

In the previous chapter we saw the heavenly city, New Jerusalem, descend to the new earth that God created. The first five verses of the last chapter in the Bible conclude the description of the bride, the city of God. It is the fulfillment of the theme running from the very first chapters in Genesis of a marriage, of God dwelling with man, of man restored from the fall, and of evil being vanquished forever. The Bible started with Paradise Lost but it ends with Paradise Regained. We are reading descriptions of what that heavenly city is like. Keep in mind that John is using the language of things in this present world to describe what he is seeing as best he can.

The great difference between Eden and New Jerusalem is that in Eden man was innocent. In New Jerusalem man is redeemed. The latter is better by far because those who are redeemed have a greater comprehension of the love, grace, and mercy of God. They can appreciate God infinitely more because they know what they are without Him, and they know the extent to which He went to redeem them (7:14<sup>i</sup>). I cannot imagine the gratitude we will have when we fully realize all that God has done in each of our lives to draw us to Himself. Nor can I imagine our amazement when we fully realize what Jesus suffered on our behalf.

<sup>1</sup> *Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb* Revelation 22:1 Temples were often built over springs. Ancient documents tell us the original temple Solomon built was built over the Gihon Spring. This is so the priests would have living water (water that flowed) for ceremonial cleansing. The throne in New Jerusalem will also have a spring from which flows a river, but this says it is THE river of the water life (Psalm 46:4,5<sup>ii</sup>). In 21:6<sup>iii</sup> Jesus said that He gives the water of life to those who are thirsty. In the sermon on the Mount Jesus said those who thirst after righteousness are blessed. At the Feast of Tabernacles, He invited those who had spiritual thirst to come to Him and drink and that those who believe in Him would have rivers of living water flow from their heart (John 7:37,38<sup>iv</sup>).

<sup>39</sup> *Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.* John 7:39 This shows us there is a metaphorical meaning to a river of the water of life which Jesus told us is the Holy Spirit whom we receive.

Ezekiel tells us a similar river in the Millennium will flow to the east (Ezekiel 47:1, 2<sup>v</sup>). It will flow to the Dead Sea and bring life to it. Remember that in our passage today it is in the new earth. Will it have identical features as those of the old earth? Or perhaps this is only symbolic language? In chapter seven verse seventeen we were told that the One who sits on the throne will lead us to springs of living water (Revelation 7:17<sup>vi</sup>). Perhaps the language speaks of abundance of life and continual refreshing of the Spirit similar to what Jesus promised to the Samaritan woman at the well (John 4:13,14<sup>vii</sup>), something like an every day being Pentecost (Acts 2:2-4<sup>viii</sup>). I am inclined to believe it is both a metaphor for a continual outpouring of the Holy Spirit and an actual river, for the next verse describes its location.

<sup>2</sup> *through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.* Revelation 22:2 The river trickles out and Ezekiel describes how it gets deeper and as it goes (Ezekiel 47:3-5<sup>ix</sup>). It goes down the middle of

the street and on each side is THE tree of life. What we were justly kept from after the fall and expulsion from the garden of Eden, we will then be able to legitimately enjoy. Adam was kept from living forever in his fallen state, but in that day to come we will be perfected. Then we can live forever in that perfected state.

Just as the river of the water of life has a definite article, so the tree of life also has a definite article. How can it be a tree and be on both sides of the river? Perhaps it is so large that it spans the river, or like aspens, the roots of the tree sprout additional trees. Ezekiel describes trees on both sides of the river (Ezekiel 47:12<sup>x</sup>), so perhaps there are numerous trees of life referred to collectively as the tree of life. Beal sees the tree of life as representing Jesus (John 14:6<sup>xi</sup>). *The figurative picture of healing by the leaves of the tree of life means that Christ was “slain” on behalf of the believing nations, so that they were “released from [the penalty] of their sins by his blood” (cf. 5:9<sup>xii</sup> with 1:5<sup>xiii</sup>). Christ suffered death on their behalf in the present age so that they would not have to suffer it in the age to come.*<sup>xiv</sup>

The tree has twelve kinds of fruit, a different kind for each month. It appears that we will still mark time, but we will certainly no longer be subject to time because the curse of entropy will be lifted. The passing of time will no longer bring decay.

Again, we see the number twelve which leads me to believe this speaking of the completeness of provision from God. It also reminds us of Psalm 1, for these leaves do not wither (Psalm 1:3<sup>xv</sup>) just as the one who meditates on the Word flourishes. The leaves of the tree are medicinal for the nations. Remember in the last chapter we read that the nations were the redeemed. I do not know why they would need medicine, so again it may be speaking of having all we need for divine spiritual health. Some commentators translate the word to be therapeutic, or health giving rather than healing.

Our heavenly bodies will be able to eat food. Jesus ate in His resurrected body (Luke 24:41-43<sup>xvi</sup>), and angels ate with Abraham (Genesis 18:6-8<sup>xvii</sup>). And of course, we read earlier about a marriage feast with the Lamb (Revelation 19:9<sup>xviii</sup>).

*<sup>3</sup> No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him.* Revelation 22:3 There will be nothing accursed (Zechariah 14:11<sup>xix</sup>). The curse from the fall of man will be lifted, which means death will be a thing of the past. Paul wrote of the natural world waiting for that day. *<sup>19</sup> For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. <sup>20</sup> For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup> that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.* Romans 8:19-21 Nature will return to its state before the fall. All will be holy! Jesus will be ever present.

If you have ever wondered what we will be doing, here is the answer. We will worship the Father and Son on the throne as they reign in righteousness. That word for worship also means to serve. Worship and service go hand in hand. With the curse lifted, it will not be the arduous toil we experience now. We will continue to do His will out of hearts that are overjoyed to be of service to Him. Everything we do will be from the motivation of the love we have for Him because of the greatness of His love for us. This word “serve” describes what the priests in the temple did. They worship/serve the LORD, each with their assigned duty whether removing ashes or singing. Isaiah predicted this day when we would become priests of the Lord, ministers of God (Isaiah 61:6<sup>xx</sup>). We experience it even now, but then we will know it fully. It will be anything but boring.

Some people can claim that they love their job. In that day we will be able to say we are thrilled with our job!

<sup>4</sup> *They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.* Revelation 22:4 In the Beatitudes Jesus said the pure in heart would see God (Matthew 5:8<sup>xxi</sup>). We are only pure in heart because of Jesus' sacrifice for us. This is the fulfillment of that promise. The psalmist said this was the desire of his heart, to see His face (Psalm 11:7<sup>xxii</sup>; 27:4<sup>xxiii</sup>; 42:2<sup>xxiv</sup>). I am longing to look into His eyes. They were a flame of fire in chapter one, perhaps pointing to the judgments we have read about. But when we see Him face to face they will be flames of love. In Solomon's song of songs he described love this way:

<sup>6</sup> *Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm, for love is strong as death, jealousy is fierce as the grave. Its flashes are flashes of fire, the very flame of the LORD.*

Song of Songs 8:6 The word translated as jealousy here can also be translated as zeal. Love and zeal are the flame of the LORD! When we look into His eyes, we will certainly be overwhelmed with the love we see in them. That is because we will fully realize what is already a reality, God delights in you! If you are in Christ, God sees you as perfect, desirable, beautiful, and longs to commune with you. We just have a difficult time accepting that now, as we are aware of our shortcomings. It is in realizing how much we are loved that we love Him more, and that love is what transforms us.

Paul tells us we have begun to see His face even now. <sup>6</sup> *For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.* 2 Corinthians 4:6 <sup>12</sup> *For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.* 1 Corinthians 13:12 This suggests to me that we will not only literally behold His face, but also grasp the beauty of His holiness and greatness of His love. Spurgeon wrote: *This will be the greatest glory of heaven: to know God, to know Jesus, more intimately and wonderfully than we ever could on earth. "It is the chief blessing of heaven, the cream of heaven, the heaven of heaven, that the saints shall there see Jesus."*<sup>xxv</sup>

"His face" refers back to both God and the Lamb. It is singular and yet includes both because the two are one. The Scriptures tell us no one can see the face of God and live (Exodus 33:20<sup>xxvi</sup>; John 1:18<sup>xxvii</sup>). But that will no longer be true when we are in our glorified bodies. To see the face of Jesus is to see the face of God, as Jesus told Philip when Philip asked to see the Father (John 14:9<sup>xxviii</sup>).

We learned about the honor of having His name on our foreheads in a number of previous passages (3:12<sup>xxix</sup>; 7:3<sup>xxx</sup>; 14:1<sup>xxxi</sup>). It is an expression of being forever His and forever identified with Him. God's name was worn on a band on the forehead of the High Priest in the temple. He was the only one who could access the most holy place where there was a manifestation of God's presence. That we all will have His name on our forehead signifies that we will all have intimate fellowship with God.

We also saw that the face or forehead of a person shows their character. In that day our faces will radiate with glory of God like Moses' face shown when He came down from Sinai (1 John 3:2<sup>xxxii</sup>; 2 Corinthians 3:18<sup>xxxiii</sup>).

<sup>5</sup> *And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.* Revelation 22:5 We will not have night for the glory of God and the Lamb will constantly illumine all things (21:23-25<sup>xxxiv</sup>; Isaiah 60:19,20<sup>xxxv</sup>). Night is to relieve our tiredness, but our new bodies will not

become tired. They will always be filled with vibrant energy for the energy will not come from blood but from the Holy Spirit (Luke 24:49<sup>xxxvi</sup>). Continual daytime is also symbolic of all being godly and continual enlightenment from God (Ephesians 5:8-12<sup>xxxvii</sup>). God is light and in Him is no darkness at all (1 John 1:5<sup>xxxviii</sup>). The churches were called lampstands in the first chapter, but in their description, we saw how many of them were flawed. God and the Lamb will be the light of the new world, and no flawed human or organization or influence will distort that light.

We will reign forever and ever (Romans 5:17<sup>xxxix</sup>; Daniel 7:27<sup>xl</sup>)! This is not for a thousand years, but forever! We will be desiring God's will and participating in bringing it to pass. We cannot begin to imagine the wonders He has in store for us, His children. Just as Adam was to reign over the created world, we will reign with Christ over the new creation.

Because of the difficulty in relating heavenly things, heaven is partly defined by what is not there. In this verse we have three "no more." The first "no more" was in the 21:1-4<sup>xli</sup>: sea, death, mourning, crying, and pain. Today's passage repeats that there will be no night and adds no light of lamp or sun. (Also see 21:22-25<sup>xlii</sup>). In verse three we saw there was no more curse. Can we imagine everything lit by the glory of God, or seeing Jesus' face to face, or tasting the fruit of the tree of life, or drinking deeply of the river of life, and no sin of any kind?

Heaven is where Jesus is. If that glorious place described here was void of Jesus, it would be hell. As amazing as the place is, if God and the Lamb are not there, if darkness is allowed, it would be worthless! Are you experiencing the light and love of Jesus now? If so, you are getting a foretaste of heaven. And if you get that foretaste, this description just makes you long for the fulfillment. The more you experience Him now in the Word, prayer, and fellowship, the more you will desire the heaven we are reading about, because that is where we will know Him even as we are known (1 Corinthians 13:12<sup>xliii</sup>).

If you have set your heart on this world and could care less about the tree of life and its twelve fruits, the river of life, and the face of Jesus, well, you do not know what you are missing. If God has given you a hungry heart to know Him and to desire what has been described, know that Jesus made it possible. He died for your sins and will give you His righteousness so that you can be with Him in this indescribable place forever. He will begin a transformation in your heart so that you desire what is truly priceless. He loves you so much He died to make it possible for you to be with Him. Will you turn down so great a love and such a glorious future? He calls, but it is up to us to answer.

*<sup>6</sup> And he said to me, "These words are trustworthy and true. And the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place."* Revelation 22:6 Now we come to the conclusion. The angel who delivered the revelation to John reminds John how it all began. The angel's mission is complete. He has shown John where history is headed and how it concludes.

We saw the introduction to Jesus and God's throne in chapter 1, 4 and 5. In chapters 2 and 3 we read about the churches, some of which were entangled with Babylon's influence. In chapter 6 the saints under the altar asked how long until their deaths are avenged, and the horsemen went out causing death and destruction. In chapter 7 the saints were sealed in their foreheads, a great number that come out of tribulation. Chapters 8 and 9 told of the trumpets of tribulation and mankind's refusal to repent. Chapter 10 was about the angel with the little scroll that John was to eat. In chapter 11 we

learned that during the tribulation the two witnesses testify to the world and are slain but rise from death and ascend into heaven. In chapter twelve we saw the birth of Jesus and the Antichrist's attempt to devour him and the woman's offspring, but the woman flees to a place prepared by God for her. In chapter 13 we are introduced to the unholy trinity: Satan, the Antichrist, and the false prophet who make war on the saints and overcome them; and they mark the worshipers of the beast in their hand or foreheads so they can buy and sell. In chapter 14 those sealed by God are on Mount Zion with the Lamb. Three angels give a final warning to those on the earth. The righteous are harvested from the earth and the wicked are thrown into the winepress of the wrath of God. In chapters 15 and 16 the bowls of wrath are poured out on the earth and the wicked still do not repent. In chapters 17 and 18 we read of the final destruction of Babylon at the hands of the beast and his followers. It is the end of man's kingdoms. In chapter 19 we saw the glorious marriage feast of the Lamb. In chapter 20 the millennial kingdom in which the saints reign with Jesus. Satan was bound before it began but is released and leads one last rebellion, which is instantly crushed by God. In 21 we read of the new heaven and new earth and the heavenly city New Jerusalem made up of the glorified saints. And in today's passage we had descriptions of what that eternal kingdom will be like. Next week we conclude Revelation with some final warnings and exhortations.

This has been a journey describing the future for those seven churches. It has told them of the battle they are in and of source of their temptations and ours. It has warned of the outcome of joining ourselves with this world and encouraged us with the promises for those who are joined with Christ. The message is the same for us today. By the grace of God and the help of the Holy Spirit may we be like the two churches that needed no rebuke. May Christ be Lord and Savior of this congregation now and until that final war by the Antichrist on the saints.

The expectation of the end of sin and suffering and seeing our Lord's face should give us a longing to see it come to pass. This final declaration of trustworthy and true covers the whole book. It is sure to come to pass. Just as all previous Bible prophecies were fulfilled in detail, so these will be as well. They come from the same source, the God of the spirit of the prophets. The God who sees the end from the beginning has shown us the conclusion of His great plan to prepare a bride for His Son (Isaiah 46:10<sup>xliv</sup>). The world may not like the concept of absolute truth, but that does not change the fact that it is! The angel declared the message of Revelation is trustworthy and true!

#### Questions:

- 1 What does the river of life represent?
- 2 What does the tree of life represent?
- 3 What might the twelve fruits represent
- 4 And what purpose do the leaves of the tree serve?
- 5 What is the implication of nothing accursed?
- 6 What will we do in heaven?
- 7 What do you expect to see when you look into Jesus' face?
- 8 What is not there? Why define in the negative?
- 9 Why reiterate that the words are trustworthy and true?
- 10 Summarize the chapters and the overall message.

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<sup>i</sup> **Revelation 7:14 (ESV)**

<sup>14</sup> I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

<sup>ii</sup> **Psalm 46:4-5 (ESV)**

<sup>4</sup> There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. <sup>5</sup> God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved; God will help her when morning dawns.

<sup>iii</sup> **Revelation 21:6 (ESV)**

<sup>6</sup> And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment.

<sup>iv</sup> **John 7:37-38 (ESV)**

<sup>37</sup> On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink.

<sup>38</sup> Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'"

<sup>v</sup> **Ezekiel 47:1-2 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> Then he brought me back to the door of the temple, and behold, water was issuing from below the threshold of the temple toward the east (for the temple faced east). The water was flowing down from below the south end of the threshold of the temple, south of the altar. <sup>2</sup> Then he brought me out by way of the north gate and led me around on the outside to the outer gate that faces toward the east; and behold, the water was trickling out on the south side.

<sup>vi</sup> **Revelation 7:17 (ESV)**

<sup>17</sup> For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

<sup>vii</sup> **John 4:13-14 (ESV)**

<sup>13</sup> Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, <sup>14</sup> but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

<sup>viii</sup> **Acts 2:2-4 (ESV)**

<sup>2</sup> And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. <sup>4</sup> And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

<sup>ix</sup> **Ezekiel 47:3-5 (ESV)**

<sup>3</sup> Going on eastward with a measuring line in his hand, the man measured a thousand cubits, and then led me through the water, and it was ankle-deep. <sup>4</sup> Again he measured a thousand, and led me through the water, and it was knee-deep. Again he measured a thousand, and led me through the water, and it was waist-deep. <sup>5</sup> Again he measured a thousand, and it was a river that I could not pass through, for the water had risen. It was deep enough to swim in, a river that could not be passed through.

<sup>x</sup> **Ezekiel 47:12 (ESV)**

<sup>12</sup> And on the banks, on both sides of the river, there will grow all kinds of trees for food. Their leaves will not wither, nor their fruit fail, but they will bear fresh fruit every month, because the water for them flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for healing."

<sup>xi</sup> **John 14:6 (ESV)**

<sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

<sup>xii</sup> **Revelation 5:9 (ESV)**

<sup>9</sup> And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation,

<sup>xiii</sup> **Revelation 1:5 (ESV)**

<sup>5</sup> and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood

<sup>xiv</sup> G. K. Beale, *The Book of Revelation: A Commentary on the Greek Text*, New International Greek Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI; Carlisle, Cumbria: W.B. Eerdmans; Paternoster Press, 1999), 1107.

<sup>xv</sup> **Psalm 1:3 (ESV)**

<sup>3</sup> He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.

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<sup>xvi</sup> **Luke 24:41-43 (ESV)**

<sup>41</sup> And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?”

<sup>2</sup> They gave him a piece of broiled fish, <sup>43</sup> and he took it and ate before them.

<sup>xvii</sup> **Genesis 18:6-8 (ESV)**

<sup>6</sup> And Abraham went quickly into the tent to Sarah and said, “Quick! Three seahs of fine flour! Knead it, and make cakes.” <sup>7</sup> And Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to a young man, who prepared it quickly. <sup>8</sup> Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them. And he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

<sup>xviii</sup> **Revelation 19:9 (ESV)**

<sup>9</sup> And the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.” And he said to me, “These are the true words of God.”

<sup>xix</sup> **Zechariah 14:11 (ESV)**

<sup>11</sup> And it shall be inhabited, for there shall never again be a decree of utter destruction. Jerusalem shall dwell in security.

<sup>xx</sup> **Isaiah 61:6 (ESV)**

<sup>6</sup> but you shall be called the priests of the LORD; they shall speak of you as the ministers of our God; you shall eat the wealth of the nations, and in their glory you shall boast.

<sup>xxi</sup> **Matthew 5:8 (ESV)**

<sup>8</sup> “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

<sup>xxii</sup> **Psalms 11:7 (ESV)**

<sup>7</sup> For the LORD is righteous; he loves righteous deeds; the upright shall behold his face.

<sup>xxiii</sup> **Psalms 27:4 (ESV)**

<sup>4</sup> One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple.

<sup>xxiv</sup> **Psalms 42:2 (ESV)**

<sup>2</sup> My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?

<sup>xxv</sup> <sup>11</sup> David Guzik, *Revelation*, David Guzik’s Commentaries on the Bible (Santa Barbara, CA: David Guzik, 2013), Re 22:3–5.

<sup>xxvi</sup> **Exodus 33:20 (ESV)**

<sup>20</sup> But,” he said, “you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live.”

<sup>xxvii</sup> **John 1:18 (ESV)**

<sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known.

<sup>xxviii</sup> **John 14:9 (ESV)**

<sup>9</sup> Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”

<sup>xxix</sup> **Revelation 3:12 (ESV)**

<sup>12</sup> The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it, and I will write on him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name.

<sup>xxx</sup> **Revelation 7:3 (ESV)**

<sup>3</sup> saying, “Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.”

<sup>xxxi</sup> **Revelation 14:1 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> Then I looked, and behold, on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father’s name written on their foreheads.

<sup>xxxii</sup> **1 John 3:2 (ESV)**

<sup>2</sup> Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.

<sup>xxxiii</sup> **2 Corinthians 3:18 (ESV)**

<sup>18</sup> And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

<sup>xxxiv</sup> **Revelation 21:23-25 (ESV)**

<sup>23</sup> And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. <sup>24</sup> By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, <sup>25</sup> and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there.

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<sup>xxxv</sup> **Isaiah 60:19-20 (ESV)**

<sup>19</sup> The sun shall be no more your light by day, nor for brightness shall the moon give you light; but the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory. <sup>20</sup> Your sun shall no more go down, nor your moon withdraw itself; for the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your days of mourning shall be ended.

<sup>xxxvi</sup> **Luke 24:39 (ESV)**

<sup>39</sup> See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” (Jesus did not say flesh and blood for he had poured out his blood on the cross)

<sup>xxxvii</sup> **Ephesians 5:8-12 (ESV)**

<sup>8</sup> for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light <sup>9</sup> (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), <sup>0</sup> and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup> Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. <sup>12</sup> For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret.

<sup>xxxviii</sup> **1 John 1:5 (ESV)**

<sup>5</sup> This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

<sup>xxxix</sup> **Romans 5:17 (ESV)**

<sup>17</sup> For if, because of one man’s trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

<sup>xl</sup> **Daniel 7:27 (ESV)**

<sup>27</sup> And the kingdom and the dominion and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High; his kingdom shall be an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.’

<sup>xli</sup> **Revelation 21:1-4 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup> And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.

<sup>4</sup> He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

<sup>xlii</sup> **Revelation 21:22-25 (ESV)**

<sup>22</sup> And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. <sup>23</sup> And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. <sup>4</sup> By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, <sup>25</sup> and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there.

<sup>xliii</sup> **1 Corinthians 13:12 (ESV)**

<sup>12</sup> For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

<sup>xliv</sup> **Isaiah 46:10 (ESV)**

<sup>10</sup> declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,’