



*We ain't seen
nothing yet!*

GROWTH GUIDE JULY 7, 2024

7th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Revelation 21:1-7

AUTHOR

The author is John, one of Jesus' disciples, who was an eyewitness to all that Jesus accomplished during his time on earth. John wrote from Patmos, off the coast of Asia which was a Roman province (modern day Turkey), around AD 95 where John had been exiled. He received this revelation from Jesus through an angel.

CONTEXT

Revelation is a book of prophecy and is the climax of the entire revelation of God to His people. It was written to the 7 churches in Asia believed to be experiencing intense persecution under the Roman Emperor Domitian, and to all believers everywhere. It is written in apocalyptic form, which is a type of Jewish literature that uses symbolic images to convey hope to those in the midst of persecution. The word apocalyptic comes from the Greek word apokalypsis which means revelation.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read Revelation 21:1-7. What catches your attention about this passage? What challenges you?
2. In Revelation 21:1, what does John see and what has passed away?
3. John writes about the new earth. Read the following verses: Isaiah 65:17, Isaiah 66:22, Romans 8:18-21, and 2 Peter 3:7-13. What can you glean about the new earth from these verses?

4. In Revelation 21:2, what does John compare the holy city with? Why do you think this imagery is used here?
5. In Revelation 21:3, God's dwelling place is now among the people. That God will dwell with his people is a promise of God's covenant with Israel. Read Exodus 25:8, Exodus 29:45-46, Leviticus 26:12, 1 Kings 6:13, Ezekiel 37:27, and Zechariah 2:10-11.
6. Read Revelation 21:3-4 again. These are some of the most comforting words in scripture. What will no longer exist? How does this comfort you?
7. Revelation 21:6 promises that those who are thirsty will be able to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. This refers to a desire for spiritual blessings. What spiritual blessings do you desire?
8. To follow Christ requires boldness and bravery to stand for him when oppression occurs. Pray for courage to do what's right no matter what pressure you face. Read Mark 13:13. Those who can endure the testing of evil and remain faithful will be rewarded by God. They will receive the blessings that God promised.

ENCOURAGEMENT

Revelation is a book of hope and reminds us that God will defeat all evil in the end.

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