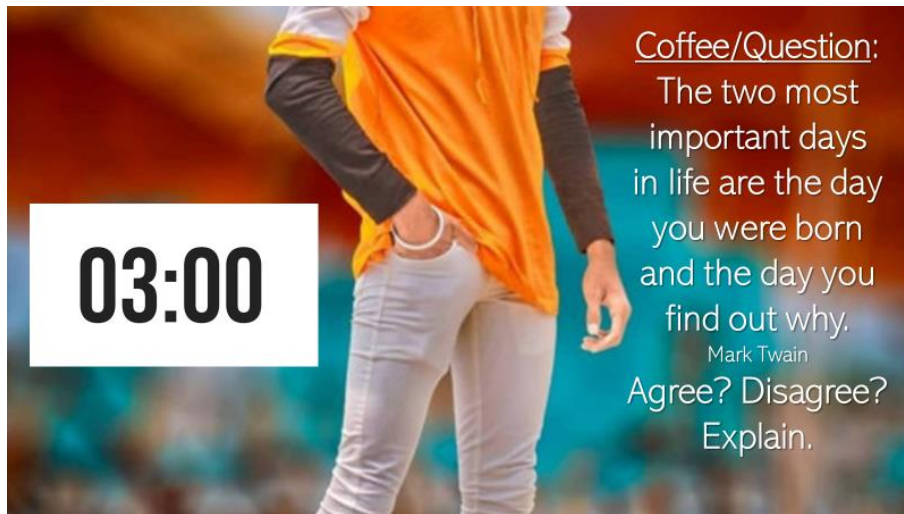




Revelation 22:1-6  
**BEYOND OUR WILDEST  
DREAMS**

**Sooke  
Baptist  
Church**  
Sunday  
June 12  
2022  
10am  
also on  
Facebook Live  
Stream  
and YouTube



Coffee/Question:  
The two most  
important days  
in life are the day  
you were born  
and the day you  
find out why.  
Mark Twain  
Agree? Disagree?  
Explain.

**03:00**

God has revealed in Revelation 21-22 a picture of new creation, of a new heaven and a new earth, a new city, a new redeemed humanity whose bodies have been raised from the dead to be like the resurrected body of Jesus and whose souls and spirits have been made righteous and who are entrusted by God with new tasks and responsibilities.

In the book of Revelation, through the apostle John we have been shown realities that stretch the capacity of human language to describe.

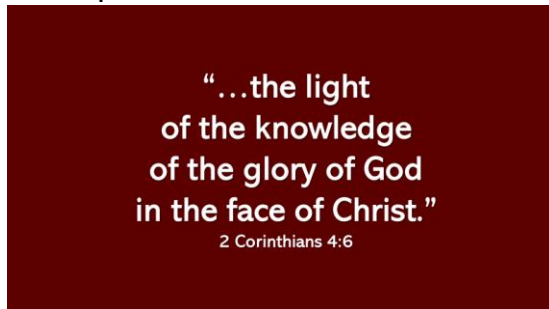
This is one of the reasons why the book of Revelation was written using apocalyptic language.

It's not the only reason – but it is one of the reasons.

One of the amazing things about God is that he is the universe's best communicator.

The Scriptures, along with creation are a testimony to his incredible wisdom and ability to speak to humanity in understandable ways.

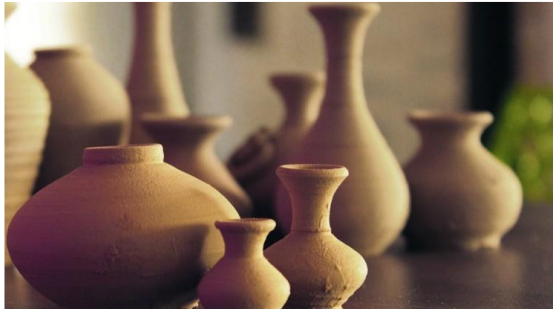
When the apostle Paul wrote his second letter to the Corinthian church, he spoke in chapter four of...



This is the theme of the book of Revelation.

We discover the full title of this book in the first five words – **the Revelation of Jesus Christ... who is the glory of God.**

In 2 Corinthians 4:7 Paul described knowing God through Christ like being in possession of a great treasure contained in jars of clay...



... referring to our lives in whom Christ makes his home.

When Christ was born in Bethlehem – he revealed... God is with us.

When Christ died on a roman cross – he revealed... God is for us.

When Christ ascended and the Spirit was sent – he revealed... Christ is now in us.

This is similar to what Jesus described, in two of his parables, the hidden treasure and the pearl of great price.



Entering into the kingdom of God and being in relationship with the God who is three in one, is like finding a treasure of infinite worth.

In 2 Corinthians 4:17, Paul wrote that there was an even greater glory to come. This is the glory which was shown to John in Revelation 21-22.

How Paul described this greater glory is incredible. He contrasted it with his and the Corinthian believers' present challenges. Paul wrote of how, in this present time, he was...

... **hard-pressed**  
... **perplexed**  
... **persecuted**  
... **struck down**  
... **outwardly wasting away**

These are descriptors that followers of Jesus in every generation understand... because we all face these things, at one point or another.

These things... are also the reasons why we are often tempted to question the goodness of God; to wonder if he has forgotten us. But look at what God made known through Paul about these challenges.



God wants his people to know that our troubles are not indicators that we've been forgotten by him, but are actually the means by which God through the Spirit... now look at what 2 Corinthians 3:18 says...



“...is transforming us into his likeness with ever-increasing glory...”

God uses our troubles for good.

He uses them to transform our character... to make us increasingly more like Jesus.

He uses them to grow our new nature and to weaken our old nature.

He uses them to teach us to trust God and to live in dependence upon God.

I purposefully left out a short phrase in v.17.



When put alongside the glory that is to come, our troubles in this life are said to be ...light and momentary.

For the sake of emphasis, I say it again, this glory which Paul wrote of, is the glory we have been studying in Revelation 21-22.

To speak of our trouble as being light and momentary, in no way is intended by God to belittle them, but rather to put them in right perspective... which is what?



How often do we flip this... and perceive the glory to come as small and our troubles as huge?

Marshall Seagal writes that one of the reasons why we gather together week by week, "is to be awakened; to be reminded that God exists; that Jesus really came in the flesh, died a sinless death in our place; and three days later broke out of the grave. We need to be reminded that sin will ruin us. We need to be shaken free from the sleepy spiritual fog that so easily settle upon us."

The Spirit through Paul had one more thing to say about this to the people of God.





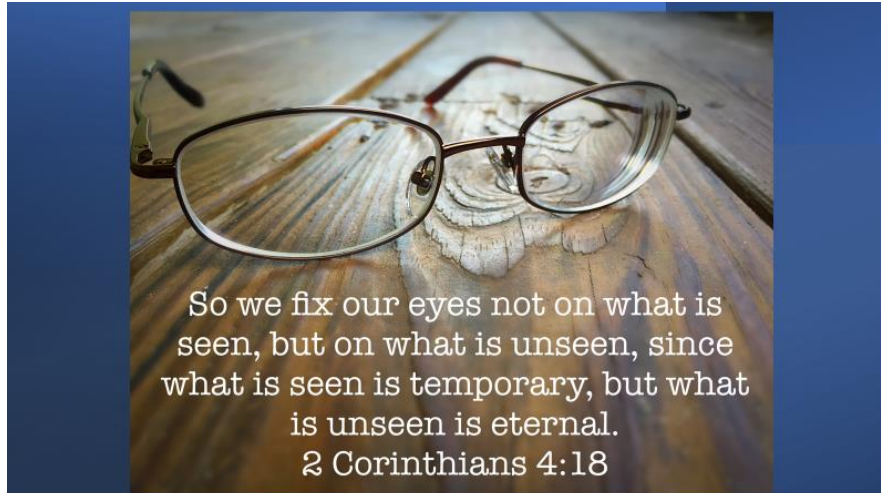
gotquestions.org says...

“This “weight of glory” speaks of the relative insignificance of our present, earthly suffering **in contrast with** the magnitude of resurrection life and eternal salvation.

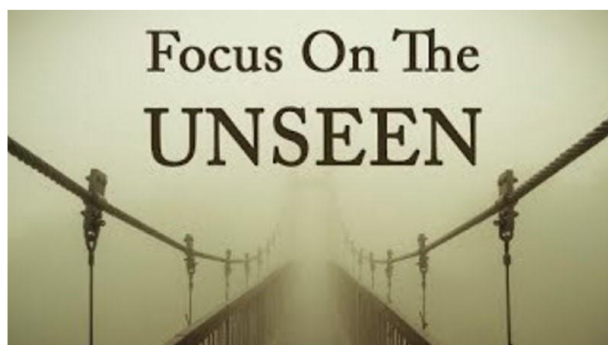
Our present sufferings are so light and fleeting, they weigh less than a feather and pass in the blink of an eye **when compared to** the immense wonders that await us in the new creation.”

**gotquestions.org**

Having drawn this contrast, the Holy Spirit through Paul made this life application.



This is the primary reason why we gather together... to fix our eyes on our God and Savior... to center our lives in the unseen truths and realities.



If we do not live with a focus on what is unseen ... the present will chew us up and spit us out.

We have purposefully slowed down as we've come to the final two chapters of the book of Revelation to anchor our lives to God's person and the hope we have in him through Jesus...



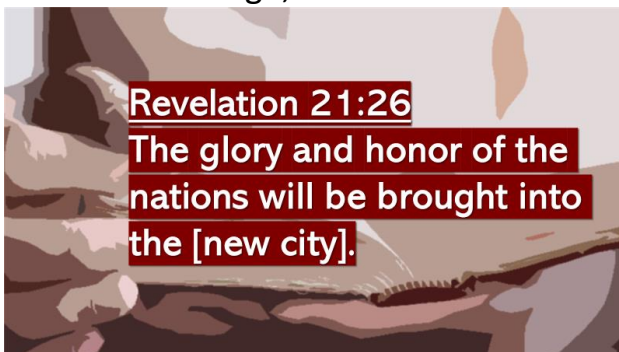
Let's read our passage for today.



A common question asked by all followers of Jesus is.... what will we do in the new creation?

We've spoken to this question a number of times already.

Several weeks ago, we took note of Revelation 21:26.



This verse tells us that the best of human culture will be carried forward into the new creation and that skills we have learned here will be used there.

Another broad sweeping statement that describes what we will do in the new creation is made in 22:3.



The redeemed are identified as “his servants.”  
The “his” refers to God and the Lamb.

This verse reminds us that – humanity’s identity is found in God.  
God created humanity in his likeness – we are image-bearers.  
God formed us while we were in our mother’s womb – none of us are an accident,  
every human being is a work of art.

It is God who breathed the breath of life into us.  
And when we respond to God and trust in Jesus, he breathes life into our dead  
souls, and we become alive to God.

For the follower of Jesus, our identity is rooted in whose we are – we are not our  
own, we belong to God.  
We are his child, his son, his daughter.

Here in Revelation 22:3, God purposefully reminds his church that his people who  
are his children... are his servants.



In the upside-down world of human culture without God... those who serve are  
looked upon as less than those who are served.  
But not so with God.  
Not so in God’s kingdom.



The heart of God is that of a servant.  
We know this because of who Jesus said he is....

**Mark 10:45**

"For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to *serve*, and to give his life as a ransom for many."



When we are born of the Spirit, the new nature that is created within us...is like that of Jesus.

This is why... it is in our spiritual DNA... to serve like him.

I so appreciate that so many of you when you see a need, act to meet it.

Jesus spoke of this in John 5.

He said wherever and whenever he saw the Father at work, he then joined him. That's how Jesus knew what to do.

If you and I see a need, it is because the Father has made that need known to us. And the very fact that he does so, is actually his invitation for us to join him in that particular opportunity.

As servants of God what will we do in the new creation?

Verse 3 simply says... we will serve God.

The verse does not provide any more details.

To know that we are "a servant of God" and that what we will do in the new creation is "serve God" is considered by God to be enough for us to know in this present time.

There is a second broad sweeping statement made in v.5 regarding what the redeemed will do in the new creation.



**“They will reign for ever and ever.”**

I believe this statement qualifies the first.

How will we serve God?

We will serve him by reigning with him for ever and ever.

Mark Robert says...

**“ The fact that we will serve God is wonderful, but not particularly surprising. The fact that we will reign alongside God is a shock.”**

Mark Robert

But this is what Jesus spoke of to the church in Thyatira and Laodicea.

Revelation 2:26

To the one who is victorious and does my will to the end, I will give **authority over the nations...** just as I have received authority from my Father.

Revelation 3:21

To the one who is victorious, I will give the right **to sit with me on my throne,** just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne.

What Jesus spoke of... had been foretold through the prophet Daniel regarding what would happen at the end of this age.

Daniel 7:18, 27

The holy people of the Most High will receive the kingdom and will possess it forever – yes, for ever and ever.

The sovereignty, power and greatness of all the kingdoms under heaven will be handed over to the holy people of the Most High.

His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all rulers will worship and obey him.

The redeemed, the holy people of the Most High... will be entrusted with great responsibility in the new creation – to rule.

But let's be clear....Daniel was not shown a transfer of power from God to his people, and then, somehow God moved on to some other sphere of existence, leaving them in charge.

How do we know this?

Look again at the last sentence.

Daniel 7:18, 27

The holy people of the Most High will receive the kingdom and will possess it forever – yes, for ever and ever.

The sovereignty, power and greatness of all the kingdoms under heaven will be handed over to the holy people of the Most High.

His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all rulers will worship and obey him.

Who is the... “his kingdom” ... referring to?

The Most High.

The kingdom of the Most High is not temporary, but everlasting, it will not end.

Question.

Who is the... “all rulers” ... referring to?

It is referring to the holy people of the Most High.

They are the ones who will be given the kingdom; the ones who will possess it forever.

It seems redundant... but what do people who are given a kingdom do?

They rule.

But the passage in Daniel is clear... the holy people of God do not rule independent of God.

In the time of the new creation... God's holy people will worship and obey him.

In vibrant fellowship with the God who is three in one... we will reign.

This is what we were created... and have been re-created to do... to reign by serving.



Did any of you ever participate in a... “take your child to work day”... where for a day, they got to shadow you, do some of the tasks you do, etc?

In the time of the new heaven and the new earth, Jesus will not have a “reign with me day” ... for his people... where we all get a turn for a day to rule with him.

The Scripture is clear... we will reign with Christ.

For how long? What does v.5 say?

For ever and ever.

This is what we are being made ready for.

This is the grand purpose for which we live... now... and for which we will live... then.

By grace through faith, we have been included in Christ, and the implications of this two-word phrase, “in Christ,” and another phrase, which is similar, “with Christ,” are staggering.

We will reign with Christ.

But what about right now?

This too is beyond incredible.

### IN CHRIST

- ... we are chosen by God – Ephesians 1:11
- ... we are brought near to God – Ephesians 2:13
- ... we have redemption through his blood – Ephesians 1:7
- ... we are justified – Galatians 2:17
- ... we face no condemnation – Romans 8:1
- ... we are marked with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit – Ephesians 1:13

### WITH CHRIST

- ... we have been crucified – Galatians 2:20
- ... we died – Colossians 2:20
- ... we have been buried in baptism – Colossians 2:12
- ... we are raised up – Ephesians 2:6
- ... our life is now hidden in God – Colossians 3:3
- ... we are clothed – Galatians 3:27
- ... we are seated in the heavenly realms – Ephesians 2:6

### IN CHRIST

- ... we have been brought to fulness – Colossians 2:10
- ... we are a new creation – 2 Corinthians 5:17
- ... we are created to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do – Ephesians 2:10
- ... our lives are being built together to be a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit – Ephesians 2:22

As I've listed all these things that are ours in Christ... and with Christ... do you see why Christ is our treasure, both now and then – why if we have him, we have everything; but if we have everything and not him, we have nothing.



All that is necessary for life and godliness in this present life... and... all that will equip us to reign in the new creation... has been brought about by Christ... and is provided for us by grace through Christ.

**How does this certainty... that we will serve God and reign with Christ, impact our lives in the here and now?**



This truth is not some idea conjured up to boost our self-esteem but a present reality whose fullness will be realized at the resurrection of the dead.

At that point, we will reign with our Savior... **and enjoy by grace what is His by right.** Ligonier Ministries

Until then, a primary responsibility is for us to learn to reign over our sinful passions, that they do not dominate and control us.

We learn to reign by bringing our minds, wills, and affections into submission to Jesus... by the power of the Spirit... through His Word.

This is a life long endeavor and is practiced in community with other followers of Jesus..

Another primary responsibility is to use the giftings of grace which the Spirit has given to us, along with our natural abilities and learned skills, to serve others in the name of Jesus.

While it is in the DNA of our new nature to serve like Jesus, this is not the case with our old nature.

Which is why we learn to serve by serving.

As we do so, in the power of the Spirit, we increasingly make ourselves ready for the future, even as in this present time, God uses our lives and efforts to bless others with his grace.

This news of who we are and who we will be... and the purpose for which God has created us... is intended to evoke awe within us, along with profound gratitude for the God whose grace is so great.

This is why we sing to him.  
Why we worship him.  
Why we love him.  
Why we adore him.  
Why we live for him.

As we earlier sang... we were rebels, but now we're royalty.  
We were prisoners, but now we're free.  
We are the forgiven; we are the redeemed, who belong to the God, who is three in one.

All praise be to him!

## **The Blessing**

The Lord bless you and keep you;  
The Lord make his face to shine upon you  
and be gracious to you;  
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you  
and give you peace.

Amen.