



# REVELATION

FOLLOWING THE WAY OF THE LAMB

Study 19  
*“And They will See  
His Face”*  
Revelation 22:1-5

## Dwelling in the Word

Prayerfully read through Revelation 22:1-5 and ask: 1) What words, phrases, or images stood out to you? 2) What does this say about what God desires to accomplish in you? 3) How could you respond to God in this passage?

## Digging Deeper

1. At the end of the vision of the new heaven and new earth, the picture of the new Jerusalem merges with a restoration of the garden of Eden (22:1-5). Read Genesis 2-3. What were some elements of the garden of Eden that you found reflected in Revelation?
2. How do you understand the reference to the “the river of the water of life” (22:1; also 22:17)? The image of “the water of life” or “living water” is one that you also find in the gospel of John (see 4:10; 7:38). What do you think is the meaning of this image?
3. John’s statement, “No longer will there be any curse...” (22:3a) means that the “curse” will be fully removed in the new heavens and new earth (see Gen 3:14, 17 for the curse as a result of the disobedience). What is the significance of this for our understanding of eternity with God?
4. Perhaps the most amazing statement in John’s vision is “And they will see his face...” (22:4a). Since Eden, no human has been able to see the face of God and survive (see Exodus 33:20-23). What do you think of a face-to-face relationship with God? If to see God’s face is to know who God is in his personal being, how do you think our knowledge of God presently is different? (see 1Cor 13:12)
5. We tend to be more interested in the “what” of heaven (“what it will be like?”, “what will we do?”), while John is more focused on the “who” of heaven. What do you think of the idea that in John’s vision of “the End” we find not an event, but a Person?

## For Groups

1. When you are spending time with people you really love – family members or close friends – what does it feel like to be around them? What do you enjoy most about being in their presence? How do you think it will feel to continuously be in the presence of God?
2. Last week, one of our questions talked about the idea of a “thin place” – somewhere it feels almost like heaven touches earth. A similar idea in the area of prayer, is the idea of a “meeting place.” The idea of a meeting place is that it helps you create space to meet with God to hear his voice more clearly. For an example of how to create a “meeting place,” see [here](#).

## Living it Out

1. While no one can see God and live, the Apostle John writes, “No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known” (1:18). How can you presently grow in your relationship and knowledge of God?



“HE IS  
RISEN!”

Easter Sunday | March 31, 2024  
Pastor Tyler Williams

## EASTER IS ALL ABOUT RESURRECTION!

- 1 The resurrection of Jesus (Matt 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; John 20-21; Acts 1:1-9; 1Cor 15).
- 2 The anticipated resurrection of his followers at the end of the age (1Cor 6:14; 15:52; 2Cor 4:14).
- 3 The “resurrection” and renewal of all creation, the “new heaven and new earth” (Rev 21-22).

“Heaven must receive Jesus until the time comes for God to *restore everything...*” (Acts 3:21).

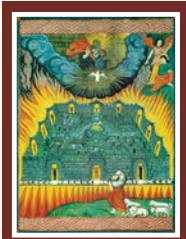
God “made known to us the mystery of his will... to bring unity to *all things in heaven and on earth* under Christ” (Ephesians 1:10).

“God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in the Son, *and through him to reconcile to himself all things...*” (Colossians 1:20).

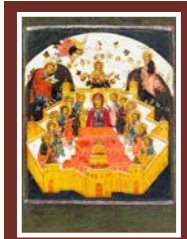


“AND  
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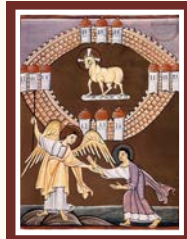
God’s Presence in the New Heaven &  
the New Earth in Revelation 21:1–22:5



PLACE



PEOPLE



PRESENCE

## THE PRESENCE OF GOD

What is really “new” is that the old creation is filled with God’s *immediate presence*.

- Before chaps. 21-22, God’s presence is primarily found in heaven’s throne room.
- God’s current presence in this world is mediated through the Holy Spirit.



PRESENCE

## THE PRESENCE OF GOD

Only when all evil has been eradicated and God’s kingdom comes, will God’s throne be on earth (22:3) and his *unmediated* presence will be with his people.

“Look! God’s dwelling place is now among humans, and he will dwell with them. They will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them and be their God” (21:3; cf. Ezekiel 37:27).

## THE PRESENCE OF GOD

“He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away” (21:4; 7:17; cf. Isaiah 25:8).

“I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple” (21:22).



## THE PRESENCE OF GOD

Merges the picture of the new Jerusalem with a restoration of the garden of Eden (22:1-5).

- Not a simple return to a primeval paradise, but an edenic garden within the Holy City.



## THE PRESENCE OF GOD

“... the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city” (22:1-2).

- Eden was watered by a river (Gen 2:10), now a river flows from God’s throne down the main street of the city (22:1-2; 21:6).
- Its water is offered as a free gift to all who are thirsty (22:17) and restores life and communion.



## THE PRESENCE OF GOD

“On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations” (22:2).

- Just as the “tree of life” was in the centre of the garden (Gen 2:9), so the tree is in the new Jerusalem spanning both sides of the river (22:2).
- All who are victorious (2:7) and cleansed from sin, will “have the right to the tree of life” (22:14).



## THE PRESENCE OF GOD

“No longer will there be any curse...” (22:3a).

- The curse is now removed (Gen 3:14, 17).
- A reversal of everything that went wrong in the fall—the fracture of the relationship between God and humanity, the man and the woman, humanity and the earth—all is reconciled and restored.
- Instead of curse, there will be blessing!



## THE PRESENCE OF GOD

“The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him” (22:3b).

- God’s throne is no longer in heaven, but is on the renewed earth in the midst of the city.
- The distance between “the one who sits on the throne” (4:2, 9; 5:1, 7, 13) and the world over which he rules has disappeared.



## THE PRESENCE OF GOD

“And they will see his face...” (22:4a).

- Since Eden, no human has been able to see the face of God and survive (Exod 33:20-23).
- To see God’s face is to know who God is in his personal being; this was something that people longed for (Ps 17:15; 1Cor 13:12).
- Now all will experience God with this intimacy!



## THE PRESENCE OF GOD

“... and his name will be on their foreheads” (22:4b).

- Once a year the High Priest would enter into the Holy of Holies with the sacred name of God on his forehead to perform his priestly duties (Exod 28).
- Now the privilege of serving as the High Priest is extended to all worshippers who bear the name of God on their foreheads (cf. 3:12; 14:1).
- The promise that the righteous might one day see the Lord comes to its fulfillment (Ps 11:7; 1John 3:2).



## CONCLUSIONS

In John’s vision of “the End” we find not an event, but a Person.

“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End” (22:13; cf. 1:8; 21:6).

A decorative graphic on the left side of the text box, featuring a cluster of flowers in shades of orange, yellow, and white, with some green leaves. The flowers are rendered in a soft, painterly style.

## AN INVITATION

The creation story in Genesis showed how humanity sinned and their relationship with God was fractured.

Now the final vision in Revelation shows us a renewed and healed creation, where humanity once again dwells with God in a face to face relationship.

And the good news of the gospel is that—because of the victory of Jesus that we celebrate today—all are invited to repent and be reconciled and to enter into a relationship with the living God!