

HEAVEN: GOD FILLS UP THE CITY WITH HIS:

Revelation 21:22-22:5

NO LIFE AFTER DEATH:

Promises of immortal salvation or fear of eternal damnation are both illusory and harmful. They distract humans from present concerns, from self-actualization, and from rectifying social injustices. Modern science discredits such historic concepts as the “ghost in the machine” and the “separable soul.” Rather, science affirms that the human species is an emergence from natural evolutionary forces. As far as we know, the total personality is a function of the biological organism transacting in a social and cultural context. There is no credible evidence that life survives the death of the body. We continue to exist in our progeny and in the way that our lives have influenced others in our culture. *Human Manifesto II*

That man is the product of causes which had no prevision of the end they were achieving; that his origin, his growth, his hopes and fears, his loves and his beliefs, are but the outcome of accidental collocations of atoms; that no fire, no heroism, no intensity of thought and feeling, can preserve an individual life beyond the grave; that all the labors of the ages, all the devotion, all the inspiration, all the noonday brightness of human genius, are destined to extinction in the vast death of the solar system, and that the whole temple of man’s achievement must inevitably be buried beneath the debris of a universe in ruins—all these things, if not quite beyond dispute, are yet so nearly certain that no philosophy which rejects them can hope to stand. Only within the scaffolding of these truths, only on the firm foundation of unyielding despair, can the soul’s habitation henceforth be safely built. Berthrand Russell: *A Free Man’s Worship*.

1. PRESENCE: Temple

(21:22)

And I saw no temple in the city,
for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb.

- **God’s creation was good: Genesis 1-2**
- Ark of the Covenant: Exodus 25:10-22
- House of the Lord: I Kings 8:1-11
- Zion: Psalm 132
- Church: I Corinthians 3:16

2. GLORY: Lights

(21:23)

And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it,
for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb.

- **God creates Light first: Genesis 1:3**
- Moses on the Mountain—Cloud and Fire: Exodus 24:16-17
- Golden Lampstand: Exodus 25:31-40
- Cloud by Day; Fire by Night: Exodus 40:34-38
- King of Glory: Psalm 24
- Shepherds surrounded by Glory of the Lord: Luke 2:8-21
- Light in You: Luke 11:33-36
- Transfiguration of Jesus: Luke 9:28-36
- Resurrection of Jesus: Luke 24:13-35
- Ascension of Jesus: I Timothy 3:14-16
- Death of Stephen: Acts 7:54-60
- Return of Christ: Matthew 25:31-46

3. SALVATION: Nations

(21:24-26)

By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, and
its gates will never be shut by day—
and there will be no night there.

They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations.

- **God called Adam and Eve to be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth: Genesis 1:28**
- Abraham and All the Families Blessed: Genesis 12:1-3
- Wise men visit Jesus with gifts: Matthew 2:1-12
- Paul’s Ministry to the Gentiles: Acts 9:15; 28:28
- Mystery Revealed—Salvation for the Gentiles: Ephesians 3:1-13

4. HOLINESS: Lamb's Book of Life

(21:27)

But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false,
but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

- **Adam named by God: Genesis 2:20**
- The book of generations from Adam to Noah: Genesis 5:1-32
- The book of the Covenant: Exodus 24:7-8
- The book of the Lord: Exodus 32:32-33
- The book of the Law placed in the Ark of the Covenant: Deuteronomy 31:26-27
- The book of the returned exiles to Israel: Ezra 2
- The book only opened by the Lamb: Revelation 5:1-14

5. PROVISION: River of Life

(22:1-2a)

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life,
bright as crystal,
flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb
through the middle of the street of the city;

- **Before the rain, one river flowed from the garden: Genesis 2:5-14**
- Noah and his family saved by the water: Genesis 6
- Moses saved in the river: Exodus 2:1-10
- God provides water from a rock: Exodus 17:6
- Israel saved by the Red Sea: Exodus 14:21-25
- Israel enters the Promise Land through the Jordan River: Joshua 3
- God parts the Jordan river for Elijah: 2 Kings 2
- God protects the baby Jesus by sending him to Egypt: Matthew 2:13-15
- Jesus offers spiritual water to the Samaritan woman: John 4

6. LIFE: Tree of Life

(22:2b)

also, on either side of the river, the tree of life
with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month.
The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

- **Tree of Life given to Adam and Eve: Genesis 2**
- Tree of Life protected by casting out Adam and Eve and guarding it with angels and the sword: Genesis 3:22-24
- The blessings of the Tree of Life: Proverbs 3:18; 11:30; 13:12
- Jesus dies upon a tree: Galatians 3:3
- Bride sits under the shade of an apple-tree: Song of Songs 2:3

7. RULE: Throne

(22:3-5)

No longer will there be anything accursed,
but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and
his servants will worship him.
They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And night will be no more.
They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and
they will reign forever and ever.

- **God's throne of creation—the Sabbath: Genesis 2:1-3**
- God's glorious throne: Isaiah 63:15; Jeremiah 14:21; Matthew 19:28
- God's eternal throne: Psalm 9:7; Lamentations 5:19; Ezekiel 43:7; Hebrews 1:8; Revelation 1:8
- God's name above all authority and all will bow: Philippians 2:9-11