

A Vision of the Future that Changes How We Live Now (Revelation 19-22)

God's Story redeems our individual stories and prompts us to tell better stories because we know how the Story ends: with Jesus's return, victory over evil, and worship of the one true God. Have hope! Our times may be dark, but one day we will reign with God in his beloved, luminous, and holy bride-city.

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To have a vision of the future changes how we live now

So, picture a new creation

- vs. 21:9-10: where a bride-city
- vs 22:1-3: which is also a garden-city
- vs. 21:11, 18: is splendidous,
- vs. 21:12-17: big enough for the whole people of God,
- v. 21:16, 19: and holy like the Holy of Holies and the high priest's breastplate.

In this new creation, God dwells among humans

- v. 21:22: so there is no temple,
- vs. 21:23-27: nor sun, moon, night, curse, or anything impure, shameful or deceitful.
- v. 22:3: Instead, there is God's throne,
- v. 22:1-3: from which flows the Spirit-water of life,
- v. 22:2: nourishing the tree of life for the healing of the nations.

As a result, humanity is redeemed to its original purpose.

- v. 21:12-14, 27: The covenant people who are saved by the Lamb,

- v. 22:4: will see his face, bear his name,
- v. 21:24: walk under God's light, bring the splendor of the nations,
- v. 22:3: and worship, serve,
- v. 22:5: and reign with God.

Implications

- A larger Story
- that redeems individual stories,
- and prompts us to tell better stories
- because we know how the Story ends.

Questions for reflection:

- How is this vision of the future relevant to your ministry context?
- How does it help you personally endure and persevere?
- Can you think of current examples of cross-cultural gift-giving (v. 21:24, 26) that enrich the wisdom and stature of the international Body of Christ?
- Take a few minutes in silence to picture yourself *there*, then pray from that redeemed standpoint.