

DAY ONE

1. What did you think was most interesting from the lesson last week about the description of the new Jerusalem?

Read Revelation 22:1-4

NOTE: This chapter continues John's vision of the new Jerusalem, revealing its resemblance both to the garden of Eden before the fall and to the future temple of Ezekiel's vision (Ezekiel 40:43). Finally, in a solemn epilogue, John concludes with words from the angel through whom he has received this revelation from Jesus and a response from the Spirit and the Bride.
Williamson

2a. In the final chapter of this book, John's vision continued as he interacted with the angel. Describe what the angel showed him in verse 1.

b. Look up one of the following verses and record a phrase that shows how John drew upon imagery from the Old Testament.

Genesis 2:9-10

Ezekiel 47:12

Zechariah 14:8

3a. Complete the phrases below that describe the river that flowed down the middle of the great street of the city (verse 2).

On either side of the river

that produces fruit

the leaves of the trees

THINK: John's vision of heaven includes much more than praying and singing all day. The victors will pick fruit, eat and even find healing from the tree of life.

NOTE: Although the tree in this verse is singular, like the tree in the Garden of Eden, most commentators suggest that the vision is better pictured as multiple trees lining both banks of the river as in Ezekiel 47:12.

b. These images are hard to visualize and are not meant to be taken literally. Comment briefly on what one of the following images of paradise might have meant to John's audience.

river of life-giving water sparkling like crystal

flowing from the throne of God the Lamb down the middle of its street

tree of life that produces fruit twelve times a year

leaves of the trees serves as medicine

4. Why do you think John's vision added a garden to that of the city from the previous chapter in his vision of eternal life?

5a. The blessings of life transformed in the new creation were further described in verses 3-4. Complete the phrases below.

Nothing accursed

The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it

They will look upon his face

b. In the Old Testament, people were not allowed to see the face of God. (see Exodus 33:20) Read 1 John 3:2 and comment on why you think they will be able to do so in the new Jerusalem.

6. CONNECTION: In the final part of John's vision of the new Jerusalem, he described the eternal city as a garden much like the original Garden of Eden. But that original paradise has not only been restored but it has been transformed into the perfect eternal paradise. Through the power of God's love, we, too, can experience transformation in our world today. Share a story of how you, another or a group has been transformed, changed or renewed by the grace of God's mercy and love.

In his commentary on Revelation, Fr. McBride says that love is the royal road to heaven, the place where love thrives. In your prayer time today, reflect on how your experience of love has prepared you on your journey to heaven.

DAY TWO

Read Revelation 22:5-7

NOTE: Verses 6-9 conclude John's final vision while at the same time begin the epilogue of the book. These final verses parallel the prologue, framing the book with indications of its authority and importance as a prophetic communication. *Williamson*

7. As today's passage begins, we are reminded that night will be no more because God will provide complete illumination. Verse 5 concludes with the phrase, "and they shall reign forever and ever." To whom do you think the word "they" refers and what do you think it means?

8. In verse 6 the angel spoke to John. He repeated a phrase found in Revelation 21:5. What did he say about "these words"?

9. What is one truth that you have read in this book that has stayed in your heart? Why do you think it has affected you in this way?

10a. Record the sixth beatitude spoken by Jesus Christ in verse 7.

NOTE: The imminent return of Christ, mentioned in this chapter five times (22:6, 7, 10, 12, 20), calls us to holiness in the manner of urgent end-time preaching. It is clear that it is not a literal time frame in the way humans reckon time but as means to stir people to action for the sake of salvation and judgment that just might come to pass sooner in their lives than expected. *Williamson*

b. Refer to Revelation 1:3 and note the similarity of the beginning and ending of the book. Why is John circling back and repeating themes of this book in the epilogue?

11. In verse 7 a blessing is given to those who keep the prophetic message of this book. Recall that prophecy does not predict when Christ will return so much as guides us in holy living. Record an example of a prophetic message from this book and how you might keep it or put it into practice.

12. CONNECTION: Today we are called to enter into God's prophetic work to bring about his reign by helping transform our world into his kingdom of love, peace, justice and mercy. The reign of God will break forth when we follow Jesus. That can happen in small ways that bring his Good News to the poor, the sick, the brokenhearted and anyone in need of God's message of hope and truth. Share with your group one small way that you participated in bringing the kingdom of God to someone this past week.

In [Luke 11:2](#) we are taught to pray, "Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come."
Write a prayer today focusing on God's kingdom.

DAY THREE

Read [Revelation 22:8-11](#)

13a. As we begin today, John gave his testimony on the angel's final words. Complete the following phrases that record his words from the first sentence of verse 8.

It is I, John,

when I heard and saw them

at the feet of the angel

b. Record the definition of the word testimony and comment on what makes John's words a testimony.

14. When John's vision ended at last he seemed overwhelmed by what he had seen and heard. Explain in your own words what the angel told John when this happened (verse 9).

15. This was the second time John tried to worship an angel. (see [Revelation 19:10](#)) Is there a message in this story for us?

16. According to verse 10, John was told not to seal the book because "the appointed time is near." Read [Daniel 8:26](#). Why do you think John's instructions were different from those given to Daniel?

17a. Although the end was near, it had not yet arrived. Complete the phrases below that describe how people would continue to act according to verse 11?

let the wicked still act wickedly

The righteous must still do right

b. What do you think this verse means? (See the Commentary pg. 92-93 for help with your answer.)

18. CONNECTION: Today we are reminded that we can get distracted by God's messengers, the world or our busy lives, and the angel reminds us of our duty to simply "Worship God." God does not need our worship and worshipping him is a blessing that allows us to grow in grace and wisdom as we bring the deepest longings of the heart to him. Worship gathers us together in community to offer praise and obedience to him and we rely on his beloved "bride," the Church, to guide us. What recent liturgical experience expressed your idea of worship? Is there another place where you are able to meaningfully worship God? Record some thoughts to share.

Today as you pray, consider enhancing your worship experience by lighting a candle or playing spiritual music.

DAY FOUR

Read Revelation 22:12-15

19a. As we begin today, Jesus stated, 'Behold, I am coming soon.' Explain in your own words what he also promised according to the second sentence of verse 12?

b. For the second time in this chapter, John stated that Jesus is "coming soon." What do you think the urgent tone of this message and book was meant to convey to the early Christian audience?

20a. Record all the ways Jesus described himself in verse 13.

b. The attribution "Alpha and Omega" was used previously in this book to describe God (1:8; 21:6.) What do you think it means that Jesus used the same phrases to describe himself in this passage?

21a. Record the seventh and last beatitude that appears in verse 14.

b. How would you describe those who are allowed into the city?

22. Select one of the rewards from the second part of verse 14 below and describe what you think it means to those who will enjoy life in the eternal city.

the right to the tree of life

to enter the city through its gates

23. A warning was given in verse 15 that outside the heavenly gates were the unclean, idol worshipers and all who love and practice deceit. What do you think was the point of including this verse to John's historic audience? To us?

24. CONNECTION: Today we learned that those who have spiritually washed their robes are blessed and will be welcomed into the heavenly city. Participation in the sacraments of our church is one of the ways that our robes become white and unblemished and the stain of sin is removed. God's love is shared with us by the Holy Spirit through human ceremonies instituted by Christ on earth. Choose one of the sacraments and describe how it has been an opportunity for grace and God's love in your life.

In your prayer time today, reflect with gratitude on the opportunity to grow in God's grace and love through the sacraments of the Church.

DAY FIVE

Read Revelation 22:16-17

25. As we begin today, we read another testimony. Who was this witness and what did he tell John in the first sentence of verse 16?

26. Jesus identifies himself by the following names in verse 16. Select one and comment on what its symbolism means to you.

I am the root

offspring of David

bright morning star

27. In the first two sentences of verse 17, the Spirit, the bride and the hearer say, "Come." Our commentary describes verse 17 as a call to worship. Read the last paragraph on page 93 and describe who or what the following symbolizes.

The Spirit

the bride

the hearer

28. To whom do you think the invitation to come was issued and for what purpose? What does this invitation mean to you?

29. What was promised to those who have been invited by the Spirit and the bride? Complete the verses below from the last sentence of verse 17.

Let the one who thirsts

and the one who wants it

30. CONNECTION: At the end of our passage today, the Spirit and the bride offered the gift of life-giving water. This gift was directed to those who thirst and they must want to receive it. They must "come forward" in confidence and faith as Jesus calls the world to experience his love, forgiveness, justice and mercy. As hearers of the word, we are called to share that invitation for salvation with all people. What thirst or need do you feel right now? Do you know someone needing life-giving waters with whom you can share this gift? Share a story with your group.

In John 6:35 Jesus said, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger and whoever believes in me will never thirst." Spend some time today reflecting on this passage.

DAY SIX

Read Revelation 22: 18-21

31. A solemn warning begins our readings today. To whom was it given (verse 18)?

32. Complete the phrases from below from verses 18-19 that describe the two warnings and penalties for the hearers of the prophetic words of this book.

if anyone adds to them

if anyone takes away from the words in this prophetic book

NOTE: These verses are a warning against idolatry or following false prophets and are directed against false teachings and false prophecies, warning that God will punish interpretations of the Christian faith that allow the idolatry, immorality and compromise with evil that the book condemns. *Williamson*

33a. Record the words of testimony from the first sentence of verse 20.

b. This was the third time Jesus said he was coming soon. Since that did not happen, what do you think this unfulfilled expectation meant to the historical Christians? What does it mean to us today who pray for the day that he will come again in glory?

34a. The speaker says "Amen!" in verse 20. Look up the meaning of that word and comment on what you think it means in this verse.

b. Verse 20 ends with the prayer, "Come, Lord Jesus!" In what way does this simple prayer that ends the last book of the bible express how your faith relationship with Jesus has grown this year?

NOTE: Verse 20 echoes the liturgical refrain similar to the Aramaic expression *Marana tha*, "Our Lord, come!" in 1 Corinthians 16:22. It was a prayer for the coming of Christ in glory at the Parousia. NABRE

35a. John ends his book, which was also a letter and a prophecy, with the literary feature of a closing and parting blessing. Record his words from verse 21. (Good memory verse)

b. Comment on whether or not you think the Revelation to John is a good conclusion to the New Testament and entire bible.

36. CONNECTION: In the last chapter of the Revelation to John, we read the final words of Jesus, the Faithful Witness to divine truth. Those who anticipate and long for Christ's return are called to holy living, to stay alert and be ready for his coming. This requires that we persevere in his mission and witness to his Good News by serving him faithfully and making use of our gifts and resources while caring for others. Reflect on the images and visions that have filled your heart and mind this year. Record some thoughts about those that have meant the most to you that will help you live a holier, more authentic life. If you are comfortable, share one or two with your group.

Begin your prayer today, "Come, Lord Jesus!" Answer with Amen!

Read pages 91-94 in the *New Collegeville Commentary, The Book of Revelation* by Catherine A. Cory, Ph.D. The Cornerstone Catholic Scripture Study acknowledges that scripture quotations in this study are from the New American Bible, Revised Edition (NABRE) © 2010, 1991, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission.

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