



book of faith

Open Scripture. Join the Conversation.

Book of Faith Bible Study Revelation 22:1-2

Then he showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb, down the middle of the city's street. And on either side of the river stood a tree of life yielding twelve crops of fruit, one for each month of the year; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

The book of Revelation stands as one of the most seriously misunderstood — and misused — books of the Bible. Over the centuries, its strange, vivid and highly-colored imagery has led some to dismiss it as impenetrable and others to relish it as a detailed blueprint for earth's destruction.

Revelation defies both of these interpretations. Instead, its primary “revelation” is of a faithful God who draws all peoples, all nations, to a new heaven and a new reality. The “river of the water of life, bright as crystal” flows directly from God, in a glowing reflection of the life-giving waters that stream throughout the pages of the Bible, from its first book to its last. Nourished and nurtured by this water, the very leaves of the tree of life, planted so tenderly by God at the creation, now serve as healing balm, as calming shade, in the New Jerusalem.

Here at the climax of the book — and of the Bible itself — we catch a glimpse of the wondrous new world to which God draws us. And that vision is indeed a revelation — an image of harmony and wholeness, of healing and embrace, of fulfillment and hope.

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As you consider opening Scripture individually or with others, you may wish to consider these general questions:

How does the Bible feed your daily life?

How does the Bible feed the life of this community?

How are we renewed, empowered, and enlivened by the Word?

What stands in the way of our opening the Bible and joining the conversation?



Questions on Revelation 22:1-2

- *How do you read the Book of Revelation? Is it a book of promise and hope?*
- *What part does healing play in your life of faith?*
- *How do you hear the phrase “and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations”?*

In addition to questions found in the studies, here are general questions that can be used for each of the texts:

What is God saying to us through this passage?

What does this passage tell us about God?

How does this passage speak to us as individuals and to us as a community?

What does this passage teach us about our neighbors and our world?