

# **BROKEN HEARTED HAPPINESS**

Part 2 of The Return of Christ. Revelation 20.  
Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. July 16, 2023.

## **THE OFFICE DEBACLE**

**Michael Scott and The Office TV series is a parable for life in this world.**

**God has promised a “prize” for his faithful people - Revelation 21-22.**

### **WHAT IS THE PROMISED PRIZE?**

#### **1. God is the prize - 21:1-8.**

Revelation 21:1-4 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. 2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. 4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

- These verses picture the fulfillment of God’s promises about eternity in passages such as Isaiah 25:18 and 65:17, 19. A new creation, new Jerusalem, no more death or tears of sorrow.
- But these are not ultimate. The prize is God himself - Leviticus 26:11-12; Ezekiel 37:27.
- Every hard decision, sacrifice, rejection, hurt, and loss will feel worth it when we experience God-with-us in the new creation.
- Therefore, stand firm in faith. Follow Jesus. Receive the prize.

## 2. Glorification is the prize - 21:9-27.

Revelation 21:9-11 (ESV) Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, "Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb." 10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, 11 having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal.

- Believers are pictured as the Bride, the Holy City, and the Holy of Holies.
- Believers will be beautiful in splendor: jewels, gold, pearls, etc.
- Our destiny is glorification:

Romans 8:30 (ESV) ... and those whom he justified he also glorified.

Colossians 3:4 (ESV) When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

1 John 3:2 (ESV) ... we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.

Philippians 3:20-21 (ESV) ... our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

- Glorification is God's work by which his people will be:
  - Raised to new life in the new creation
  - Given transformed bodies designed for eternity in the presence of God
  - Free from every effect of the fall
  - Conformed to Christ
  - Perfected
  - In the presence of God's light and glory - verses 23-24
- God will give us everything he wants for us through Christ.

### **3. The new Eden is the prize - 2:1-5.**

Revelation 22:1-5 (ESV) Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb 2 through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. 3 No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. 4 They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. 5 And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

- This passage recalls the Garden of Eden in Genesis 2-3 - a place of beauty, abundance and human flourishing, a garden temple.
- The story arc of the Bible will be complete. We're going back to Eden - a metaphor for the fullness of life with God. An amazing life:
  - We'll live in God's presence - verse 1.
  - We'll drink from God's river, which is ever-flowing life - verse 1.
  - We'll eat from the tree of life - verse 2.
  - We'll be healed by its leaves - redeemed, saved, alive - verse 2.
  - We'll live in God's blessings, and we'll never sin - verse 3.
  - We'll all serve as God's priests - verse 4.
  - We'll live in constant light, seeing God's face - verse 5.
  - We'll reign as kings and queens forever - verse 5.
- Life in the new Eden is the best life, life as God intends. Eternal, full, and satisfying.
- Everything in Eden is centered on God. He is the prize.

**DELAYED GRATIFICATION**

## FAQ: LIFE IN THE NEW CREATION

- Is there a difference between heaven and the new creation? Yes and no. In the Bible, heaven is 1) where God is, 2) where believers go immediately after death, and 3) the eternal home of God's people, which is heaven on earth in the new creation of Revelation 21-22.
- Do people who commit suicide enter the new creation? Our right standing with God is a gift of grace (unearned, undeserved) received through faith. All our sins are forgiven in Christ. God's grace is greater than all our sins.
- Why do Christians sometimes fear death? Because death is unnatural and a mystery - we fear what we don't know. Believers can overcome their fear of death by focusing on the new creation, meeting Jesus face to face (2 Cor. 5:8).
- Will we know one another in the new creation? Probably. See this online article: <https://openthebible.org/article/will-we-know-each-other-in-heaven>.
- Will we know everything in the new creation? Probably not since we'll still be human and therefore finite. Our knowledge will be limited but will grow.
- Will we age in the new creation? No. We'll be fully complete, mature, perfect, and whole humans in resurrection bodies (1 Corinthians 15:42-49).
- Will injuries and other physical disabilities remain in heaven? No. None of the consequences of living in a fallen, sinful, world will remain (Romans 8:23).
- Will we work in heaven? Yes, and it will be the most satisfying and fulfilling labor we have ever known (Revelation 22:3).
- What will we look like in heaven? Perfect! We will have a transformed, glorified body in heaven that is incorruptible, glorious, powerful, and spiritual (1 Corinthians 15:42-44)!