
One from the Heart

Destination Joy

Do you know the joy of our destination?

- + The river image poetically represents the life-giving Presence of God

John 7:37-38 "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." (NIV)

Making Sense of Revelation

- + Apostle John: Preacher, Pastor, Poet

Why did John write the Revelation?

- + to excite the praying imagination of persecuted Christians.
- + "Not Babylon, not Rome, nor any empire will stand in the way of God's Kingdom. Whatever suffering you might experience remember the joy of our destination."

Life-Giving Presence: See, Align, Move (Rev 21, 22)

- + Note key phrases or words that excite your imagination

Movement 1: See the Destination

- + 21:1-7
- + 21:15-16
- + 21:22-27
- + 22:1-4
- + 22:16-21

Observations: See the Destination (Together)

God's life-giving Presence as...

Intimate:

21:2b *"... prepared like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband."*

- + This is the language of covenant, close intimacy of God with His people.

21:15-16 *"Like a square, as long as it is wide..."*

- + A perfect cube in shape is Old Testament imagery, Holy of Holies (1: Kings 6:19) = total intimacy.

22:4 *"They will see his face", "His name will be on their forehead"*

- + In ancient times it was not possible to be in King's Presence when found guilty.
- + Name has to do with character; we will be made like Him. (see 1 John 3:2)

Glorious:

21:4 *"No more tears, death, mourning, crying, or pain"*

21: 23 *"The city does not need the sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light."*

22:16 *"Root and offspring of David", "bright Morning Star"*

- + Root had small beginning, growing to fulfill promise.
- + First star signals the night is passing and morning will soon begin.

Earthy:

River, trees with leaves, fruit in all season, gems, gates, streets and more points to real physical new earth, a garden city!

- + 22:1 a river flows with life through the city

Movement 2: Align with the Vision

How can I align my life with the vision of God's Kingdom?

... For the glitter or the Glory

Movement 3: Move into the River

How does the destination actually shape the way we live?

Group Discussion Questions

1. As you read through Revelation 21 and 22, what excited your imagination most? Why?
2. How does the destination actually shape the way you are living now?
3. What keeps you from chasing what you feel God calling you towards?
4. Who can you reflect God's life giving Presence to this week? How would you do it? A gift, a word of encouragement, practical support?
5. Is there someone you know experiencing hardship who you can talk to about the exciting destination God plans for us?

Suggested Reading Support for Revelation

- + *"How to Read the Bible Book by Book"*, Douglas Stuart and Gordon Fee.
- + *"Reversed Thunder"*, Eugene Peterson.