The Eternal State  
PART IV 
Revelation 22:1-5

**Main Thought** John’s description of the eternal state includes its **Context** (20:1-2), **Citizens** (21:1-8), **City** (21:9-22:5), and current **Challenges** (22:6-21).

**Its City** (21:9-22:5).

**Specific Description** (2:1-5) – Here begins a tour of the interior.

**The River of Life** (1-2a).
- **The River of the Water of Life** (17; 7:17; 21:6; John 14:14). It reminds us of the river in the Garden of Eden (Gen. 2:10). It is again foreshadowed in the millennial Jerusalem (Ezek. 47:9; Joel 3:18; Zech. 14:8). It is also a common metaphor throughout the scriptures (Jer. 2:13; Prov. 10:11; 13:14; 14:27; 16:22).
- **Its Source**: It is the throne of God and of the Lamb (3:21; Heb. 1:3) "from whom all blessings flow" through us and unto others (John 7:38-39). It ran down the middle of the great street of gold.

**The Tree of Life** (2b).
- The tree of life is once again available to all as in the Garden of Eden (Gen. 2:9, 16-17). It is always located in divine space (Eden, Tabernacle, Temple, the Holy City) as symbolized by the lampstand (Ex. 25:31). Today Jesus, the light of the world (John 8:12), is our only access to life (John 11:25; 14:6). He is our **Tree of Life**.
- Its **fruit** is yielded every month because of the water from the throne (Ezek. 47:12). Its **Leaves** heal the nations that had forsaken him (Gen. 11:8; Acts 14:16). The nations being restored to God is a major biblical theme (21:24; Psa. 2:1, 8; Isa. 2:2; Dan. 7:14; Matt. 28:19).

**Its Curse** (3a) – The curse of Eden (Gen. 3:17) is ended by Christ (Gal. 3:13).

**Its God** (3b-4).
- **His Throne** (3b): God and the Lamb (Heb. 10:12-14) are enthroned (11:15) as all their enemies are finally their footstool (Psa. 110:1).
- **His Servants** (3c): As with the tribulation saints (7:15), so too we.
- **His Face** (4a): Finally (Ex. 33:20; John 1:18) we will see His face (Matt. 5:8; 1 Cor. 13:12; 1 John 3:2).
- **His Name** (4b): We belong to him (3:12; contrasted with 13:16-17; 17:5).

**Its Light** (5a) – Again (21:23), the LORD God is the source of all light (Isa. 60:19). There is no more night (scary and evil – John 3:19). Hell is the eternal night (**outer darkness** – Matt. 8:12) filled with **blackest darkness** (2 Pet. 2:17; Jude 6).

**Its Rulers** (5b) – The **Saints** (Dan. 7:18, 27) will reign (5:10; 11:15) with Christ (20:6) forever and ever.
The Crystal Palace in Hyde Park
Built for Grand International Exhibition of 1851