22:1Then the angel showed me **the river** of **the water of life**, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb **2**down the middle of the great street of the city. **On each side of the river** stood **the tree of life**, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. **3No longer will there be any curse.** **The throne of God and of the Lamb** will be in the city, and his servants will **serve him**. **4**They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. **5**There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.

*V.1 -* ***the river****- See Genesis 2:10-14, Ezekiel 40-46 and especially 47.*

***the water of life*** *– see John 4; John 7:38*

*v.2. -* ***On each side of the river*** *– or, “the Tree of Life is between the main street and the river, one on each side of the Tree.”*

***the tree of life –*** *See Genesis 2 and 3. What would have happened if Adam and Eve had eaten this fruit in the Garden of Eden? We don’t know. In the New Creation the fruit of the Tree is for healing and abundant life => God’s people will eat of the Tree of Life forever and NOT be ruined by temptation, sin, or death.*

*v.3 –* ***No longer will there be any curse –*** *Genesis 3:17-19: - To Adam God said, “Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat from it,’ Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.”*

***The throne of God and of the Lamb –*** *both sharing the heavenly Throne together.*

***serve him*** *– as worshippers.*

We don’t know exactly what the New Creation will look like; we don’t know exactly what our resurrected bodies will look like. See Romans 8:18-25, I Cor. 2:9.

**Note on the New Creation and “Paradise”:** While Revelation suggests that the entire heaven and earth will undergo a resurrection (“New Heavens and New Earth”), “Paradise” is a word that meant “a king’s walled pleasure garden.” The original Garden of Eden can be thought of as such a place; but in the New Jerusalem the wall is around the entire city and there isn’t a need to segregate the “Paradise” from the rest of it. Think of the Tree of Life in the New Jerusalem as being in a sort of a Metropark instead.

 **6**The angel said to me, “**These words are trustworthy and true**. The Lord, the God who inspires the prophets, sent his angel to show his servants the things that must soon take place.”

*v.6 -* ***These words are trustworthy and true*** *– Revelation is the “Amen” to all of Scripture; God Himself is the Source of all Absolute Truth.*

*v.7 -* ***I am coming*** *– present indicative, middle voice; or, “I am bringing myself right now.” Future tense would be “I am going to be coming.”*

*v.8 -* ***the one who heard and saw these things –*** *“The way St. John’s Book of Revelation has been treated by many of his readers is similar to the way he himself treated the revealing angel, but without the promptly heeded angelic rebuke . . . people get interested in everything in this book except God.” Peterson, Reversed Thunder, p. 187*

*v.10 -* ***the time is near***  *- see also v.7, 20, and Mark 1:15. Do not seal up the words of this scroll because repentance is still possible – but TODAY, not tomorrow!*

*v.11 –* ***let. . . let . . . let . . . let*** *– God does not command these, but these are statements that He resigns Himself to allowing them to be evil in the end (Cf. Matthew 19:8 - Jesus replied to the Pharisees, “Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard.”*

 **7**“Look, **I am coming** soon! Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy written in this scroll.”

 **8**I, John, am **the one who heard and saw these things**. And when I had heard and seen them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who had been showing them to me. **9**But he said to me, “Don’t do that! I am a fellow servant with you and with your fellow prophets and with all who keep the words of this scroll. Worship God!”

 **10**Then he told me, “Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this scroll, because **the time is near**. **11Let** the one who does wrong continue to do wrong; **let** the vile person continue to be vile; **let** the one who does right continue to do right; and **let** the holy person continue to be holy.”

Those who don’t believe that God’s Word presents the testimony of Truth have to come to grips with the words of verse 6.

 **12**“Look, I am coming soon! **My reward** is with me, and I will **give to each person according to what they have done**. **13**I am the Alpha and the Omega, **the First and the Last**, the Beginning and the End.

*v.12 –* ***Jesus’ reward*** *is what He has earned – His resurrection, ascension, and seating at God’s right hand. “Our reward in heaven” is only whatever He shares with us. The gates of heaven and foundation-stones are inscribed with the names of sinner-saints – Jesus’ death was the only heroic one that counts in heaven!*

***give*** *by grace* ***to each person according to what they have done*** *through saving faith*

*v.13 -* ***the First and the Last*** *– The Triune God is Alpha and Omega; the Beginning and End of all Creation; but it is only in Jesus that He is the First and Last of the Resurrection and so only through Jesus that the Triune God has met the human race (Brighton p. 652). Peterson notes that God was both Creating and Saving for one supreme moment in Jesus Christ.*

*v.14 -* ***those who wash their robes*** *– INCLUSION – robes washed clean from sin in the blood of Christ (Rev. 7:14) enter the city gates all the way to the tree of life*

*v.16-* ***outside are*** *– EXCLUSION see v. 11 – the last- ditch unrepentant (including “wild dogs” = male prostitutes, Deut 23:14)*

*v.17 -* ***The Spirit and the bride say, “Come!”*** *– Alongside worship, the bride (the church) addresses* ***Jesus*** *with urgency: Jesus, since you’re coming, COME ON!*

 **14**“Blessed are **those who wash their robes**, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city. **15Outside are** the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

 **16**“I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star.”

 **17The Spirit and the bride say, “Come!”** And let the one who hears say, “Come!” ***Let the one who is thirsty come***; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life.

*v. 17 -* ***Let the one who is thirsty come*** *– this is not an invitation* ***to*** *Jesus, but to people* ***from*** *Jesus (John 7:37)*

 **18I warn everyone** who hears the words of the prophecy of this scroll: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to that person the plagues described in this scroll. **19**And if anyone takes words away from this scroll of prophecy, God will take away from that person any share in the tree of life and in the Holy City, which are described in this scroll.

 **20He who testifies** to these things says, “Yes, **I am coming soon**.”

*v.18 –* ***I warn everyone*** *- Don’t change the words in order to change the meaning (a typical curse in an age without copyrights)*

*v. 20 –* ***He who testifies*** *– Jesus is the witness; John is the scribe.*

***I am coming soon –*** *present tense, middle voice; or, “I am bringing myself right now; that is, soon.”*

*See Revelation 17:8 – the Antichrist has a Past and a Future but no Present (“The beast, which you saw, once was, now is not, and yet will come up out of the Abyss”). Jesus has a Past and a Future AND a Present!*

***Come -* ἔρχου,** *- present imperative, middle voice = “get yourself over here!”* **κύριε Ἰησοῦ** *- “Lord Jesus”. See note on* ***Maranatha****, an Aramaic phrase which means “Come now” but does not appear in Revelation.*

 Amen. **Come,** Lord Jesus.

 **21**The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God’s people. Amen.

**Maranatha** (Aramaic: either **תא מרנא**: ***maranâ thâ'*** or **אתא** **מרן**: ***[maran](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maran%22%20%5Co%20%22Maran) 'athâ'*** , Greek: **Μαραναθα**) is a two-word [Aramaic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aramaic_language) formula occurring only once in the [New Testament](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Testament). It appears in [Didache](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Didache%22%20%5Co%20%22Didache) 10:14, which is part of the [Apostolic Fathers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apostolic_Fathers)' collection. It is [transliterated](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transliterated) into Greek letters rather than [translated](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Translated) and, given the nature of early manuscripts, the lexical difficulty lies in determining just which two Aramaic words constitute the single Greek expression, found at the end of [Paul](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul_of_Tarsus)'s [*First Epistle to the Corinthians*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_Epistle_to_the_Corinthians) ([1 Cor 16:22](http://biblehub.com/1_corinthians/16-22.htm)). - Wikipedia