

Previews of Coming Attractions

PARADISE {“Garden of God” or Orchard}

Revelation 2:7; 22:1-4

Revelation 2:7 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life which is in the Paradise of God.'

I. THE THRONE OF PARADISE. (*Rev. 22:1*)

A. The first thing John saw was the throne. **Rev 4:1-2** *After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven, and the first voice which I had heard, like the sound of a trumpet speaking with me, said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after these things." (2) Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne was standing in heaven, and One sitting on the throne.*

1. A door [to the throne] having been opened (*perfect pass. part.*) in heaven.
2. A loud attention getting trumpet was the voice of Jesus, a voice of revelation.
3. The One on the throne was the Lamb slain before the foundation of the world. Vs. 2
4. And behold a throne was standing in heaven.
5. *Imperfect tense* means that John did not witness the setting of it. (Continuous or linear action in the past)
6. It is a throne situated in heaven, not on the earth and the throne is presently occupied, not to be assumed in the future!
7. The Lord Jesus Christ—Our Redeemer is on the throne.

Act 2:34 "For it was not David who ascended into heaven, but he himself says: 'THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD, "SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND,

Heb 1:3 And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

Heb 1:13 But to which of the angels has He ever said, "SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, UNTIL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES A FOOTSTOOL FOR YOUR FEET"?

Heb 8:1 Now the main point in what has been said *is this*: we have such a high priest, who has taken His seat at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens,

Heb 10:12 but He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, SAT DOWN AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD,

Heb 12:2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

8. Jesus Christ is "King of kings and Lord of lords"

Rev 19:16 And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."

9. The place of ultimate rule is "**set in heaven!**" **Acts 7:49** "Heaven is my throne, and earth is my footstool..."

10. Jesus will not physically sit on David's throne in Jerusalem, EVER. **Jer 22:30** "Thus says the LORD, 'Write this man down childless, A man who will not prosper in his days; For no man of his descendants will prosper Sitting on the throne of David Or ruling again in Judah." **WOW!**

II. THE WATER OF LIFE OF PARADISE. (Rev. 22:1)

- A. The refreshing waters of eternal life can come only from one source, the fountain of life, **“coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb.”** Peace, prosperity and progress can only come from the throne.
1. The redeemed must all sample “The River” during salvation. **John 7:37-39** **Now on the last day, the great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If any man is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. (38) "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water.'" (39) But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.**
 2. All in heaven will be given invitation by the Spirit of God and the church to drink freely. **Rev 22:17** **And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost.**
 3. The imagery John employs reveals the rich abundance of our salvation. The symbolism of the garden paradise points to a perfect environment for a perfect new glorified man in Christ.

III. THE TREE OF LIFE OF PARADISE. (Rev. 22:2) See Ezek. 47:1-12 for understanding & insight. **Eze 47:1-12** **Then he brought me back to the door of the house; and behold, water was flowing from under the threshold of the house toward the east, for the house faced east. And the water was flowing down from under, from the right side of the house, from south of the altar. (2) He brought me out by way of the north gate and led me around on the outside to the outer gate by way of *the gate* that faces east. And behold, water was trickling from the south side. (3) When the man went out toward the east with a line in his hand, he measured a thousand cubits, and he led me through the water, water *reaching* the ankles. (4) Again he measured a thousand and led me through the water, water *reaching* the knees. Again he measured a thousand and led me through *the water*, water *reaching* the loins. (5) Again he measured a thousand; *and it was* a river that I could not ford, for the water had risen, *enough* water to swim in, a river that could not be forded. (6) He said to me, "Son of man, have you seen *this*?" Then he brought me back to the bank of the river. (7) Now when I had returned, behold, on the bank of the river there *were* very many trees on the one side and on the other. (8) Then he said to me, "These waters go out toward the eastern region and go down into the Arabah; then they go toward the sea, being made to flow into the sea, and the waters *of the sea* become fresh. (9) "It will come about that every living creature which swarms in every place where the river goes, will live. And there will be very many fish, for these waters go there and *the others* become fresh; so everything will live where the river goes. (10) "And it will come about that fishermen will stand beside it; from Engedi [*ain-getty*] to Eneglaim [*ain-egg-ly-am*] there will be a place for the spreading of nets. Their fish will be according to their kinds, like the fish of the Great Sea, very many. (11) "But its swamps and marshes will not become fresh; they will be left for salt. (12) "By the river on its bank, on one side and on the other, will grow all *kinds of* trees for food. Their leaves will not wither and their fruit will not fail. They will bear every month because their water flows from the sanctuary, and their fruit will be for food and their leaves for healing."**

- A. Christ, under the name of Wisdom, is called the Tree of life, in **Pro 3:18**. **“She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her, And happy are all who hold her fast.”** 1 Cor 1:24 **“...Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.”**
- B. The tree bears fruit each month [abundance not variety]. The tree of life is fed from the water of life and the real source is the Lord of life on the throne. Environment reigns instead of death.

- C. Maybe the trees represent an “orchard” on either side of the pure river. “The picture is one of accessibility, plenty, nourishment [all spiritual]. It heals the scars of the past, prevents the diseases of the present, and nourishes for tomorrow's work.” [George Faull] The fruit is simply perpetual. There are provisions in its orchards, refreshment in its river, and golden streets in order to access.

IV. THE PERFECT FREEDOM OF THIS PARADISE FROM THE CURSE. (Rev. 22:3)

- A. The curse came upon those in the first Paradise on account of their sin. *There shall be no more curse*, for no sin shall ever enter the New Jerusalem. Every curse that has ever blighted the life of man, must be ascribed to sin. Not a throe of pain has ever been felt by the human body, not a pang has ever pierced the human heart, or a shadow of sorrow passed over the human spirit, which was not due, either directly or indirectly, to the fall of man. As sin can never pass the gates of the Celestial City, there will be no more pain.
- B. No accursed person, or anyone devoted to ruin and destruction, will be here; not the old serpent, the devil, he will be shut up in the bottomless pit; no cursing, or accursed men will dwell here; nor will there be any anathema denounced against any person, for here will be no inventors of another Gospel, nor any that do not love the Lord Jesus Christ with all of their hearts.

V. THE FACE OF PARADISE. (Rev. 22:4)

- A. Who shall see the face of our Lord?
1. **Matt 5:8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Heb 12:14 Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord.**
 2. God withheld His face from Moses. **Exo 33:12-23 ...But He said, "You cannot see My face, for no man can see Me and live!" (21) Then the LORD said, "Behold, there is a place by Me, and you shall stand *there* on the rock; (22) and it will come about, while My glory is passing by, that I will put you in the cleft of the rock and cover you with My hand until I have passed by. (23) "Then I will take My hand away and you shall see My back, but My face shall not be seen." Exo. 34:29-35**
 3. Look at **2 Cor. 3:7-18**
 4. All unknown to himself, the reflection of the Divine glory had been left upon him as conformation of the inspired message, and the skin of his face shone [shot out rays] because of God's talking to him. His mortal face could not handle the **“unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see.” [1 Tim. 6:16]**
 5. **1 John 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we shall be. We know that, when He appears, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him just as He is.**
 6. I shall have the freest and largest uninterrupted discoveries of his love. Throughout an ageless eternity, I shall live fully conscious that I am fully accepted by the living God. Because His NAME shall be on my mind forever and ever.

There in that city is The Book of Life, The Tree of Life, and The River of Life all finding there significance **“When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.”[Col. 3:4]**