



Revelation 22:1-7 / *The Once and Future Garden*

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Easy warm-up questions (choose one)

1. Would you rather have your lunch made for you everyday but never get to choose what that lunch was, or be able to choose your lunch every day but have to make it yourself?
2. Would you rather have only summer or winter for the rest of your life?

Genesis to Revelation (garden to garden) context & back fill

1. Consider the following description of history: God creates - sin destroys - Jesus redeems - Jesus sends - Jesus promises - God fulfills.
 - 1) What do each of these describe?
 - 2) How do each contribute to where God is going in history?
 - 3) Would you add to or subtract from the progression?
2. In the grand overarching, God is sovereign and working His plan and purposes in history, scheme of things God has chosen to redeem you. These days, what does that mean to you?
3. If your answer to #2 is, "I'm not sure He has redeemed me", now would be a good time to pause and talk with the group about what that means and how you can be sure.

Unpacking Revelation 22:1-5

1. In these verses, John is describing a real place. AGREE DISAGREE
2. In the description of the future "garden" what is especially meaningful to you? Why?
3. In what ways is the "garden" in Revelation 22:1-5 a "bookend" similar to the Garden of Eden (Genesis 2:8ff)?
4. These days, what does your answer to #3 mean to you personally?

Two Exclamation Points!! 22:6,7

1. What in the angel's "exclamation point" strikes you as being especially meaningful? Why?
2. What in Jesus' "exclamation point" strikes you as being especially meaningful? Why?
3. How do you think these two statements, coming as they do in this part of the revelation, might have helped John's readers in the 7 churches to not only hear and believe the revelation, but also obey it?
4. These days, what is it looking like for you to "*keep the words of the prophecy of this book*"?

Processing all that...

1. These days, how are you hanging on to hope?
2. These days, how are you prioritizing your life (actions, time, thought, energy, etc.) based on the hope of the redeemed?

Homework (suggestions for going farther)

1. As a result of this study, What might you need to ask God to help you with? What might you need to ask God to change in you? What might you need to trust God with?
2. This week, read Revelation 22:8-21.