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Leaves for Healing of the Nations

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Leaves for Healing of the Nations.

Topics.

- Tree of life, twelve kinds of fruit, and leaves for healing.
- A single tree or many trees.
- Twelve kinds of fruit.
- Leaves for the healing of the nations.
- The nations.

TREE OF LIFE, TWELVE KINDS OF FRUIT, LEAVES FOR HEALING

- **Revelation 22:2:** 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.

Introduction: the story of mankind begins with Adam and Eve, his bride, in innocence in the Paradise of God, then after being tempted by the serpent and eating the forbidden fruit, being driven from the tree of life, and from the clear fresh waters of Eden, with the promise, that a Redeemer would come who would crush the serpent.

Now at the close of the story, the serpent is utterly crushed by the second Adam, the Lord from heaven, who appears with His Bride, the faithful church, in a better eternal Paradise amidst eternal waters (Re 22:1), and the tree of life with all its immortal properties, no longer guarded with a flaming sword, but open to all who overcome (Re 2:7).

1

The tree of life: signifies the following things: immortal life, wisdom, and the highest knowledge of good and God's ways and of life. All the blessings of salvation and perfect health and happiness. The book of Proverbs show that the tree of life signifies, the truth and true wisdom; the fruit of the Spirit in all goodness and righteousness and fulfilled hope and a life of boundless energy and vitality, combined-together these constitute the beauty and happiness of eternity. (Prov. 3:18) (Prov. 11:30) (Prov. 13:12) (Prov. 15:4).

A SINGLE TREE OR MANY TREES

- **Revelation 22:2:** 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.

Here we are told there is a tree of life on either side of the river, while Ezekiel in his vision sees a river flowing from the throne of God in many directions throughout the land even to the Euphrates River and into the sea bringing life to everything (including the many trees on either side).

- **Ezekiel 47:7:** As I went back, I saw on the bank of the river very many trees on the one side and on the other.
- **Ezekiel 47:12:** And on the banks, on both sides of the river, there will grow all kinds of trees for food. Their leaves will not wither, nor their fruit fail, but they will bear fresh fruit every month, because the water for them flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for healing.”

This does not mean that Revelation and Ezekiel contradict each other, for the following reason: Ezekiel says, "their will grow on both sides of the river," which means it is very possible, as the river flows through the city, the tree of life multiplies itself, so that there are many trees, but all are from the same seed. The one tree abounds into many trees of the same seed and of the same origin, nature, and properties on either side of the banks of the river, that abounded everywhere in all the streets wherever the river of life flowed throughout the city, and can therefore be referred to as one tree, of which all will freely eat.

The most likely scenario is that the seed of the tree of life sprung up on the sides of the streets of the city, as well as on the banks of the river and abounded and surrounded the city everywhere, so that; though there will be many trees they are of the same seed, nature, properties, and origin. The idea is that though the city will only have one river meandering through it, it will be surrounded by streets and all those streets will be lined and shaded with the beautiful tree of life multiplying itself on both sides on the river.

TWELVE KINDS OF FRUIT

- **Revelation 22:2:** 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.

Twelve different sorts of fruit every month which spiritually signifies; throughout eternity there will be an ample variety of joyful satisfying and rewarding services and occupations and many different sources of happiness and joys. Everything that enhances life in every way such as the fruits of the Spirit, which are, everlasting love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, and gentleness will permeate all of eternity and its inhabitants, and God's abundant blessings of happiness and joyful pleasures will be enjoyed by all dwelling in eternity.

2

The idea of the tree producing fruit every month is of abundance, the supply never fails, the tree is never barren, the harvest is forever ample, for the tree is everywhere forever producing and God's source of life will be abundant for all

LEAVES FOR THE HEALING OF THE NATIONS

Some suppose the expression, "leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations," implies there will be sickness or disease of either the body or the mind and a supernatural healing process, while others suspect that the twelve fruits signify the twelve apostles and the leaves signify the Gospel by which the nations are healed of the disease of sin.

These ideas can only be counted as fanciful as such things cannot exist in eternity. Added to this the previous chapter clearly states that death will be no more, and that there will be no more mourning, crying or pain, for all these will pass away (Rev. 21:4), and all will be perfectly saved.

Leaves for the healing of the nations can carry the following three ideas:

1. Those who are counted worthy of eternity had been healed of sin and death and been granted to live forever, by eating of the tree of life, which from the beginning signifies Christ the Saviour of the world.

2. Both the fruit and the leaves give life, signifying everything about the tree of life will contribute to their comfort, joy, happiness, energy, and vitality. The hunger of the body as well as the thirst of the spirit will be forever fully satisfied and God's favour and presence will supply all good to the eternal immortal inhabitants throughout all eternity.
3. Throughout the Bible eating is associated with, joy, celebration, festivity and fellowship and we are told that eternity will be filled with all the joys of life, which means that even in eternity we will still enjoy the pleasure of eating and fellowshiping over a meal, with, this in mind, the expression, "leaves for healing," may carry the idea that there will be no food that can bring harm to anyone in any way.

THE NATIONS

The nations in focus here is not the nations spoken of in the millennium period (Rev. 21:24), whose kings bring their glory to Christ, during his reign as King of kings and Lord of lords, though it is very likely it will include them, but rather refers to the nations spoken of in this chapter that are counted worthy at the Great White Throne Judgment and who will walk in the light of the eternal city the New Jerusalem. After God had judged the great prostitute woman full of abominations, John heard a great multitude, praising God and saying, "the Bride has made herself ready for the marriage of the Lamb" (Rev. 19:6-8). Then an angel says to him:

- Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb. (Rev. 19:9).

These verses show that there are two distinct groups of people, firstly the Bride, and secondly, the guests invited to the marriage. Those who attain to the first resurrection (Rev. 20:5-6), are the Bride of Christ, the first resurrection can be taken as the engagement of the Bride to her Groom and the millennial age as their courtship, with the marriage taking place at the end of the millennium age, after the universal Great White Throne judgement, in which the sea, death and hades give up the dead to stand before God. (Rev. 20:11-15).

At this judgment, all who are counted unworthy (including death), are cast into the lake of fire, a symbol of eternal destruction (i.e., total annihilation and utter extinction), after which, those who remain standing before God become the guests invited to the marriage of the Lamb. The reward and privilege of those who attain to the first resurrection is that they will form the central eternal government (or hub) of the entire universe with Christ as their head. It is most likely that all planets of the universe will become inhabitable for all who remain after the Great White Throne judgement, since death will be no more and all will be immortal and as such have eternal life.

NOTE: in the garden of Eden (the old paradise), Adam was forbidden to eat of the tree of life and there was only a single tree that was designated as the tree of life (Gen. 3:22-23), which stands in strong contrast to the tree of life which is pictured as many trees in the new Paradise and available for all to freely eat of. This should not surprise us since Adam was full of sin and the first of mankind, whereas now at the Great White Throne Judgment all the redeemed of all generations from the time of Adam are raised to eternal life and made perfect by the blood of Christ.

CONCLUSION

It is pointless to speculate as to the exact nature of the tree of life, for God has not told us, and there is no tree like it in the present world, this same fact is also true concerning the tree of knowledge of good and evil. God being the creator of all things is well able to create any kind of tree He wishes, and therefore all our interpretations and symbols should never be taken as dogmatic truths, but at best, very good speculations.

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.

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