

JESUS REVELATION

The Temple of God Revelation 21:22-27 & 22:1-5 The Jesus Revelation (Part 5)

THE BIG IDEA

The Apostle John's 8th vision presents a new Heaven and a new Earth, restored and renewed. John also sees the holy city Jerusalem, and notices that there is no sun or moon and no Temple, "for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its Temple" and "the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. Jesus as the Light and the Temple show us the importance of Jesus being the center of everything.

OPENING

- What do you think of when you picture life after death? Does the new Heaven and new Earth play a part in that image?
- So far in this series we have talked about Jesus as the Son of Man (Prophet, Priest, and King), the Lion who is also the Lamb, the Infant chased by the dragon, the Groom at the wedding feast, and the Temple. Which image are you most drawn to and why?

DIGGING DEEPER

- Read Genesis 3:8; Exodus 40:33-38; 2 Chronicles 5:11-14; Luke 1:34-44; Matthew 1:18-23; Acts 1:12-14 & 2:1-4; Ephesians 2:19-22. Where does God dwell?
- Throughout the Bible, the Temple represented God's presence with God's people. The Temple was also central to Jewish religious life, where babies were dedicated, where people came to worship and pray, where the priests did their work, where the Torah was read and taught, and where sacrifices were made to atone for sins and make peace with God. How do these things influence our view of Jesus as the Temple? In what ways does this challenge traditional views of religious institutions and practices?
- In Revelation 22:1-5 John describes seeing a garden. What do you notice about this garden? How does it compare to the garden described in Genesis 2:8-14 – what is similar and what is different?
- Many Christians envision life after death almost like an eternal vacation, where there will be no work to be done and humans are simply left to their own enjoyment. But



what do Genesis 2:15 and Revelation 22:3 say about the nature of work, both at creation (before the fall of humanity) and in the new heaven and new earth (when all things have been restored)? How does this challenge your thoughts regarding life after death? What questions does this bring up?

- Consider Revelation 21: 23-25; John 1:1-9; 1 John 1:5-7 & 2:9-11. How does thinking about Jesus as the Light change how we see darkness and light, both in our spiritual lives and in the world around us? How does relying on Jesus as the main source of light change how we deal with tough times, pain, and not knowing what the future holds? How does it affect how we are called to live as the people of God?

PUTTING IT TO WORK

- How does the vision of the new heaven and earth from Revelation 21:1-5 offer hope for the restoration of all things? What implications does this hope have for how we steward God's creation, work for justice, and cultivate flourishing communities in the present age?

PRAYER REQUESTS

Take time to pray for one another.