

## Connect Group Discussion Guide – 4/30/2023

### Revelation 21, 22 Jesus Returns and establishes the New Garden

**Video Link:** <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQvR0S5fB8AzraGYts4eQfg> (Posted on Monday)

**Audio Only:** On Spotify or Apple Podcasts: Connection Point Podcast

#### Opening discussion: How is Jesus changing your life?

#### Highlights

- Jesus wasn't done teaching after His death.
  - Death was not the end.
  - You don't have to stay the same. We have opportunity to be Brand News.
    - Jesus wants to change your life. See Opening Discussion.
- The Ascension was not the end. There are many references to Jesus's second coming throughout the New Testament. For a few, see:
  - Matthew 24:37-39
  - Matthew 24:42-44, if we know Jesus is coming back and live as if he's not, we clearly don't care.
  - Acts 1:10-11
  - **What other references can you find.**
- If the Ascension is not the end, **what do we do?**
  - We wait!
    - What are we waiting for and why does it matter? **Why does it matter to you?**
  - It started in the Garden – covenant to partner together: Heaven and earth met.
  - Sin caused the separation of heaven and earth
  - There were times and places where they met again:
    - Tabernacle, Temple, Jesus, Us (the Holy Spirit lives in us)
    - But it's still not the same as the garden, the world and we are still broken and full of destruction.
- **Rev 1:1-2**, it's the revelation of Jesus Christ: who He is. It is not the revelation of end times.
  - **Have you read Revelation? Why or why not?**
  - **Have you studied Revelation? What did you take from it.**
  - If you read Revelation looking for Jesus, you will see it so much differently.
  - The point of the book is to draw us closer to Jesus.
  - **Promise to read Revelation 21 and 22 this week, and look for Jesus.**
- **Rev 21:1-3** – Heaven is coming back to earth.
- **Rev 21:5-6**, - Jesus is saying I'm the beginning of the beginning and the end of the end. (See John 1).
  - He is the water of life, but only some of us will receive it. Those who are thirsty. **What should you be thirsty for? Are you thirsty?**
- **Rev 22:1-2** – The river flows from the Father and Jesus: they are the Creator.
  - The Tree of Life is the same tree from the Garden in Genesis.
  - In the end we are drawn back into a Garden – a Holy City.
    - We find our way back to the Garden, NOT because of anything we did, but because of everything Jesus did and His blood.
    - We find our way back to the Garden and we have done nothing to deserve it.
- **Rev 22:3-5** – They will see His face. Never before were humans able to see the face of God and survive (Moses, Elijah), except when He was here as a human in Jesus.
  - But in His full glory, we can't look at His face – but we will in the Garden!

- We will get to look into Jesus's eyes and look face to face with the Father!
  - Name on our forehead – the character of God right in front of you.
  - **Can you imagine?**
  - The Lord will give them light – the light comes from God. There is just light. (See Genesis 1:1)
- **Rev 22:8-9** Worship God!
  - We have a tendency to worship creation instead of the Creator.
  - **What about you?**
- **Rev 22:12-14** – Who wash their robes
  - To access the new Garden our robes have to be washed
    - This means our hearts being made clean
    - This means asking forgiveness for our sin
    - If we want to be more like Jesus and be in His presence in the Garden, we have to continue to bring our sin to Him and ask for forgiveness.
- **Rev 22:16-17** – The Holy Spirit is inviting you, to something more.
- **Rev 22:18-19** – Don't add or take away from Jesus's words or God will add and take away. Don't twist Jesus's words. **Describe what this means.**
- **Rev 22:20** - Come Lord Jesus!

**Why should I want Jesus to return? There is so much more I want in life. Have you ever thought this? What do you want in life?**

- The partnership God desired in the Garden is made complete in the second coming of Christ.
- When we choose to pray for Jesus's return, we are reminded what is most important.
- It puts salvation in perspective. It's not about us getting to heaven, but about heaven coming to earth.
- When heaven comes to earth I want to be a part of it.

#### **Two Questions**

1. **When is the last time you considered His return?**
2. **Have you asked for forgiveness of sin? Are you thirsty?**

**We become Brand New as we wait expectantly for Jesus's return. Soon our partnership with God will be made complete for all time.**

**Come Lord Jesus!**