

# Encouragement as We Wait for Christ's Return

Waiting for Jesus Christ's second coming can feel discouraging as we continue to witness the pain and brokenness of this world. It's not unusual to cry, like the Psalmist, "How long, Lord?" Exiled to Patmos, John knew what it felt like to long for God's promised coming while enduring injustice and watching evil, grief, and pain continue to weigh heavily on a weary world. But as Revelation closes, John shares an encouraging vision of a restored heaven—a beautiful, life-filled city whose light comes from God himself. Join us as we study John's vision and discuss the immense hope it offers as we remember that God is still in control and Christ has already won the final victory. Discover with us encouragement for persevering in our faith and remaining faithful in the work to which God has called us while we, like John, wait for the fullness of God's kingdom to come.

**AWARENESS** Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- Do you find it easy or hard to wait for Christ's return? Why?
- What are you most looking forward to when Christ returns?



**LISTEN TO THE EPISODE:** [Encouragement as We Wait for Christ's Return](#)

**READ** [Revelation 22](#)

**REFLECTION** After listening, consider the following questions:

- In segment 1, hosts Darrell Delaney and Scott Hoezee discuss the parallels between [Revelation 22:1-7](#) and [Genesis 2:8-14](#). Why are these connections meaningful? What does it teach or affirm about God's character?
- As host Scott Hoezee reflects on [Revelation 22:12-15](#), he says "What should you be doing when Jesus comes back? Your duty...Being faithful to your call when Jesus returns." What does it mean for you to be faithful to your call? How should you be filling your time now on earth?
- Read [Revelation 22](#) again. This closing chapter of the Bible once again emphasizes God's engagement with his creation, affirms that God is in control, and provides believers with hope. In what ways does this knowledge encourage you? How does this knowledge help you remain faithful when you face situations or circumstances that seem hopeless? How might this knowledge affect the way you act or the things you prioritize this week? What does it help you to do?

**RELATED PASSAGES** for further study

[Genesis 2:8-14](#), [Romans 8:18-25](#), [Psalm 37](#), [Matthew 24](#), [Hebrews 1:1-3](#), [Matthew 16:24-27](#), [Hebrews 10:19-39](#)

## CONCLUSION

In segment 3, Scott and Darrell review the ways the book of Revelation encourages and strengthens our faith and they reflect on how this stands in stark contrast to the way Revelation is often used to frighten or intimidate believers. Here is a brief summary of the four highlights they discuss:

- The way the world is now is not how it will ultimately be; there will be a new heaven and a new earth.
- God calls us to persevere in our faith and not give up on doing good, but to continue to be faithful.
- Christ has already won the victory. We're waiting for the fullness of his shalom.
- Heavenly worship will be diverse and beautiful, and it is our natural response to eternal life in God's presence.

As you reflect on their review of Revelation, what points were particularly encouraging to you in your faith right now? Why? How do John's visions help you wait faithfully for the fullness of God's kingdom?

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