

In our last podcast, we jumped into the final chapter in the Book of **Revelation**. We covered the first verse and discussed the river of the water of life coming from the throne of God and the Lamb and those who let this fountain of living water dry up and instead seek the sumptuous wine of the harlot. Let's pick back up in verse 2.

## EP191 Revelation 22:1-2

### In the Middle of the Wide-Open Place

#### **Revelation 22:1-2**

Then he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, choosing to **now** be coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb, in the middle of the wide-open space.

This next statement is very interesting, especially given that we previously established that we are seeing a picture of **ETERNITY NOW**, that which is true every moment of now. *"Then he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, choosing to **now** be coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb, in the middle of its wide-open place."*

Most translations of the Bible say that this river flows in the middle of its "streets." We discovered in **Revelation 21:21**, the imagery is not picturing a "street" as we know it, but or more accurately a wide-open place, something akin to a city center. It is also rendered as *singular* and not plural. This addresses one large open place. Bisecting this open place into two parts is this river of the water of life.

#### **What is this imagery communicating?**

There is one large wide-open plat that is divided in two by the Spirit of God. This is connected to the fact that *"On either side of the river, the tree of life ..."* What? There is more than one?

This bisection brings us back to all manner of imagery that has been used across the **Codex** where God takes what is one and splits it into two. First, we have the two witnesses of **Revelation 11:1-5**. These were identified as follows: *"These **now** are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that have been standing before the Lord of the earth."* This imagery came from **Zechariah 4** where we saw these two olive trees pouring their oil into a Lampstand with seven lamps (an allusion to the seven lamps which Jesus holds in His hands).<sup>1</sup> One tree was positioned on the right and one on the left of the Lampstand. These two anointed (or oiled) ones, both with a unified purpose, both being vessels of oil, are even now standing, on opposite sides, by the **Adon** (the Lord) of the whole earth.

Two distinct olive trees, one natural and one wild.<sup>2</sup> In their *identity*, they are separate and distinct from one another, but they have a unified *witness*, or purpose. *"These **now** are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that have been standing before the Lord of the earth."* And according to the **Code**, two is the number representing both division and witness.

<sup>1</sup> **Revelation 1:12**

<sup>2</sup> **Romans 11:17-26**

In **Revelation 11:1-5**, and according to **Romans 11**, we learned that this is a picture of **Yahweh's** unique expression of identity and witness from the Gentiles (the wild olive tree) and from the Jews (the natural olive tree), each with a lampstand that now bears its own unique light. A light from the Gentiles and a light from the Jews. One purpose that is bisected in its identity to the nations.

The Spirit of God, which now flows out like a river from the throne, divides this open place into two. The Spirit keeps them unified, but He also keeps them divided. United in purpose and substance, they are all a part of this singular wide-open place, but they are divided in identity. Jews and Gentiles.

## The Tree of Life

### **Now Bearing & Now Yielding**

*"On either side of the river the tree of life, **now** bearing twelve fruits, **now** yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree for therapy of nations."*

This is a fascinating statement. With both "*bearing*" and "*yielding*" being rendered in the *present active participle*, this is a picture of our **ETERNITY NOW** that will extend into our **ETERNITY THEN**. This is not a *future* event. We are not waiting for this to happen. It is a picture of our now, our ongoing reality. The tree of life is even **now** bearing twelve kinds of fruit and is even **now** yielding its fruit every month.

### **The Garden & the Tree**

The tree of life was first introduced to us in **Genesis**, the first book of the **Codex**, in the story of Adam and Eve. God had placed the tree of life in the middle of the garden somewhere near the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (the only tree in the garden from which Adam and Eve were not permitted to eat)<sup>3</sup> Later when Adam and Eve had ignored God's first and only law and ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, **Yahweh** removed them from the garden before they could eat from the tree of life.

### **Genesis 3:22-24**

Then **Yahweh** Gods said, "Look, the human beings have become like us, knowing both good and evil. What if they reach out, take fruit from the tree of life, and eat it? Then they will live forever!" So **Yahweh** Gods banished them from the Garden of Eden, and he sent Adam out to cultivate the ground from which he had been made. After sending them out, **Yahweh** Gods stationed mighty cherubim to the east of the Garden of Eden. And he placed a flaming sword that flashed back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

The idea was that if they partook of the tree of life in their fallen state, having rebelled against God's one and only law, they would have been sealed forever in that state, unredeemable, much like the fallen angels who have no opportunity for redemption. Therefore, **Yahweh** removed mankind from the garden to protect them until the time when "**Yahweh** Gods" would send His Son to be the redemption for all mankind.

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<sup>3</sup> **Genesis 2:8-9**

## Translators' Manipulation

Oh, and yes, "Gods" is plural and not singular. In the very beginning we are introduced to a plurality of the Godhead. All throughout the **Codex**, even though the translators made it singular in English, God (**Elohim** in Hebrew) is plural. But even more interesting, in Hebrew, it takes three of anything to be a plural. Two objects or things are rendered in a unique dual form, but it is not rendered as plural. In Hebrew, it takes three, or more, to be rendered as a plural. This is a common technique in many semitic languages, but most specifically in Hebrew.<sup>4</sup>

This is beyond significant and should cause you to be furious at the translators who manipulate our understanding of the text and change what the Spirit said to fit their purposes instead of letting His purposes preside. Think of all the arguments by scholars and sages throughout the years regarding the existence of the trinity that could have easily been silenced.

### *What or Who is the Tree of Life?*

In the **Codex**, there is no direct reference to who or what is the tree of life, but there is an indirect reference. Jesus claimed to be the way, the truth, and "the life." He said that those who would eat of Him would live forever.<sup>5</sup> In effect Jesus, the Son of God, the second person of the Godhead, is the tree that bears the most amazing fruit.

Jesus said the part about those who would eat of Him living forever in a very bizarre and confusing passage where He was likening Himself to the manna that **Yahweh** fed the Israelites in the wilderness.

#### **John 6:47-58**

Truly, truly, I **now** say to you, he who is **now** believing **now** has eternal life. I **now** am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This **now** is the bread, which is **now** coming down out of heaven, so that one may eat it and may not die.

I **now** am the **now** living bread that was coming down out of heaven; if anyone may eat of this bread, he will in the **future** live forever; and the bread also which I will in the **future** give for the life of the world **now** is My flesh."

**Then the Jews chose to argue with one another, now saying, "How can this man give us His flesh to eat?"** So, Jesus said to them,

Truly, truly, I **now** say to you, unless you may eat the flesh of the Son of Man and may drink His blood, you **now** have no life in yourselves. He who is **now** eating My flesh and is **now** drinking My blood **now** has eternal life, and I will in the **future** raise him up on the last day.

For My flesh **now** is true food, and My blood **now** is true drink. He who is **now** eating My flesh and is **now** drinking My blood **now** abides in Me, and I in him. As the **now** living Father sent Me, and I **now**

<sup>4</sup> According to Gesenius' Hebrew Grammar, section 88: "The dual from which exists in Hebrew and some other Semitic languages is employed only for objects naturally or usually occurring in pairs ... the plural is generally reserved for numbers above two." Example: in **Genesis 1:6**, the reference to the two great lights in the sky is dual and not plural. In **Ecclesiastes 4:9**, "two are better than one" is a dual and not rendered in a plural form.

<sup>5</sup> See **John 14:6**

live because of the Father, so he who is **now** eating Me, he also will in the **future** live because of Me. This **now** is the bread which was coming down out of heaven; not as the fathers ate and died; he who is **now** eating this bread will in the **future** live forever."

The point is that whether imaged as fruit from a tree, the bread that came down from heaven, or by this idea of now eating His flesh and now drinking His blood, Jesus is to be our substance, our source of nutrition, for He is life.<sup>6</sup> As He said, "*I **now** am the resurrection and the **life**; he who is **now** believing in Me, though he may die, will choose in the **future** to live, and everyone who is **now** living and is **now** believing in Me may never die.*"<sup>7</sup>

We can safely conclude that the Tree of Life is **Code** for Jesus.

Jesus also promised those in the church at Ephesus who are now overcoming (now and continually), that He would grant them to eat from the tree of life which now is in the Paradise of God, literally to eat from Him who is our life.<sup>8</sup>

## Translators' Manipulation

Throughout that crazy passage in **John 6**, the Spirit used the *present* tense rendered as a *participle*: now eating and now drinking. Most Bible translators again manipulate what they want us to understand, and they do not correctly render it as the Spirit spoke it. They say, He who eats and drinks, implying one taste is all it takes to get eternal life. This has led to the blasphemous claim that if you are born again, if you say the sinner's prayer, you have your golden ticket to heaven. But that is simply not the case, for one must be born again **AND** dig down deep in their soul and choose to become a little child. Therefore, one must now and continually be eating and drinking, i.e., continually existing in a state of utter dependence upon Jesus to be our substance, our means of life. It is how we become those who are now overcoming – those who inherit all the promises Jesus made to the churches.

Hopefully, one of the outcomes of this study is that you will no longer fall prey to the manipulations of the Professionals and the Shipmasters and the sailors who have crafted a religion that keeps them employed, keeps them in control, and keeps you captive to the ways of the Harlot.

### The Spirit Gives Life

Even though Jesus is life, the Spirit is the water of life, He is the one who is now flowing from **Yahweh's** throne and gives life to people.<sup>9</sup> This interrelationship is an important aspect of this image and a critical aspect of our redemption. If the river stops flowing, if people do not choose to let the Spirit bubble up into a river flowing forth from their lives, they will **NOT** know life. They will have forsaken the fountain of living waters to hew for themselves cisterns, broken cisterns that can hold no water.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>6</sup> See **1 John 5:20**

<sup>7</sup> **John 11:25-26**. Note: "believes" is rendered in the *present active participle*

<sup>8</sup> **Revelation 2:7**

<sup>9</sup> See **John 6:33; 2 Corinthians 3:6**

<sup>10</sup> **Jeremiah 2:13**

**JESUS IS LIFE, BUT IT IS THE SPIRIT  
WHO GIVES LIFE TO THOSE WHO CHOOSE JESUS.**

**12 Fruits**

“... **now** bearing twelve fruits, **now** yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree for therapy of nations.” The tree of life is even **now** bearing twelve fruits and technically not twelve “kinds of fruits,” as many translations render this verse. In the Greek it literally just says, “twelve fruits.” The emphasis of this passage is not so much on defining the fruit as it is simply the presence of the fruit and its purpose, which is indicated in the Spirit’s use of the number twelve.

There are two trees, one on each side of the river, each bearing twelve fruits for a total of twenty-four. One of these trees is a representation of Jesus as He works in-and-through the Gentile bondservants of Jesus Christ, and one is representative of His work in-and-through the Jewish bondservants of Jesus Christ.

According to the **Code**, twelve is the number of God’s perfect spiritual administration, or the governmental structure, over mankind. Therefore, the idea is that Jesus, represented by the Tree of Life growing on either side of that wide-open space (aka, working in-and-through His bondservants), provides this fruit to mankind.

What does this picture remind you of?

In **Revelation 4:4** we were told: “Around the throne twenty-four thrones; and upon the thrones twenty-four elders choosing to **now** be sitting, having chosen to being clothed in white garments, and golden crowns on their heads.” Then in **Revelation 11:16**, we were told “And the twenty-four elders, who choose to **now** be sitting on their thrones before God fell on their faces and worshiped God.”

The Spirit uses this image of twelve plus twelve or twenty-four to communicate a deeper meaning about God’s provision of spiritual administration or rule over mankind. There are twenty-four elders, and there are twenty-four thrones, so why introduce a new image of twenty-four fruits, twelve that are borne on each tree? The image of the thrones and elders (each with a golden crown) makes sense given that the meaning of the number twelve is about authority and leadership, but why fruit?

Fruit is used as an image because it is attractive to the eyes, to the smell, and most definitely to the taste. Fruit provides a picture of abundance and deliciousness. All that the Tree of Life produces in-and-through His bondservants as they are in charge of His spiritual administration on earth, is not just good, but amazingly good, “For you were once darkness, but now Light in the Lord; you are commanded to **now** walk as children of Light (for the fruit of the Light in all goodness and righteousness and truth), **now** trying to learn what **now** is pleasing to the Lord.”<sup>11</sup>

Through eating of this fruit, which is made available in and through the lives of **Yahweh’s** bondservants, those who belong to the nations get to experience Jesus who is the only one who is *good, righteous*, and is the *truth*. He is the delicious fruit.

It is important to note that it is the presence of this fruit that marks a bondservant of Christ, they are known by this fruit. It is what attracts those of the nations to the city in the first place.

<sup>11</sup> **Ephesians 5:8-10**

**Matthew 7:15-20**

Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes nor figs from thistles, are they? **So, every good tree bears good fruit**, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. **A good tree cannot produce bad fruit**, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. So then, you will know them by their fruits.

Every good tree bears good fruit and cannot bear bad fruit. Clearly, our lives bear plenty of bad fruit, but this is a reference to the tree of life, to Jesus who is our life, as He lives and manifests Himself through our lives. The only one who is good is the one who produces these amazing “12 fruits” that are available for all those who are willing to come to eat.

And those of the nations who are permitted to enter this great city know it – they know them by their fruits. It is what attracts these people into relationship with the bondservants of God, and in so doing into a relationship with Jesus.<sup>12</sup>

**Fiction Alert**

**FICTION ALERT**

Many have tried to focus on identifying the fruit instead of the purpose of the fruit. Unfortunately, there is no “perfect” correlation between these 12 fruits and something identical in the **Codex**. The well-known list of the “fruit of the Spirit” contains 8 attributes which give context and meaning to the fruit (singular) of the Spirit which is *agape* love.<sup>13</sup> To solve this problem, some religious institutions have been creative and added other descriptors to the 8 attributes of love until they come to a total of 12 and then declare that they have the definitive list of 12-kinds of fruit. This is nothing but religious **fiction**.

The point of this passage is not in identifying the kinds of fruits but knowing that the Spirit has given His people as the supernatural caretakers of this earth, and the fruit is the blessing and delight that comes forth from their lives, a blessing and delight from which others can eat. And this fruit which comes forth from their lives is their gift to the nations which proves that they belong to Jesus and that Jesus loves the world.

**Monthly Yields**

“... **now** yielding its fruit every month ...” The tree of life on each side of the wide-open place is **now** yielding, or giving away the fruit that it bears, every month. Ok, this is somewhat of a troubling statement. Why is the tree not giving away its fruit every day, every moment of every day, or at least every week?

As with the fruit, the issue is not so much the timing as is what the timing communicates. Monthly

<sup>12</sup> **Matthew 7:40-42**

<sup>13</sup> See **Galatians 5:22-23**

communicates something that is cyclical and ongoing—dependable. Unlike a regular tree, it does not matter what season a person is going through in their daily, practical life, the tree of life will continually produce fruit through them for others to enjoy. This is captured when Jesus said, “*I came that they might **now** have life and now have it more-abundantly.*”<sup>14</sup>

Even though our feelings may tell us something entirely different because of the suffering and traumas we endure, the truth is that Jesus is always our abundant supply, and He will express His beautiful fruit through His bondservants regardless of the seasons of their life! For the fruit that comes forth from their lives is not dependent upon their circumstances, but upon His love for others. Therefore, this fruit is regularly and consistently available.

### **Out of Season? Never!**

The best example of this sort of fruit production is shown through a negative picture captured when Jesus cursed a fig tree. Jesus came to the tree expecting it to have figs, even though it was **NOT** the season for figs.<sup>15</sup> This whole scene was a living metaphor as the fig tree provided a picture of the spiritual health of Israel. Jesus expected the nation that bore His name to bear fruit both in-and-out of season, because that is what He does, and it is what He does through those who love Him. The lack of fruit was therefore a picture of the spiritual poverty of the nation of Israel. They loved their religion for sure, but they did not love Him and therefore did not bear the fruit of love (imaged in the fig).

But those who know Him by His name **Yahweh**, those who are even now His bondservants, will bear fruit both in-and-out of season. Yes, they will continue to bear the fruit of His *agape* love regardless of the circumstances of their lives. Even when they are suffering terribly, they will care for others. Even when they are rejected and despised, they will love on others. **Why?** Because the tree of life abides in their **New Creation**, and He is now bearing fruit and is now yielding fruit monthly.

This truth is captured in the following promises:

#### ***Psalm 1:3-6***

How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers! But his delight is in the law of **Yahweh**, and in His law, he meditates day and night.

He will be like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season and its leaf does not wither; and in whatever he does, he prospers

The wicked are not so, but they are like chaff which the wind drives away. Therefore, the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous. For **Yahweh** knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

<sup>14</sup> **John 10:10**

<sup>15</sup> **Mark 11:12-14**

**Jeremiah 17:5-8**

Thus says **Yahweh**, "Cursed is the man who trusts in mankind and makes flesh his strength, and whose heart turns away from **Yahweh**. For he will be like a bush in the desert and will not see when prosperity comes, but will live in stony wastes in the wilderness, A land of salt without inhabitant.

Blessed is the man who trusts in **Yahweh** and whose trust is **Yahweh**, for he will be like a tree planted by the water, that extends its roots by a stream and will not fear when the heat comes; but its leaves will be green, and it will not be anxious in a year of drought nor cease to yield fruit."

**The Leaves**

"... and the leaves of the tree were for therapy of nations." Let's not forget that the tree of life is **now** bearing and **now** yielding fruit; thus, we are addressing **ETERNITY NOW**. In our now, every moment of now, the leaves of the tree of life have a purpose (therapy), as well as a targeted customer (those of the nations).

**Therapy**

Most translations render "therapy" as healing. However, "healing" is not an accurate translation. Technically, healing would be the Greek word "iaomai." But the word "therapeia" is used, which speaks more of a medical attendant, one providing therapy, or care (as we interpret that word in English). Hence, "... and the leaves of the tree for therapy of the nations." Keep in mind, receiving therapy does not ensure healing, but it provides the opportunity for healing, a pathway to pursue healing. It should also be noted that "therapy" is **NOT** a verb, but it is a noun, so it speaks of what is and not what is being done.

**But why do the leaves provide therapy or care and not the fruit?**

**Indicators**

In the **Code**, leaves are used in two primary ways. First, leaves are an indicator, a message from the tree. If the leaves are green, one should expect that there might be fruit, or that soon there will be fruit. If the leaves are yellow or brown, then one would not expect there to be fruit, or perhaps they would expect to find fruit that is withered and rotten.

Returning to another rendering of the story when Jesus once cursed a fig tree that had green leaves but no fruit, "He **now** says, 'No longer shall there ever choose to be any fruit from you.' And at once the fig tree was caused to wither."<sup>16</sup>

Once again, the entire encounter with the fig tree was a metaphor spoken in **Code**.

The fig tree provided a picture of the spiritual health of the nation of Israel, and when Jesus came to His own people, He saw a lot of bustling religious activity (lots of green leaves) but they produced no fruit. They did not even know Him. Hence, He lamented: "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who is **now** killing the prophets and **now** stoning those who have been caused to being sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen **now** gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling. Behold,

<sup>16</sup> **Matthew 21:18-19**



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*your house is caused to **now** being left to you desolate!"<sup>17</sup>*

Leaves are an indicator; and they provide a message, even from a distance. The leaves of the tree of life declare to those of the nations, to those who are permitted to come into the city, that at this tree they can be cared for and receive therapy for all their wounds.

Jesus also likened the leaves of a tree to one's ability to know or discern the signs of the times. In effect, the leaves are prophetic in that they point forward to things that are to come, such as judgment, the apocalypse, and Jesus' soon Coming. To understand the signs of the times, to know a direction, is therapeutic to a soul that would otherwise be lost, wondering, and overcome with fear.

In speaking of His Second Coming, Jesus told this parable.

### **Matthew 24:32-35**

Now you are commanded to learn the parable from the fig tree: when its branch has already chosen that it may become tender and may **now** put forth its leaves, you **now** know that summer is near; so, you too, when you may see all these things, **now** recognize that He is **now** near, right at the door. Truly I **now** say to you, this generation will not possibly pass away until all these things may choose to take place. Heaven and earth will in the future choose to pass away, but My words will not possibly pass away.

As the tree of life, Jesus, is expressed through His bondservants. The nations, the ethnos, can know, simply by the leaves, that they too can have healing, they too can receive therapy for all their wounds, and that the fruit is available if only they will come to eat. The leaves are also a prophetic indication of what is to come, that time is running out, and they need what this tree has to offer, they need to eat of its fruit. All of this is communicated as this tree of life is expressed through the bondservants of Jesus Christ.

Let's stop here and in our next podcast we will discuss how the tree of life protects from the heat and how in this city there will be none who are accursed.

I am glad you "tuned in" and have been "ready to listen."

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<sup>17</sup> **Matthew 23:37-39**