

Reflection Questions: Revelation 22:1-5

For the message, "Mission Accomplished" given by Pastor John Ferguson at Mercy Hill Church in Bryan/College Station, Texas, on November 18, 2016

These reflection questions are designed to help you apply the message from the Scriptures by helping you think through application to your personal life, your church life, and your city's life. You can use these by yourself for reflection, or with your family or small group for discussion. To review the message, go to MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages.

INTRODUCTION

Pray. Take a moment to pray asking God to guide you in reflecting upon the Scripture text.

Read the Scripture text: Revelation 22:1-5

A summary of the message: At the renewal of all things—in the coming Kingdom of God—not only does God share his rule with Jesus, the King of kings, but God and Jesus share their rule with a renewed and redeemed humanity. This not only fulfills the original purpose of mankind—to partner with God in ruling this world (Genesis 1-2), but it fulfills the purpose of our redemption as well, "...and they will reign forever and ever."

Key Points:

- Jesus will reign forever in God's Kingdom
- Jesus' followers will reign with him forever in God's Kingdom

Key Quotes:

- Matthew 25:34, "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.'"
- Revelation 5:1-6, 9, "Behold the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered...." I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain.... And they sang a new song saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation...."
- John Eldredge, *All Things New*, "How wonderful it will be to see Jesus Christ vindicated, after so many eons of mockery, dismissal, and vilification. Our Beloved has endured such slander, such mistrust, and worst of all, such grotesque distortion by the caricatures and religious counterfeits parade in his name. All the world will see him as he is, see him crowned King. Every tongue will be silenced, and his vindication will bring tremendous joy to those who love him."
- Revelation 5:9-10, And they sang a new song saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priest to our God, and they shall reign on the earth."
- NT Wright, "In Revelation...we are told that God's people will actually be running the new world on God's behalf. The idea of our participation in the new creation goes back to Genesis, when humans are supposed to be running the garden and looking after the animals. If you transpose that all the way through, it's a picture like the one you get at the end of Revelation."
- 1 Corinthians 2:9, No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him.

QUESTIONS

1. Let's think about how this text applies to our lives as individuals.

- According to Revelation 22:5, we are told that God's servants—the ones who worship the Lamb—will reign “with him forever and ever” at the renewal of all things in the New Heavens and New Earth. How does this help you understand what God's intentions were all along for humanity when he crowned us with “glory and honor” (Psalm 8) to exercise dominion over this world?
- How does this text critique the notion that we will be disembodied spirits floating around on clouds and playing harps?
- Does this text make you long more for the renewal of all things, or less? Share your thoughts.

2. Let's think about how this text applies to us as a community of Jesus' followers.

- In light of this text, how would you answer the question, “What kind of me is God calling me to be in the present in anticipation of the coming renewal of all things?” In other words, if God will give us responsibility to reign with him (that is, to serve others in love), how might that affect the way we go about our callings as family members, employees / employers, neighbors, citizens? How would my life be enriched by aligning my character with the vision of this text?
- How does this text clarify the kind of lifestyle we are called to live in this world, both in terms of intentionality and motive?

3. Let's think about how this text applies to our city.

- What does this mean for us as we live out our faith in the city?
- How does this text serve as Good News for those outside the faith? What kind of new life / future in Christ is this text calling our city to experience?
- How might we align ourselves with what God is doing in this city in light of the coming renewal of all things? In other words, how might that future spill into the present as God wants to use us even now to bring about renewal?

CONCLUSION QUESTION

What is the one thing you want to take away from this study to remember or to make a change in your life?

PRAYER

What are some ways you can turn what you are learning into prayer? List them as bullet points....

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