

A) SERMON SLIDES

All Things New
Revelation 21-22:5

Revelation 21:1-8 (ESV)

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. 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.”

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. The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son. But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.”

Revelation 21:9-16 (ESV)

Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, “Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb.” And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. It had a great, high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed— on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

And the one who spoke with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city and its gates and walls. The city lies foursquare, its length the same as its width. And he measured the city with his rod, 12,000 stadia. Its length and width and height are equal.

Revelation 21:22-22:5 (ESV)

And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. 27 But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

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. 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.

B) GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Read Revelation chapter 21 to chapter 22:5. What are you seeing, feeling, understanding in the imagery of this vision. When is this? What is happening? Who is there? etc.
2. In what ways do we find our lives between "worlds?" Do you find that you can be fulfilled (really fulfilled) here? Have you found a completeness and perfect intimacy with God here? In what ways are these (and other areas) both true, and not yet true?
3. Why is HOPE so important when living between worlds? Think about a betrothed Bride awaiting her Bridegroom. What does Hope look like? What does it do?
4. Explain how this vision fulfills the intention of the "old" and makes it a "new" thing for all of us. What is there in the new that we find in the "old?" Why is the city a cube?
5. Have fun considering heaven, of course the apex of the experience being the continual presence and "face" of God. What does that mean for us? Why is that idea so amazing!?
6. Before praying just dream about heaven. Not just the experience of fully having what we have...but more. We only have 5 senses now. Will we have hundreds? We use our brains weakly now, what about then? We will see colors as they really are, but what if a thousand more we don't know! Talk about how Adam and Eve as perfect created beings ruled over the earth. Now we reign again. What will it mean to rule and subdue the earth, birds, fish and animals again?
7. Prayer and praise.