

Revelation 22



The text

1. What features of the new creation does John mention in 22:1–5? Which of these do you find exciting?
2. Look over 22:6–19. What verses say something about words and prophecy? What are they emphasising?
3. Look over 22:6–21. How many times can you find the word ‘soon’? Why is this repeated?
4. Look over 22:6–21. How many times can you find the word ‘come’? Who comes where?
5. Who misses out on the heavenly city/new creation?
6. Who gets to belong in the heavenly city/new creation? What do these people do in the new creation?
7. What do we learn about Jesus and God in this chapter?

The Scriptures

8. How is the new creation better than we might expect in the Old Testament? (Think about the garden of Eden and the OT priests)

Feature of the new creation	Old Testament Expression	Revelation 22
the river of the water of life	Ezekiel 47:1–12	
the tree of life		
fruit		
leaves		
curse		
they will see his face		
his name will be on their foreheads		

9. G.K. Beale has noted 12 contrasts between the new Jerusalem and Babylon.

New Jerusalem	Babylon	New Jerusalem	Babylon
i pure bride	harlot	vii heaven comes to earth	sins pile up to heaven
ii receives loyalty of righteous kings	deals with unrighteous kings	viii remains forever (It is done)	split up and destroyed (It is done)
iii receives glory and honour of nations	receives extorted wealth	ix God's name on forehead	'Abomination' etc. on forehead (see 17:5)
iv impure are left out	the impure dwell there	x Names in Lamb's book of life	Not in Lamb's book of life
v healing and life	slaughter and blood	xi Reflects glory of God	Glorifies self
vi enter! come!	flee!	xii Dwelling place for God	Dwelling place for demons

Why is this important?

What empires and powers are like Babylon today?

Our lives

10. In Revelation 22 God is lavish and generous. When do you believe this? When do you struggle to believe it? How does this show?

11. Do you live with a sense of urgency? Why or why not?

12. Who could you invite to come and take the free gift of the water of life?