

LifeGroup Study

Apocalypse of Hope : “All Things New”

SERMON SUMMARY

In Revelation 21–22, we see the New Jerusalem descending to earth. Not a flight away from creation, but a healing of it. Being a “citizen of the future” requires us to be “faithful witnesses” in the present. Christians are not those who are waiting for a distant exit but those who are living as the bridge between the broken now and the beautiful future.

KEY VERSE

Revelation 21:5
“And the one who was seated on the throne said, ‘See, I am making all things new.’”

SERMON NOTES

<https://bible.com/events/49563315>

DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. What ideas from the sermon caught your attention?
2. Revelation 21:1-3. The New Jerusalem *descends* from heaven to earth. God’s ultimate plan is to dwell here with us in a new creation. If God’s ultimate goal is to live *here*, how does that challenge the common Christian idea that our “real home” is a faraway, disembodied heaven?
3. Revelation 21:4, God wipes away tears caused by death, mourning, and pain. God’s throne provides the comfort that the Empire never could. What are the “tears” in our current society that only the Kingship of God (not politics or technology) can truly dry?
4. The gates of the city never close (21:25). What do you make of this? Who is currently “outside” your circle that you could practice “open-gate” hospitality toward?
5. Revelation 21:8 lists those excluded from the city, including the “cowardly” and “faithless.” In the context of the 1st century, this meant those who compromised with Rome to avoid trouble. Where are you currently tempted to compromise your faith to maintain social comfort?
6. Revelation 22:4. If you truly believed that you were headed toward an unshielded encounter with the face of God, how would that clarity change your current anxieties or fears about the future?
7. Revelation 22:5. Where has God given you “rule” or influence (parenting, management, community leadership)? How can you exercise that authority in a “Lamb-like” way rather than a “Beast-like” way?
8. The book ends with *Maranatha*, “Come, Lord Jesus.” This is a plea for God’s justice to arrive fully. What does it mean to you to pray this prayer? What are you hoping for? What do you do in the meantime?

CLOSING PRAYER

Have the group sit in silence and focus on their breath.

On the inhale, pray silently, “*Come, Lord Jesus.*”

On the exhale, pray, “*Make all things new.*”

Do this for two minutes to center the group on God’s initiative rather than our own efforts.

Have the leader read Revelation 21:3-5.

Invite the group to popcorn-style name things that will not exist in the New Jerusalem (e.g., “No more cancer,” “No more loneliness,” “No more racism”).

Leader ends the time by saying, “*Maranatha, Come Lord Jesus.*”