

## HOPE HAS A NAME: WEEK 5

### SPIRITUAL PRACTICE STUDY

This weekend we heard about the blessed hope found in the return of Christ. We were reminded that the early church looked forward to the second coming more than anything else. It was this hope that let them face life or death with a joy and love that could not be stopped. We cannot hope like they hoped, if we don't hope for what they hoped for. So, we will place our hope in the return of Christ and this week we will lean into the transforming practice of study to help us focus our hope.

Study is the practice of having our minds renewed by being immersed in Scripture. There is a simple method to study the Bible using the acronym S.O.A.P (Scripture. Observation. Application. Prayer.) We'll use this as a template for our study in Revelation 21-22 this week. Revelation is a fascinating book. If you desire to go deeper, consider these commentaries: Revelation for Everyone, by NT Wright (scholarly but accessible and high on application;) The IVP New Testament Commentary Series: Revelation, by J. Ramsey Michaels (scholarly but also pastoral in approach.)

# DAY 1

**Scripture:** Read the passage slowly and 2-3 times.

#### Revelation 21:1-5

*<sup>1</sup> 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. <sup>2</sup> I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> '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." <sup>5</sup> 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."*

**Observation:** As you slowly read and re-read the passage take note of what you see. What does it say? What does it reveal about God? What does it reveal about you? What questions does it provoke? What does it not say? Record at least six observations here:

**Application:** James 1:22 says, "Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says." Jesus modeled this kind of application when he said he only did what the Father told him to do, and then he healed and taught and fed 5000. As you read back through this passage how will it apply to your life today? Write it down. Share it with a friend. Then, do it. Note: sometimes passages of Scripture don't seem to have clear application points but don't let that deter you. Sit longer with the passage. Ask God to speak to you through his word. Always seek application.

**Prayer:** Let this passage guide how you pray today. Say this prayer out loud or write it down (or both.)

# DAY 2

**Scripture:** Read the passage slowly and 2-3 times.

## **Revelation 21:6-21**

<sup>6</sup> 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.

<sup>7</sup> Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children. <sup>8</sup> 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."

<sup>9</sup> One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb." <sup>10</sup> And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. <sup>11</sup> It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. <sup>12</sup> It had a great, high wall with twelve gates, and with twelve angels at the gates. On the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel. <sup>13</sup> There were three gates on the east, three on the north, three on the south and three on the west. <sup>14</sup> The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

<sup>15</sup> The angel who talked with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city, its gates and its walls. <sup>16</sup> The city was laid out like a square, as long as it was wide.

He measured the city with the rod and found it to be 12,000 stadia in length, and as wide and high as it is long. <sup>17</sup>

The angel measured the wall using human measurement, and it was 144 cubits thick. <sup>18</sup> The wall was made of jasper, and the city of pure gold, as pure as glass. <sup>19</sup> The foundations of the city walls were decorated with every kind of precious stone. The first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald,

<sup>20</sup> the fifth onyx, the sixth ruby, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth turquoise, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst. <sup>21</sup> The twelve gates were twelve pearls, each gate made of a single pearl. The great street of the city was of gold, as pure as transparent glass.

**Observation:** As you slowly read and re-read the passage take note of what you see. What does it say? What does it reveal about God? What does it reveal about you? What questions does it provoke? What does it not say? Record at least six observations here:

**Application:** James 1:22 says, "Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says."

Jesus modeled this kind of application when he said he only did what the Father told him to do, and then he healed and taught and fed 5000. As you read back through this passage how will it apply to your life today? Write it down. Share it with a friend. Then, do it. Note: sometimes passages of Scripture don't seem to have clear application points but don't let that deter you. Sit longer with the passage. Ask God to speak to you through his word. Always seek application.

**Prayer:** Let this passage guide how you pray today. Say this prayer out loud or write it down (or both.)

# DAY 3

**Scripture:** Read the passage slowly and 2-3 times.

**Revelation 21:22-27**

*<sup>22</sup> I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. <sup>23</sup> The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. <sup>24</sup> The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. <sup>25</sup> On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. <sup>26</sup> The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it. <sup>27</sup> Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.*

**Observation:** As you slowly read and re-read the passage take note of what you see. What does it say? What does it reveal about God? What does it reveal about you? What questions does it provoke? What does it not say? Record at least six observations here:

**Application:** **James 1:22** says, *“Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.”* Jesus modeled this kind of application when he said he only did what the Father told him to do, and then he healed and taught and fed 5000. As you read back through this passage how will it apply to your life today? Write it down. Share it with a friend. Then, do it. Note: sometimes passages of Scripture don't seem to have clear application points but don't let that deter you. Sit longer with the passage. Ask God to speak to you through his word. Always seek application.

**Prayer:** Let this passage guide how you pray today. Say this prayer out loud or write it down (or both.)

# DAY 4

**Scripture:** Read the passage slowly and 2-3 times.

## **Revelation 22:1-7**

*<sup>1</sup> 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 <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. <sup>5</sup> There 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. <sup>6</sup> The 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."*

*<sup>7</sup> "Look, I am coming soon! Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy written in this scroll."*

**Observation:** As you slowly read and re-read the passage take note of what you see. What does it say? What does it reveal about God? What does it reveal about you? What questions does it provoke? What does it not say? Record at least six observations here:

**Application:** **James 1:22** says, *"Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says."* Jesus modeled this kind of application when he said he only did what the Father told him to do, and then he healed and taught and fed 5000. As you read back through this passage how will it apply to your life today? Write it down. Share it with a friend. Then, do it. Note: sometimes passages of Scripture don't seem to have clear application points but don't let that deter you. Sit longer with the passage. Ask God to speak to you through his word. Always seek application.

**Prayer:** Let this passage guide how you pray today. Say this prayer out loud or write it down (or both.)

# DAY 5

**Scripture:** Read the passage slowly and 2-3 times.

## **Revelation 22:8-21**

<sup>8</sup> I, 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. <sup>9</sup> But 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!" <sup>10</sup> Then he told me, "Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this scroll, because the time is near. <sup>11</sup> Let 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."

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

<sup>14</sup> "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. <sup>15</sup> Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

<sup>16</sup> "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."

<sup>17</sup> The 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.

<sup>18</sup> I 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. <sup>19</sup> And 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.

<sup>20</sup> He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. <sup>21</sup> The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen.

**Observation:** As you slowly read and re-read the passage take note of what you see. What does it say? What does it reveal about God? What does it reveal about you? What questions does it provoke? What does it not say? Record at least six observations here:

**Application:** James 1:22 says, "Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says." Jesus modeled this kind of application when he said he only did what the Father told him to do, and then he healed and taught and fed 5000. As you read back through this passage how will it apply to your life today? Write it down. Share it with a friend. Then, do it. Note: sometimes passages of Scripture don't seem to have clear application points but don't let that deter you. Sit longer with the passage. Ask God to speak to you through his word. Always seek application.

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