

## **GOD'S VISIONS AND DREAMS CANNOT BE DEFEATED!**

### *REVELATION 22*

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Verses 1-2, The River and Tree of Life

The River

Old Testament background: Garden of Life (Genesis 2: 8-16); River from Temple (Ezekiel 47: 1-7); The Psalmist (Psalm 46: 4)

River as symbol of abundant life in biblical mind

Flows from ***throne*** of God **and** the Lamb

Tree of Life

Old Testament Background: Genesis 2:9; Ezekiel 47: 12

Right to eat from the tree of life, Genesis 3: 22-24

Healing leaves for nations, (Jews and Palestinians; Muslims, Christians, Jews;

Irish Protestants and Catholics, African nations ravaged by tribalism and

Colonialism; North and South Korea; Japan and Korea

Verses 3-5, Freedom to Exhale/Freedom to Sit With Our Backs to the Door

Lack of temptation and strife, no accursed thing

Eternal reign---sharing in the glory and royalty of God in a unique way

Verses 6-9, Word and Warnings in Three Voices

Message of the angel: Reminder of certainty of God's keeping God's word

Encouragement in times of war; warning in times of peace

Confirmation by Christ: God confirms word

Message to John: The place of messengers

Honor but don't worship messengers: I Timothy 5: 17

They handle the imperishable word of God

Special callings and gifts to guide souls of people (If preacher is just like everyone else then why aren't you the preacher?)

Held to a stricter accountability (Ezekiel 3: 16-21)

Danger of trivializing the sacred and those whom the word tells us to honor (Parental authority)

Verses 10-19, Last Words of Christ

The assurance of the return of Christ

The uniqueness of Christ: completeness, eternity (not history), authority

The stubbornness and intransigence of a rebellious spirit

Exclusion of those who forsake their calling and lead others astray (Dog-males)

Exclusion of those who follow flesh

Exclusion of those who seek to destroy others

Exclusion of those who follow lesser gods

Exclusion of those who participate in spreading falsehoods (liars, gossipers)

Proverbs 18: 21, James 3: 1-12: *"Don't let your mouth land you in hell!"*

Do not compromise the word of God

Verses 20-21, Revelation and the Bible end with grace.

Bible ends where it begins---with grace

Garden of Eden was act of grace and so is New Jerusalem

From Garden to City, wherever we are God's grace abounds

(II Corinthians 12: 8-9)

The grace of the Lord Jesus (II Corinthians 8: 9)

Testimony of John Newton