

Revelation Chapter 22

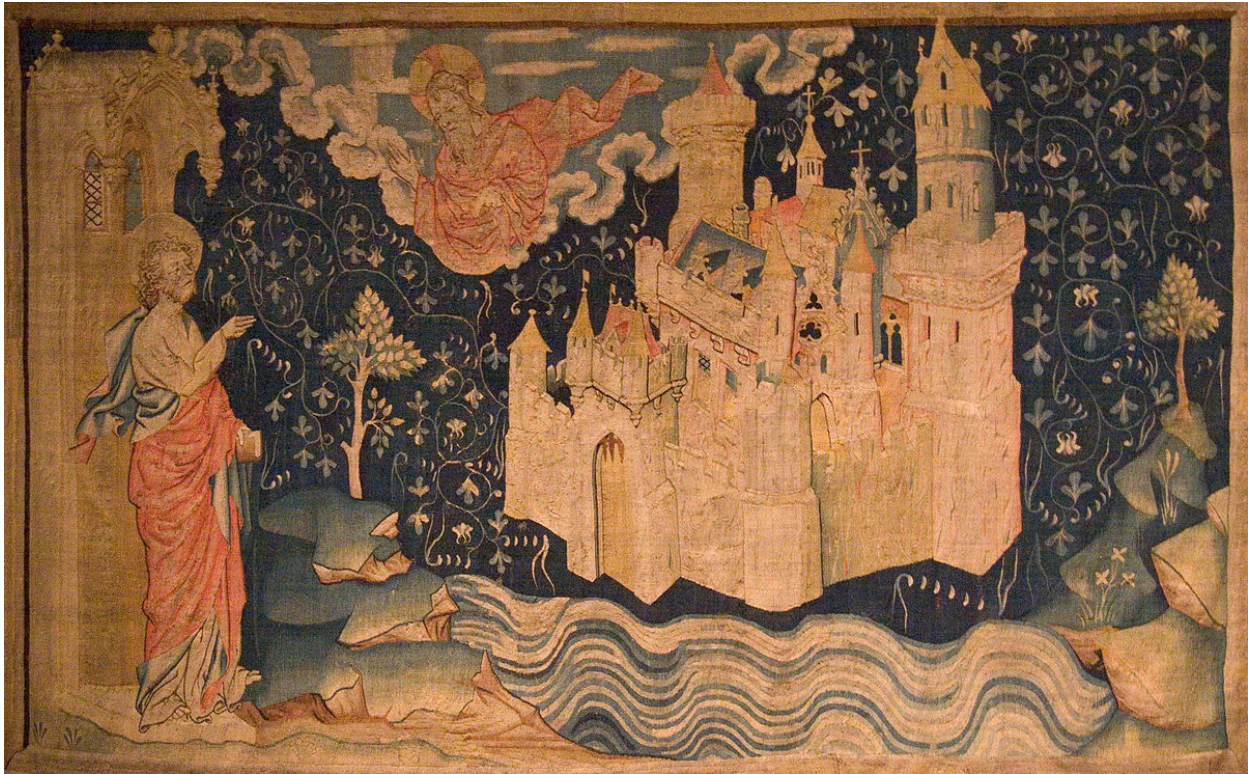
Revelation 22:1 *And he showed me a pure river of water of life, bright as crystal, going forth out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. 2 In the midst of her broad street and of the river, on this side and on that side, (was) a tree of life producing twelve fruits, yielding each month according to its fruit; and the leaves of the tree (were) for the curing of the nations. 3 And every curse shall no longer be' and the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in her, 4 and His servants shall worship Him and shall see His face; and His name (shall be) on their foreheads. 22:5 And night shall no longer be; and (they shall) have no need of lamp and light of (the) sun, for (the) Lord God shall give them light, and they shall reign to the ages of the ages. 6 And he saith to me, "These words are faithful and true." And (the) Lord God of the spirits of the prophets sent forth His angel to show His servants the things which it is necessary to come to pass with speed. 7 And behold, I am coming quickly. Blessed (is) the (one) keeping the words of the prophecy of this book." 8 And I, John, (am) the (one) hearing and seeing these things; and when I heard and saw, I fell down to make obeisance before the feet of the angel, the (one) showing me these things. 9 Then he saith to me, "See (that thou) not (do so). For I am thy fellow-servant and of thy brethren the prophets and of those keeping the words of this book. To God make obeisance." 10 And he saith to me, "Do not begin to seal the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near. 11 The (one) doing wrong, the him do wrong still, and the filthy one, let him be filthy still; and the righteous one, let him do righteousness still; and the holy (one), let him be made holy still." 12 "Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to each according as his work shall be. 13 "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, (the) Beginning and the End." 14 "Blessed are the (ones) doing His commandments, in order that their authority shall be over the tree of life, and by the gateways they should enter into the city. 15 Outside are the dogs and the users of drugs, potions and spells, and the fornicators and the murderers and the idolaters, and everyone who loveth and maketh a lie. 16 I Jesus, sent My angel to testify these things to you in the Churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, the star, the bright (one), the mourning (one)." 17 And the Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." And let the (one) who heareth say, "Come." And the (one) thirsting, let him come; and the (one) wishing, let him take (the) water of life freely.*

Revelation 22:1 *And he showed me a pure river of water of life, bright as crystal, going forth out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.*

Archbishop Averky: The unceasing blessedness of the members of the heavenly Church is depicted in a series of symbols. The first symbol is "a pure river of water of life." This symbolically depicts the grace of the Life-giving Spirit, which fills the streets of the holy city -- the grace and mercy of God, which will always be poured out inexhaustibly upon the inhabitants of the heavenly city, filling their hearts with unutterable blessedness.

Revelation 22:2 *In the midst of her broad street and of the river, on this side and on that side, (was) a tree of life producing twelve fruits, yielding each month according to its fruit; and the leaves of the tree (were) for the curing of the nations.*

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Archbishop Averky: The second symbol is the “*tree of life*,” just as there was one in the earthly paradise before the fall of our first ancestors [Adam and Eve]. St. Andrew of Caesarea considers the tree of life to signify Christ, understood through the Holy Spirit, for in Him is the Spirit, and He is worshipped in the Spirit and is the giver of the Spirit; through Him also the 12 fruits [the 12 Apostles] give us inexhaustible nourishment of the knowledge of God. The leaves will be for healing, that is, for the cleansing of the ignorances of those people who are lower than others in the accomplishment of virtues.

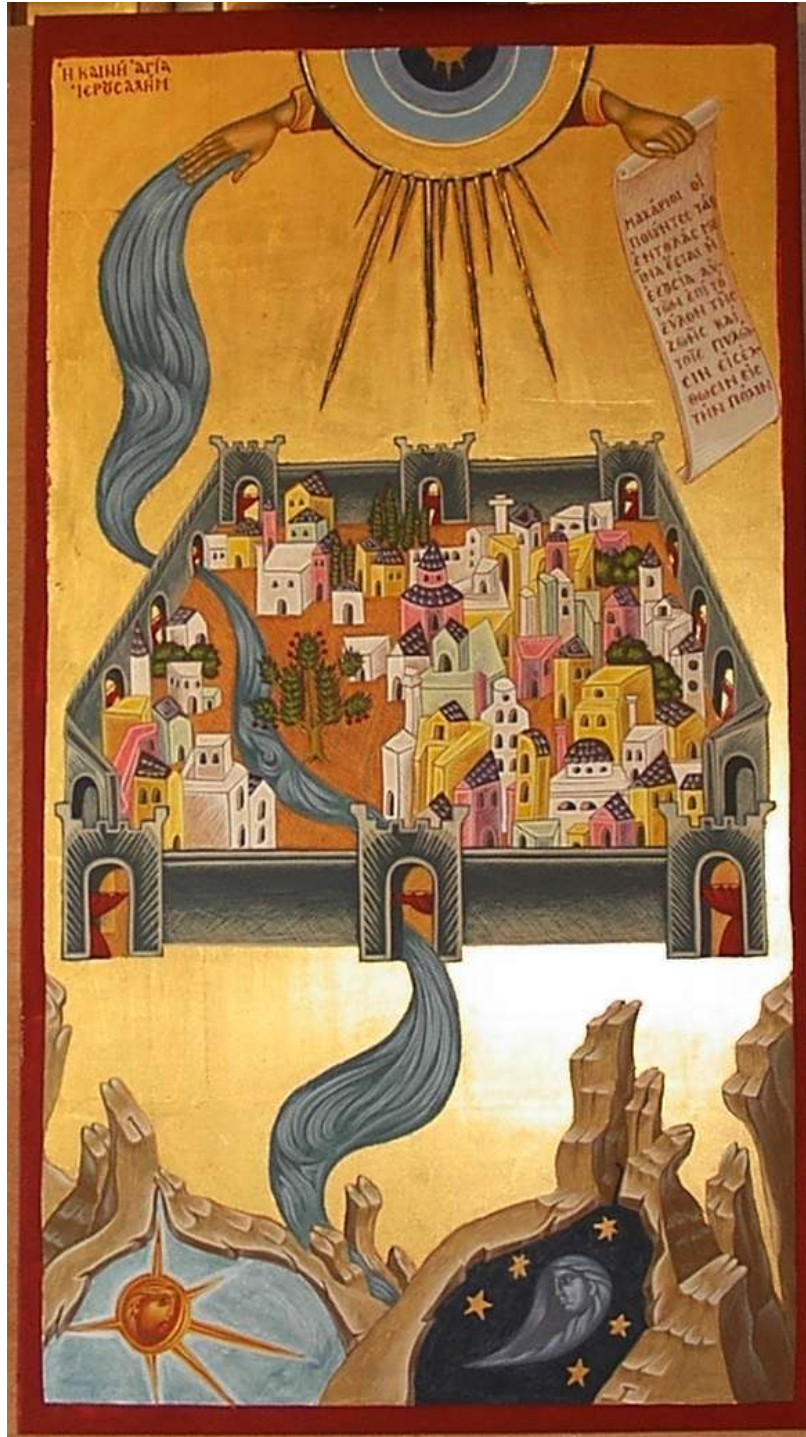
Revelation 22:3 *And every curse shall no longer be, and the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in her, 4 and His servants shall worship Him and shall see His face; and His name (shall be) on their foreheads.*

Archbishop Averky: Every curse shall be taken away, and those vouchsafed to be inhabitants of the city will behold God face to face. Instead of the gold plaque worn by the ancient high priest on his forehead and inscribed “Holy to the Lord,” they will have the mark of the name of God -- not only on their foreheads, but also in their hearts, with firm, unchanging and bold love for Him.

Revelation 22:5 *And night shall no longer be; and (they shall) have no need of lamp and light of (the) sun, for (the) Lord God shall give them light, and they shall reign to the ages of the ages.*

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Archbishop Averky: All these features indicate the unceasing and most complete communion of the members of the heavenly Church with their Master -- a source of inexhaustible blessedness.



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Revelation 22:6 *And he saith to me, "These words are faithful and true." And (the) Lord God of the spirits of the prophets sent forth His angel to show His servants the things which it is necessary to come to pass with speed. 7 And behold, I am coming quickly. Blessed (is) the (one) keeping the words of the prophecy of this book." 8 And I, John, (am) the (one) hearing and seeing these things; and when I heard and saw, I fell down to make obeisance before the feet of the angel, the (one) showing me these things. 9 Then he saith to me, "See (that thou) not (do so). For I am thy fellow-servant and of thy brethren the prophets and of those keeping the words of this book. To God make obeisance." 10 And he saith to me, "Do not begin to seal the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near. 11 The (one) doing wrong, the him do wrong still, and the filthy one, let him be filthy still; and the righteous one, let him do righteousness still; and the holy (one), let him be made holy still."*

Archbishop Averky: The holy Apostle John confirms the truth and faithfulness of everything said. He is told not to seal the book, rather it is left open because we are suppose to read it and understand the time for its fulfillment is "near." Continue to pursue righteousness and holiness. St. Andrew of Caesarea notes "these words indicate either the shortness of the present life in comparison with the future, or the suddenness or quickness of the end of each person, since departure from here comprises the end for each individual. We are to remain vigilant and be ready at all times for His Coming for each of us individually, or His Second Coming for all.

Eumenius: *Do not sealup these words*, it says. That is, you ought not keep these words to yourself or lock them up in the treasury of your mind. Rather, make them known to everyone. *For the time is near*, it says ...

Let the evil does still do evil, and the filthy still be filthy, it says. He is not urging or commanding anyone to do that which is wicked or to defile themselves. Rather, he is saying that the short time remaining give humankind yet an opportunity. Therefore, let each person do that which is pleasing, and let people use their free will as they choose, whether for that which is evil or for that which is good. And so he continues, *Let the righteous still do righteousness and the holy still be holy. Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense, to repay every one for what he has done. I am coming*, says the Lord, referring to His second coming. And He is bringing with Him whatever is necessary for the rewarding of each person, whether that is good or evil. He says, *I am the Alpha and the Omega, first and last, beginning and end ... Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life*, it says. By robes he means our bodies. Therefore blessed are those who live well and cleanse themselves from every stain of sin. For those who have lived in such a manner will have the right to lean on the tree of life and to rest on it. The tree of life is the Lord, as I have noted earlier. *That they may enter the city by the gates*. Through the gates, that is, by the apostolic doctrines and teachings they become partakers of the life and blessedness of the saints.

Revelation 22:12 *"Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to each according as his work shall be. 13 "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, (the) Beginning and the End." 14" Blessed are the (ones) doing His commandments, in order that their authority shall be over the tree of life, and by the gateways they should enter into the*

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city. 15 Outside are the dogs and the users of drugs, potions and spells, and the fornicators and the murderers and the idolaters, and everyone who loveth and maketh a lie. 16 I Jesus, sent My angel to testify these things to you in the Churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, the star, the bright (one), the mourning (one).” 17 And the Spirit and the Bride say, “Come.” And let the (one) who heareth say, “Come.” And the (one) thirsting, let him come; and the (one) wishing, let him take (the) water of life freely.

Archbishop Averky: “Behold, I come quickly”, St. Andrew explains that these words indicate either the shortness of the present life in comparison with the future life, or the suddenness or quickness of the end of each person, since departure from here comprises the end for each person. Inasmuch as we do not know in what hour the thief will come, we are commanded to watch and have our loins girded and our lamps lit.

Ecumenius: *Outside are the dogs*, it says. It is customary in the holy Scriptures to call homosexuals *dogs* because they are shameless and impure. In Deuteronomy the law of the holy teacher Moses says, *You shall not bring the hire of a harlot or the wages of a dog into the house of the Lord your God in payment for any vow* (Deuteronomy 23:18), since indeed such persons are similar to dogs because of their shamelessness. Even a wise man outside the church gives witness to the same view, saying, *Flee every murder and adulterous couch of a woman, and also the oaths of the rich and shameless beds of boys* (unknown source). Therefore, such dogs are outside the holy city and apart from the life with the righteous for what do they have in common with the righteous of God? ...

I, Jesus, have sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches, it says. *To testify* means to bear witness, not in private or in secret but so that the churches everywhere will hear and no one, feigning ignorance, will with evil intent do evil

Revelation 22:18 *I testify to everyone who heareth the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone should add to these things, God shall add to him the plagues having been written in this book; 19 and if anyone should take away from the words of the book of prophecy, God shall take away his part from the tree of life and out of the city, the holy one, of the things having been written in this book. 20 “The (One) testifying these things saith, ”Yes, I am coming quickly.” Amen. Yes, come, Lord Jesus. 21 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ (be) with all the saints. Amen.*

Archbishop Averky: He will come soon, because He comes without delay--nothing will stop His coming, just as nothing will stop or destroy His unchanging decrees and promises. Men count days, months, and years, while the Lord counts not time but righteousness and unrighteousness of men; and by the measuring stick of His chosen one He decrees the measure of the coming of that great and bright day, when there will be time to longer, and there begins the unsetting day of His Kingdom. The Spirit and the Bride -- (that is the Church of Christ) all everyone to come and freely scoop up the water of life, so as to be vouchsafed to become citizens of the heavenly Jerusalem.

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St. John concludes the Apocalypse with a blessing upon those who fulfill the commandments of God and a strict warning not to distort the words of the prophecy under threat of the application of those plagues that are written in this book. In conclusion, St. John expresses his desire for Christ's speedy return.

Æcumenius: *I warn every one who hears these words*, that is, I bear witness that nothing be added, lest one bring on oneself the plagues mentioned here, and that nothing be taken away, lest one be removed from partaking in the tree of life and in the holy city that have been described. For both are contained in this book.

Archbishop Averky: The content of the Apocalypse clearly indicates that it has an historical foundation and great significance for the Church of all times. It represents the natural culmination of the canon of the sacred books of Scripture and, in depicting the future and final fate of the Church and the world, it places us immediately before the face of the coming Judge. Glory to Thee our God, Glory to Thee!

Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on us!