

Mt. Lebanon Church

Sunday School Lesson

5.18.2025

Please look up and read all verses in their entirety. I have only written partial verses.

Make your own notes, write down other scriptures that you run across while studying, write down questions that you may have or comments as well. Allow the Holy Spirit to reveal to you that he would have you to see through the study of God's word.

The River of Life

Revelation 22: 1 - 9

Water is an easily understood symbol for life. For all of mankind, water is necessary to sustain our physical life here on earth, and just as water is necessary to sustain physical life here on earth, living water from God is necessary to sustain eternal life with him.

John 4: 14,....whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst, but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life....

Man was created for God and for his purpose, therefore, and even though we do not fully comprehend, many of the things that we pursue here on earth we do so in an attempt to fulfill a longing for God, a longing that we do not even realize exists in our life. This we do because of a lack of spiritual understanding, and it is for this reason that we do not realize that this longing cannot be filled with worldly possessions. Now, even though God has created us for himself, our hearts will remain restless until we come to understand that we can only find peace and rest in him.

Matthew 11: 28,....come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest....

A pure river of life has many meanings, with one being that it symbolizes Gods abundant life, through his grace and his mercy, representing his continuous provisions with the promises of eternal life through Christ Jesus his Son.

Isaiah 12: 2 – 3,....God is my salvation, I will trust....he....is become my salvation....therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation....

All that is associated with Gods water of life brings us to experience the fullness of his life-giving presence that he has instilled within the lives of every believer through his indwelling Holy Spirit.

John 7: 37 – 39,....if any man thirst, let him come unto me and drink....he that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water....but this spake he of the spirit, which they that believe on him should receive....

This glimpse of understanding, which is given unto by Christ himself, through his word, portrays the Holy Spirit as a river that does not just dwell within us, but flows through us, not only does it impact our own lives, but it also impacts the lives of all those whom God surrounds us with. For it is this water of life that represents Gods constant presence and sustaining power, which transforms many hearts and minds, bringing about spiritual renewal and change.

Throughout time God has used water to symbolize many things in various events of history. It has been the symbol of death and destruction, wrath, condemnation, and separation from God. But since the beginning of time as we know it the spirit of God has moved upon the face of the waters, and therefore it has always been used for carrying out Gods purpose and plan in the midst of all mankind, and it will continue to be a significant source of Gods presence and power throughout all of eternity.

Revelation 22: 1 – 3,....he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clean as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the lamb....in the midst....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....there shall be no more curse....the throne of God and of the lamb shall be in it....his servants shall serve him....

This river which is both in a physical and spiritual sense is a river that is crystal clear, perfect and pure, a symbol of the true nature of God. It is seen as representing Gods eternal provision and sustenance by his grace, a symbol of Gods sustaining power, a perfect continual source of eternal life. A life-giving water which comes from the throne of God, with the source being the eternal life that is offered through Christ Jesus, which is the essence of the Holy Spirit of God. The tree of life which was in the garden of Eden in the beginning of creation, which at that time constituted man's eternal relationship with God, was disrupted because of mans disobedience and sinful transgressions, but now in the New Jerusalem it signifies the restoration of that broken eternal relationship, and man's return into the fulness of the presence of God. Now, with this restoration comes an eternal abundance, a continual, bountiful, constant supply of life-giving sustenance and spiritual blessings, which represent the various aspects of Gods characteristics and provisions. The leaves from healing are a symbol of Gods power and ability and willingness to restore humanity from the effects of the curse that man brought upon himself and the world from the beginning of time. This power of healing is the ultimate victory of the goodness of God overcoming the wickedness of evil.

Revelation 22: 4 – 6,....they shall see his face....his name shall be in their forehead....there shall be no night....for the Lord God giveth the light....they shall reign forever....these sayings are faithful and true....the Lord God....sent his angel to shew....his servants....things which must shortly be done....

It will be at this time, that as believers, we will experience a perfect relationship with God, where we will realize our never-ending fellowship in his presence, understanding our undeniable, eternal bond with him. Now, living in this new reality we will experience the end of suffering, which came from the imperfections of a sinful wicked world, for Gods presence and glory will now be the source of our light, and we will hold a position of power and authority, ruling and reigning with Christ forever, and we will be assured through his word that these are not just mere imaginations, but they are divinely inspired truths, sent unto us by God himself, revealed by his angels unto his servants.

Revelation 22: 7 – 9,....behold, I come quickly, blessed is he that keepeth....the prophesy of this book....when I....heard and seen, I fell down to worship....the angel....then saith he....see thou do it not, for I am thy fellow servant....worship God....

For the believer, the expectation of Christ return for his church should instill within us the importance of diligently studying and applying Gods word unto our lives, so as to encourage one another to live with anticipation and faithfulness, knowing that the Lord will return for his church very soon. The importance we should see here is not the schedule of his return, but the nature of his return, which is quickly. This should motivate each and every believer to maintain such a relationship with God, that not only should we have a longing desire for his return, but that we should also have a willing desire to share with others the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

Philippians 1: 21 – 26,....for to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain....for I am in a strait betwixt two, having s desire to depart....nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you....having then confidence, I know that I shall abide and continue....for....furtherance of joy and faith....that your rejoicing may be more abundant in Jesus Christ....

One day, as believers, we will live in the presence of God, and we will serve him with joy beyond anything else that we could ever imagine. Therefore, we must always be vigilant that our faithfulness is reserved for God and God alone.

Let us Pray.

If anyone has any questions, comments or would just like to discuss any of the scriptures, feel free to call, text or email me. Keep praying for each other and all the God lays upon your heart. Hope to see everyone soon. God Bless.

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