

OASIS:
“A NEW WORLD COMING”
DONE IN SYNC WITH
THE “LIVING GOD’S STORY” JOURNEY



Preface: Welcome to our last LC Bible study in our sermon series “Living God’s Story.” After 37 sermons, we have reached our FINAL one and have journeyed through the entire Bible, from Genesis to Revelation. These LC studies have aimed to complement the sermons, often using the same biblical texts, and have intended to go deeper in personal understanding and application. The italicized portions are meant to resource and help you in leading. It’s been such a pleasure preparing these; I hope they have been beneficial for you and your LC. May the Lord be with us as we rest and seek renewal this summer.

Starter Questions:

What are the first things that come to your mind about the afterlife?

As frightening as the thought of hell is, have you ever thought that heaven might actually be boring?

What anxieties do you have concerning the afterlife?

Transition:

For many of us, our anxieties with the afterlife lie with being separated from our loved ones. The one thing we can trust is that God’s children will be in His presence and not only will there be no anxiety and pain but our hearts will be finally filled with peace, joy and love. (This is why God calls it “heaven.”)

Study’s BIG idea: In the end, God will make all things right.

Revelation 21:1-8 (NIV ©2011)

¹ Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ² I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴ ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

⁵ He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

⁶ He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life. ⁷ Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children. ⁸ But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars —they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.”

Revelation 22 (NIV © 2011)

¹ Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ² down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ³ No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be

in the city, and his servants will serve him. ⁴They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.

⁶The angel said to me, “These words are trustworthy and true. The Lord, the God who inspires the prophets, sent his angel to show his servants the things that must soon take place.”

⁷“Look, I am coming soon! Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy written in this scroll.”

⁸I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I had heard and seen them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who had been showing them to me. ⁹But he said to me, “Don’t do that! I am a fellow servant with you and with your fellow prophets and with all who keep the words of this scroll. Worship God!”

¹⁰Then he told me, “Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this scroll, because the time is near.

¹¹Let the one who does wrong continue to do wrong; let the vile person continue to be vile; let the one who does right continue to do right; and let the holy person continue to be holy.”

¹²“Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done. ¹³I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.

¹⁴“Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city. ¹⁵Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

¹⁶“I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star.”

¹⁷The Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let the one who hears say, “Come!” Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life.

¹⁸I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this scroll: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to that person the plagues described in this scroll. ¹⁹And if anyone takes words away from this scroll of prophecy, God will take away from that person any share in the tree of life and in the Holy City, which are described in this scroll.

²⁰He who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am coming soon.”

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

²¹The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God’s people. Amen.

Discussion Questions:

O – What do you appreciate most about what is described in Rev. 21:1-8?

I – There is a terrible punishment for those described in vs. 6-8. How should believers live in response to these verses?

(To do nothing is to contribute to the evil. We believers are to share, build and serve the Kingdom in hopes that no one would perish.)

I – When the Lord says He is making “all things new”, what do you imagine that world to look like?

A – Over the years, “creation care” and environmentalism have become popular terms and two extremes have surfaced. One is to live without regard to a world that will one day be destroyed (and in the Christian vision, be made new) and the other is to go through all measures to protect the world from any harm. What middle option could we as a Church champion, and what would that look like?

(We would be wise to cherish the calling God gave Adam and Eve in taking care of creation. The teaching of stewardship is to be faithful with all that God has entrusted us with.)

A – Please take note, when the Lord proclaims that He will make all things new, this extends far beyond the physical world. We will be made new, others will be made new, our relationships will be made new. The Resurrection of Jesus announces this redemption! As partners in redemption, what is the Christian response to living in a broken world that awaits final redemption?

O – How would you describe the tone of Revelation 22?
(Hopeful, triumphant, ...)

O – What commands are given?
(Keep the word, worship, trust, ...)

I – It’s interesting to note that John is told not to seal up these words of prophecy in verse 10. Clearly these words were intended for immediate use. Revelation is a deep and complicated book but a crucial one – what do you see as the main themes of its message? (Could you make a “six-word” story out of it?)

(The message of Revelation is to give believers hope in the midst of uncertainty and suffering. The message that God will make all things new furthers courage, perseverance and faith. As far as “six-word stories,” my best attempts include:

“The end is near, be faithful.” “End near, God will make new.” “Death defeated. Bring your dance shoes.” “Satan vanquished, believers saved, God be praised.” – I know that wasn’t six, but being Revelation, it’s not intended to be a literal six ;)

A – How would you describe the main themes that you have learned in the Living God’s Story series? What was new? What finally made sense? How will you be living a better story now?

Text notes (you can access biblical texts via www.Biblegateway.com)

- a. **Please note that not all these questions are to be asked in a single night.** Take some time and select and reword the questions that best fit your voice and your LIFE Community group. Certain questions work better for certain groups. You are encouraged to prayerfully discern what will serve your LC the best.
- b. Complement OIA questions with “process questions” (what else? what more? what do others think?).
- c. When you ask questions, give people ample time to think and respond. Wait. Take your time; don’t rush people but encourage their participation. And avoid answering your own questions!
- d. Timing/pacing: allocate your time and move forward gently, with a steady pace.
- e. Application: Pace the study to conclude with “difference making” application.
- f. Secondary texts—use other texts sparingly, even if they are relevant. Such texts will push you into “teaching,” rather than facilitating. It can cause people to feel distracted or de-powered.