



## Today's Message

Date: October 5, 2014  
Speaker: Pastor Steven Thomas  
Title: *Paradise Regained*

Text: Revelation 22:1-5 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> 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 <sup>2</sup> through the middle of the street of the city; 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.  
<sup>3</sup> 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.  
<sup>4</sup> They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.  
<sup>5</sup> 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.

Introduction: The apostle John beheld the heavenly city, New Jerusalem, descending from God (21:1-8). In 21:9 he began a description of what he saw. He will complete that description in today's sermon text. Allusions to Eden fill this brief paragraph. The story of the Bible begins with "Paradise Lost" and ends with "Paradise Regained." Because of Christ, the Lamb, we have the sure hope that God will restore (and intensify) the wonders of Eden.

**Today's take-home truth: In New Jerusalem the triumphant Lamb will restore Eden, reversing all the effects of the Fall.**

- I. The Fall brought death; in New Jerusalem there will be abundant, eternal life. 1-2**

A. The river of life is there.

B. The tree of life is there.

**II. The Fall brought a curse; in New Jerusalem every trace of the curse will be gone. 3a**

**III. The Fall brought separation from God; in New Jerusalem he will dwell with his people. 3b-4**

A. We will worship him.

B. We will see him.

C. We will belong to him.

**IV. The Fall brought darkness; in New Jerusalem the light of God's glory will never grow dim. 5a**

**V. The Fall brought failure; in New Jerusalem God's people will exercise eternal, universal dominion. 5b**