term that provides absolute assurance on a subject. The word definition indicates a continuous cycle that will occur with certainty.

In the temporal world, there are very few guaranteed outcomes, and no outcomes are guaranteed forever. Time measures the space between events, and we are accustomed to counting time while waiting for the following outcome. Time also causes change, and change makes outcomes less reliable.

The time restraints and conditions experienced in the present world of man make it difficult to perceive the ability to have everything we need without event interruptions or time delays.

The Tree of Life yielding fruit every month is an expression to affirm an ongoing, never-ending access to life and God’s providence.

(22:3-4) – The curse upon the ground which began in the Garden of Eden will come to an end in eternity. (Gen 3:17) The ground would not yield fruit without toil and sorrow. Mankind was destined to spend their days on earth, compelling the soil to yield. Every man born after Adam was attached to the sin curse, which interrupted the relationship between God and man, preventing access to His eternal presence.

In the Holy City, man will experience the intent of God’s perfect design, allowing him to eat the fruit of life without toil and sorrow. The curse of sin will be no more because the throne of God and the Lamb is in the Holy City.

With the curse broken, the residents of the Holy City are deemed servants of God with full access to see His face. Man has desired God’s face-to-face presence for generations. Moses is among those who sought to see God’s face. The sin curse denied such access, but in eternity, that curse is broken, and the desire of many generations is finally satisfied.

The name of God will be imprinted upon the foreheads of all that belong to Him, remaining in His care for eternity. (Is. 62:2; Micah 4:5). This is a signature of permanency, confirming a permanent place in the Holy City and permanent access to God’s presence.

The mark of God cannot be removed and will remain in force forever. Cain was marked by God, preventing anyone from taking his life after he killed his brother Abel. God’s imprint upon Cain could not be revoked, and it preserved his life for all his days on earth. God preserved Cain’s life in the temporal world as a foreshadowing of His intent to preserve the life of believers in eternity.

(22:5) – Darkness is absent in eternity; the light of God will never diminish. There will be no man-made light like the candles that were the industrial light medium in the Biblical era. There will also be no need for created light, like the sun God created to offset darkness. (Genesis 1:3-5)

There is a need for only one light in eternity, and that is the light of God. God is light, and His people shall have a place (reign) within His kingdom forever. The people of God will reign or **walk** forever in God's light.

The absence of night also reflects an end to the cycle of evening/morning to establish a new day. In eternity, the light of God is constant and will not fade in and out, with a sunset to bring a day to an end, followed by a sunrise to begin a new morning.

The first day of eternity will never come to an end. The first day of no sorrow and no pain will never end. The first day of therapeutic healing will never come to an end. Eternity is complete and perfect, filled with all the provisions for life that will never end.