“The End Brings the Beginning”
Revelation 21-22

The end brings the beginning of the physical presence of God with His people (21:1-3)

Revelation 20 ends with the end of Satan and his followers. It’s the end of opposition to God in this world and the defeat of all who oppose God. This ending then brings an incredible beginning. John’s vision reveals that the end of this world will bring about the beginning of a new world. The new heaven and new earth replaces what currently exists, and a new beginning of creation begins. The wonderful thing about these verses, however, is that they don’t focus on the physical description of the earth and the city of Jerusalem. Instead, they focus on the reality of what this new creation brings in terms of God’s relationship with His people, and Rev. 21:3 emphasizes the most important reality that this new beginning brings, which is that God will dwell with His people! The emphasis is that God will physically be present with His people and that this presence is one of a wonderful relationship between God and His people. He will be our God, and we will be His people! In other words, the end brings the beginning of the full restoration of creation, repairing in full what sin destroyed.

1. As believers, God is with us and in us, but we don’t always experience His presence in our lives. What are some ways that we can neglect, forget, and even push away the presence of God in our lives right now on this earth?
2. How would having the physical presence of God with us affect us in the way we live our lives? Is there something that you did or said this past week that you would have done differently if God had been physically right there with you?
3. Pray for a growing sense of God’s presence in our lives and lives that reflect Him day-to-day.

The end brings the beginning of life unaffected by the effects of sin (21:4)

Death, mourning, crying, and pain all represent the effects of sin in our lives. Death only entered the world because of sin. Mourning and crying only happen because of hurt and pain in this world that affects our lives in both physical and emotional ways. Hurt and pain only exist because of sinful choices and actions in our lives and the lives of others around us. God didn’t create, design or desire any of these things, and His gracious plan for those who have faith in Jesus is that all of those things will one day pass away. For His people, the end brings a beautiful beginning of life unaffected by the effects of sin. For His people, the end brings the wonderful gift of God Himself being the one who wipes away our tears and removes the damaging effects of sin from our lives. For His people, this is the beginning of a world that we’ve always hoped for!

1. When was the last time that you experience mourning, crying, or pain? Why? What caused these emotions and feelings in your life?
2. Do you know someone who is experiencing the effects of sin in their life? What are some ways that each of you can speak hope into that situation by speaking truth about the source of these things and about God’s plan to eliminate these things from the lives of His people?
3. Can you imagine a world unaffected by the effects of sin? It’s coming for believers! Commit to think about this when the effects of sin are affecting you in a negative way in this world.
The end brings the beginning of eternal life for the children of God (21:5-7)
What amazing words from our Lord! He is making all things new. He is freely giving life to
those who long for life with Him. He is fully adopting into His family all of His children who have
faithfully trusted in Him. As difficult as this world can be and as hard and hurtful as this life can be,
God’s people know that it will all one day come to an end. More importantly, God’s people know that
this end will bring a glorious beginning, and that this beginning will bring the gift of eternal life in a
world with no sin. This new beginning will bring the gift of eternal life that’s free. This new beginning
will bring the gift of eternal life that includes an incredible relationship in the presence of our eternal
Father! For God’s people, the end brings the beginning of eternal life for the children of God.

1. Read Rev. 21:5-7, and briefly list and discuss each thing that the Lord says and promises.
2. What stands out to you the most from the promises from God in these verses? Why?
3. Read John 4:10 and 7:37. What is God talking about when He talks about those who thirst?
4. In Rev. 21:7, what does it mean to conquer? Search for the word conquer in other verses in
   Revelation, and discuss these verses in building an understanding of being a conqueror.

The end brings the beginning of eternal death for the enemies of God (21:8)
In God’s love and grace, He doesn’t just lay out the reward for His people, but reminds
everyone of the result of those who reject Him. God makes it clear that for those who fail to have the
courage to have faith in Him and for those who live in persistent disobedience to Him, the end will
bring the beginning of an eternal judgment. It’s hard to deny a hell and judgment that’s so clearly
affirmed by Jesus throughout the New Testament, and in Rev. 21:8, Jesus provides a description of
the eternal death that will be experienced by the enemies of God. What we have to remember is that
God is just and righteous. The judgment for those who reject Him is to be separated from Him, and
apart from God, there is no life, love, light, hope, joy, peace, gentleness, goodness, or self-control!
Hell is a place that is real, and God’s love and grace is so real that He can’t help but warn the world
about the beginning of judgment that the end will bring.
1. Go through the list of what characterizes those who are enemies of God. Do you know anyone
   whose life is characterized by these qualities or actions?
2. What is the eternal consequence for the enemies of God? Do you truly believe this?
3. How can you share this truth in a way that emphasizes the love of God in sharing this truth?

Coming to Jesus is the only way to be ready for the beginning to come (22)
With the eternal glory of heaven laid out for God’s people, Jesus’ final words in His Word to us
are words that emphasize one thing: He’s coming back soon! In Rev. 22:7, 12, and 20, Jesus reminds
His people of the truth of His return, and He challenges His people to remember that it will be soon.
Jesus is coming soon, and with the eternal rewards and consequences that the end of this world
today will bring, there’s one obvious question that must be answered, which is “are we ready for the
return of Jesus?” God’s Word cries for the response that’s needed. In Rev. 20:17, the answer to the
question is to come to Jesus! To be ready to cry out “come Lord Jesus” and to be ready for the
beginning that the end will bring, we must come to Jesus Christ as the Lord and Savior that He is.
1. The cry of our heart should be “come Lord Jesus!” What are things that your Connect Group can
do each week to help grow that desire and that cry in your lives?
2. If Jesus is coming soon, what does that mean for you today? What things need to change in your
   life and what things does your Connect Group need to be doing for Jesus in light of the fact that
   He’s coming soon?