

## **The River of Water of Life Proceeding from the Throne of God and of the Lamb**

*„And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb”*  
(Rev 22:1)

- I. The throne of God and of the Lamb** (Rev 22:1-5)
  - A. The living God wants to reveal Himself to humans**  
(Gen. 1:1-3; 2:8-10; Rom. 1:20;  
Acts 17:24-27; Mk. 4:34; Jn 17:3)
  - B. The need to know your position - where are you today?**
    - 1. Dead in sin and trespasses? (Eph 2:5a)
    - 2. Saved and made alive together with Christ! (Eph 2:5b)
    - 3. In Christ, seated in the heavenly places, a member in the body! (Eph 2:6; Rom. 6:3-4; 1 P 2:5-6; 1 Co 12:12-13; 1 Ti 3:15)
  - C. There is a river!** (Ps 46:5)
    - 1. God's life is flowing (Gen. 2:9-10; Ez. 47:1-12; Rev. 22:1)
    - 2. By His death Jesus released a river for us (Ps 105:41; Jn 7:38-39)
    - 3. God's life is working in us transforming us and making us fit for His purpose and His reign today (2 Co 3:4-6, 17-18; Rom. 5:17)
  - D. It needs my decision – Lord Jesus, I am willing!**  
(Rev. 22:17)

## **II. Knowing God as life** (Rev 22:1; Jn 7:37-39)

### **A. The whole Scripture reveals the God of life in His relationship to humans**

1. The tree of life (Gen. 2; Rev. 2:7; 22:2)
2. The river of the water of life (Gen. 2:6, 10; Ez 47:1-12; Rev. 22:1-2)

### **B. In Jesus Christ God came to us as life** (Jn 14:6; 1.Jn 1:2)

1. The word of life (Jn 1:4; 1 Jn 1:2)
2. The water of life (Jn 4:14; 7:37-39)
3. The bread of life (Jn 6:32-35, 57-58)

### **C. The Spirit has come to make us alive**

1. Jesus became the life-giving Spirit  
( 1 Co 15:45)
2. The Lord is the Spirit (2 Co 3:17)
3. The letter kills, but the Spirit gives life  
(2 Co 3:6; Jn 10:10)

### **D. Experiencing and knowing Christ as the Spirit of life**

1. Christ is living in me (Gal. 2:20)
2. Christ in us, the hope of glory (Col. 1:26-28)
3. Live (through) Christ (Phil. 1:21; Jn 6:57)

### **III. The experience of life – eating and drinking**

#### **A. Christ the tree of life and the river of the water of life preserving us on His way**

(Gen. 2:9-10; Ps 1; Ez 47:1-12; Rev. 22:1-2)

1. Made alive in the Spirit, being born again (Jn 3:5-6)
2. Life needs constant supply (Mt 4:4)
3. Jesus Himself is true food (Jn 6:35)

#### **B. Knowing and eating the word as Spirit and life**

(Jn 6:63, 68)

1. Coming to Him (Jn 5:39-40)
2. A good habit: Eating the word, laboring for the food which endures (Jn 6:27; Jer. 15:16)
3. The word being mixed with faith (He 4:2), being confessed (Rom. 10:8) and taken for prayer (Eph. 6:17-18)
4. The Lord tastes good ( 1 P 2:2-3; Ps 19:8-11; Ps 119:103)
5. Christ nourishing the church (Eph 5:29; Mal. 3:10)
6. The word cleansing us (Eph. 5:26; Jn 15:3)
7. Life not being an emotion or an outward form but the Lord Himself (Jn 14:6)
8. „He who feeds on me will live because of me” (Jn 6:57; 4:32-34)

#### **C. Drinking of the river of water of life**

(Ps 1; Is. 12:3-4; Ps 116:13)

1. The spirit: a well of water of life within us (Jn 4:14, 23-24; Jn 7:38)
2. The name of the Lord is our daily salvation (Ps 116:13)
3. The river heals us in our thinking and in our walk (Ps 1; Ez. 47:9)

## **IV. Discerning life and bearing fruit** (Rev. 22:2)

### **A. The tree of life** (Gen. 2:9-10; 2:16-17; 3:1-11)

1. The river and the tree belong together from the beginning
2. Through the fall of man the way to the tree of life was closed off , but we have access in the spirit (Gen. 2:22-24; He 10:19-20)
3. Jesus the true vine (Jn 15:5)

### **B. Learning to discern** (Gen. 2:16-17; Phil. 1:9-11)

1. The tree of knowledge is not for eating (2.Tim. 2:16-17; 3:5; 4:3)
2. Life vs. knowledge of good and evil (Rom. 7:19; 8:2)
3. Discerning the soul from the spirit (He 4:12)
4. We always need the fresh taste of life otherwise the need for other things grows
5. Knowing the tree by its fruit (Mt 7:16)
6. Choosing life (Deut. 30:19)

### **C. The fruit of the tree of life**

1. Life bearing fruit (Gal. 5:22-26; Jn 15:16)
  - a. There is fulness – fruit every month
  - b. Under different conditions (Phil 4:12-13)
2. In His house there is fulness of life (1 Tim. 3:15)

## **V. Serving Him as priests**

### **A. We have been made priests** (Rev. 5:9-10; 1 P 2:9-10; Rev. 1:5-6; Ex. 19:6)

1. The way is free now to come forward (Jn 14:6;  
Eph. 2:18; He 4:14-16; 9:11-14)
2. We have been released to serve before Him  
(Luk. 1:71-75)
3. To see His face (Rev. 22:4; 2 Co. 3:16-18;  
Ps 17:15; Eph. 1:17-18)
4. His life is a serving life (Jn 4:34; 8:29; He 8:1-2;  
2 Co. 3:5-6)
5. We consecrate ourselves to the Lord  
(2 Co. 8:5; Rom. 12:1-2; Gal. 2:19-20)

### **B. As priests we lay hold on His life**

1. At the throne, the Lord is the source of life  
(Rev. 22:1-4; Jn 7:38-39; 5:39-40)
2. We actively lay hold on life (1 Ti 6:11-12; 4:6;  
Phil. 3:12-15; He 4:16; Luk. 10:39; Ps 81:11)
3. We minister life that comes out of the fullness of Christ  
(Jn 10:10; 1 P 4:10-11; Acts 17:24-25; 2 Co. 8:7)

### **C. The expression of His slaves: His name on their forehead** (Rev. 22:4)

1. We fully belong to Him (1 P 2:9-10)
2. Christ our life will be manifested (Col. 3:4)
3. Jesus Christ will be expressed  
(2 Co. 3:16-18; 1 Co. 2:16)

## **VI. To serve before God as a holy priesthood**

### **A. We serve as holy priests**

1. Through growth in life
2. God sanctifies us wholly, separates us and purifies our hearts
3. We give our whole being to Him  
(Rom. 6:13, 22; Rev. 22:1-5)
4. God calls us into His ministry (2.Tim. 1:9)

### **B. Serving as priests in the church life**

1. Our personal priestly service ushers into the practical church life (Rom. 12:1)
2. The building up of a spiritual house and of a holy priesthood (1 P 2:4, 5)
3. Serving together before the Lord as **one** priesthood, **one** new man (Rom. 15:5)
4. See what we are and what God made us:  
a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for a possession ( 1 P 2:9)
5. To tell out His virtues
6. All this is based on His mercy ( 1 P 2:10)
7. Righteousness and salvation are our clothes  
(Ps 132:9, 16)
8. The fulfillment in the New Jerusalem (Rev. 22:1-5)

## **VII. Pleasing God in our service as priests**

(Rev. 22:3; 1 P 2:5; He 12:28)

- A. The priestly service is a service unto God that pleases Him** (He 12:28; 10:8-9)
- B. A service according to the order of Melchizedek** (Gen. 14; Ps 110; He 7:1-3, 15-19)
- C. We serve in the power of life**
  - 1. Coming forward in faith all the time to the throne of grace (He 11:6; 4:16; 10:19-22)
  - 2. Confessing the blessing with which we were blessed in Christ (He 10:23; 4:14; Eph 1:3)
  - 3. Not casting away the boldness, but hold fast to it (He 10:35, 19; 4:16; Eph. 3:12)
- D. God desires spiritual sacrifices** (1 P 2:5)
  - 1. Serving in spirit and in truth (Jn 4:24)
  - 2. Serving in Christ, through Christ and with Christ (Eph. 1:23; Col. 3:11)
  - 3. Serving with what we are (Eph. 1:12; 2:7)
    - a. Christ is formed in us and builds us up together in oneness (He 10:5; Gal. 4:19; Eph. 1:22-23)
    - b. We give ourselves to God to do His will (He 10:8-9; Rom. 12:1-2; Eph. 5:1-2)
  - 4. Serving through the things we express in our speaking and actions (1 P 2:9; 2.Thess. 1:11; Phil. 2:13; 4:18; Eph. 2:10; Ps 50:13-14; He 13:15-16, 20-21; Rom. 15:16)
    - a. For the building up of the church (Eph. 4:15-16, 29; 5:2)
    - b. For the gospel (Rom. 15:16)

## **VIII. We are a royal priesthood**

( 1 P 2:5, 9; Rev. 5:9-10)

### **A. The building up of God's house and the priesthood belong together (1 P 2:5)**

1. The priestly service is done in the house of God
2. It shows our responsibility to cooperate in God's work
3. The source of our priestly service is the supply with God's life that is flowing in His house  
(Rev. 22:1-5; He 7:15-16)

### **B. Reigning with Christ as a priesthood**

1. In Christ, kingship and priestly service are united  
(He 7:1-3; Ps 110)
2. For our service as priests we have to see our heavenly position that we have in Christ and we have to make use of it (Eph. 1:18-23; 2:5-6)
3. Assuming this heavenly position, we can bind and loose things in prayer and thus execute our royal priesthood  
(Mt. 16:19; 18:18-19; Mk. 11:22-24; James 1:5-7)
4. In prayer, we focus on Him who has won the victory  
(Acts 4:23-31)