

## All shall be well

### Revelation 21.10,21.22–22.5

An angel shows John a vision of the new Jerusalem, a city with God as its focal point and source of light. Foreign nations come to honour God there, and from the city, healing flows out to all the nations of the world.

Now read Revelation 21.10,21.22–22.5 see p.2 for text.

### A note on the passage

John was writing to churches who were suffering, and in times of hardship, it can be reassuring to receive a concrete picture of hope. The new Jerusalem shows us what a world with God at its centre might look like. Negative things, like darkness, death and conflict between nations, are overcome by the glory of God, the water of life and the tree whose leaves heal the world. This picture of what Christians hope for can also show us what our inner lives may be if we put God at the centre.

## MIND MAP

Make a list of all the different groups that you are engaged in (school, college, work, clubs, etc.). On a large piece of paper, draw a map of where each one of these fits into your life. Put the most important ones in the middle and the least important at the edges. Now think about where God fits into each of these groups. What could you do to make God a more central part of your week?



**You will need:** a paper plate, a hole punch, a brown pipe cleaner, brown wool and coloured tissue paper.  
Follow these instructions on The Pinterested Parent to create a tree of life decoration: <https://thepinterestedparent.com/2018/05/paper-plate-tree-of-life-craft/>.  
In John's vision, the leaves of the trees bring healing to the world. Pick appropriate colours for countries you would like to pray for, and make the tree an aid to prayer.



Where in your community could you show Jesus' hope and healing in action?



**You will need:** soft toys and a hoop or target mark.

We aim to have God at the centre of our lives, but it isn't always easy to achieve this. Place your hoop on the floor and step back 10 paces from it. Can you throw the soft toy into the centre of the hoop? Back further away if this is too easy and then throw the teddy 10 times. How often do you get it in the middle of the circle? Even when it is difficult, we should keep trying to make God central, because this is when healing can begin.



In John's vision, the nations of the world bring honour and glory into the new Jerusalem. One of the ways we share our cultures with one another is through food. When you sit down for a meal this week (or stop for a tea break), think about where the food and drink has come from. You may already know where your coffee comes from, but you may need to do some research. Does the food symbolise good relations between nations, or is somebody being exploited? Pray for the nations that provide your food, giving thanks for the good things and asking for healing where there is hurt or suffering.



John shared his vision with the churches in Asia Minor to give them hope; we, too, can be a source of hope by sharing and living generously. Find out about your closest food bank and when you, or your parents, go shopping this week, buy one or two items to donate. Think about how a community that shares is a community that hopes. When have you received something that made you feel hopeful?

## Revelation 21.10,21.22–22.5

Choose a version of the passage to read. The first is the ROOTS version for children, the second is the NRSV text which may be suitable for older children, young people and adults.

*In another vision, an angel shows John the holy city, from which comes hope and life for all the world .*

**A**n angel carried me to a high mountain and showed me the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven.

In this city, there will be no temple; God and the Lamb will be the temple. And neither sun nor moon need to shine, because the glory of God and the Lamb are all the light the city requires.

Other nations will find their way by the light of the city. Their rulers will come, bringing glory and honour through its gates, which will never be closed in the daytime. And there will be no night in the holy city.

Though glory and honour will come in, nothing disgraceful will be let into the new Jerusalem. There will be no cheating and no lies. The only people who live there will be those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.



The angel showed me a river, bright as crystal, flowing through the city from the throne of God. It contained the water of life, and on either bank grew the tree of life. The tree produces fruit all year round, a different fruit each month, and the leaves of the tree bring healing to the world.

The throne of God and the Lamb will be in the holy city and the servants of the Lamb will worship him there. His name will be on their foreheads and they will worship forever, without need of lamps or the sun. The Lord God will be their light.

**Revelation 21.10,21.22–22.5**

### Did you know?

- The Lamb represents Jesus, who is sometimes described as 'the lamb who was slain' because he died on the cross to save people from their sins.
- The book of life contains the names of the people who will live with God in heaven.
- There is a lot of symbolic meaning in the tree of life. It is meant to mirror the tree that Adam and Eve ate from in the garden of Eden. It is also meant to be an opposite to the cross, which was a tree of death.

## Revelation 21.10,22-22.5 (NRSV)

And in the spirit he carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God. I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. People will bring into it the glory and the honour of the nations. But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

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 through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.