A RIVER

The first garden of Eden was watered by a river (Gen 2:10).

The river which John saw, however, was not a river of earthly water, but of "the water of life" (Rev 22:1).

WATER OF LIFE

Jesus spoke to the woman at the well about this "living water" (Jhn 4:5-15).

On another occasion, when Jesus spoke of this "living water" John interpreted it to mean the gift of the Holy Spirit (Jhn 7:37-39).

FLOWED FROM THE LAMB

God is "the fountain of living waters" (Jer 2:13).

So the river that flows out from the throne of God and the Lamb represents "the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father" (Jhn 15:26).

The Holy Spirit is given to us as a downpayment or guarantee of eternal life (Eph 1:13-14).

In this vision of the river flowing from the throne, God is represented as:

1. the Father — the one who sits on the throne (cf Rev 4:2-6),
2. the Son — the Lamb who sits with the Father on the throne (cf Rev 3:21, 4:4-10),
3. the Holy Spirit — the river proceeding from the throne.

THE STREET

The river flows down the middle of a wide avenue. On the banks of the river grows the tree of life.

This street therefore gives access to the tree of life and to the water of life. The life of faith and obedience to Christ is called "the Way" (Acts 24:14,22, cf Heb 10:19-20).

Of course we do not cease walking that Way after Christ's coming. We continue eternally to walk the Way that gives us access to the Life of Christ.

Jesus, remember, is the way, the truth, and the life (Jhn 14:6).

THE TREE OF LIFE

In the middle of all the trees in the garden of Eden, there were two special trees: the tree of life, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil (Gen 2:9).

The latter was forbidden, but the tree of life was not.

So eternal life with God in heaven was always man's destiny.

Only when man sinned was he denied access to the tree of life (Gen 3:22-24).

Through Jesus Christ we regain access to eternal life (Rom 6:23).

TWELVE FRUITS, HEALING LEAVES

The tree bears fruit 12 months of the year, and 12 kinds at that. Even its leaves give healing.

We can walk to the river and pick from the tree. We are not forbidden, but invited. This is the Everything Tree, the Forever Tree.

It's no fantasy. It is real. It the living God, the giving God, the forgiving God.

“A river of the water of life, and on either side grew the tree of life”