

1 John 2:15-17

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For all that is in the world –
the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes
and pride in possessions –
is not from the Father but is from the world.

And the world is passing away along with its desires,
but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

John 3:16-17

For God so loved the world,
that he gave his only Son,
that whoever believes in him should not perish
but have eternal life.

For God did not send his Son into the world
to condemn the world,
but in order that the world might be saved
through him.

Genesis 1:1-3

In the beginning,
God created the heavens and the earth.

The earth was without form and void,
and darkness was over the face of the deep.
And the Spirit of God was hovering
over the face of the waters.

And God said, "Let there be light,"
and there was light.

John 1:1-5

In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.

He was in the beginning with God.

All things were made through him,
and without him was not anything made
that was made.

In him was life,
and the life was the light of men.

John 1:1-5

The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it.

1 Timothy 6:15-16

God is “the blessed and only Sovereign,
the King of kings and Lord of lords,
who alone has immortality,
who dwells in unapproachable light,
whom no one has ever seen or can see.

To him be honor and eternal dominion.
Amen.

Then God said,

“Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.
And let them have dominion
over the fish of the sea
and over the birds of the heavens
and over the livestock
and over all the earth
and over every creeping thing
that creeps on the earth.”

Genesis 1:27-28

So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.

And God blessed them.

And God said to them,
“Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth
and subdue it and have dominion
over the fish of the sea
and over the birds of the heavens
and over every living thing
that moves on the earth.”

Genesis 2:5-7

When no bush of the field was yet in the land
and no small plant of the field had yet sprung up –
for the LORD God had not caused it
to rain on the land, and there was no man
to work the ground, and a mist was going up
from the land and was watering
the whole face of the ground –
then the LORD God formed the man
of dust from the ground
and breathed into his nostrils
the breath of life,
and the man became a living creature.

Genesis 2:8-10

And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden,
in the east, and there he put the man
whom he had formed.

And out of the ground the LORD God made
to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight
and good for food.

The tree of life was in the midst of the garden,
and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden,
and there it divided and became four rivers.

Genesis 2:15-17

The LORD God took the man
and put him in the garden of Eden
to work it and keep it.

And the LORD God commanded the man, saying,
“You may surely eat of every tree of the garden,
but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil
you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it
you shall surely die.”

Genesis 2:18

Then the LORD God said,

“It is not good that the man should be alone;
I will make him a helper fit for him.”

Revelation 21:1-2

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth,
for the first heaven and the first earth
had passed away, and the sea was no more.

And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem,
coming down out of heaven from God,
prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Revelation 21:3-4

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,
“Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man.
He will dwell with them,
and they will be his people,
and God himself will be with them as their God.

“He will wipe away every tear from their eyes,
and death shall be no more,
neither shall there be mourning
nor crying nor pain anymore,
for the former things have passed away.”

Revelation 21:5-6

And he who was seated on the throne said,
“Behold, I am making all things new.”

Also he said, “Write this down,
for these words are trustworthy and true.”

And he said to me, “It is done!
I am the Alpha and the Omega,
the beginning and the end.

To the thirsty I will give from the spring
of the water of life without payment...”

Revelation 22:1-2

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;
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.

Revelation 2:7

“He who has an ear,
let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.
To the one who conquers
I will grant to eat of the tree of life,
which is in the paradise of God.”

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Revelation 22:14

“Blessed are those who wash their robes,
so that they may have the right to the tree of life
and that they may enter the city by the gates.”

Revelation 22:3-5

No longer will there be anything accursed,
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 night will be no more.

They will need no light of lamp or sun,
for the Lord God will be their light,
and they will reign forever and ever.

We shall not cease from exploration
And the end of all our exploring
Will be to arrive where we started
And know the place for the first time.

~T.S. Eliot, "Little Gidding"
(the last of his *Four Quartets*)

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Revelation 22:17

The Spirit and the Bride say, “Come.”
And let the one who hears say, “Come.”

And let the one who is thirsty come;
let the one who desires take the water of life
without price.

Revelation 22:20

Amen.
Come, Lord Jesus!