

Scripture is a 'Grand Narrative' with purpose and objectives. A text with a developing story that clearly progresses toward the accomplishment of specific goals.

-Richard Lints

The Apostles understood eschatology not merely as futurology but as a mindset for understanding the present within the climaxing context of redemptive history.

-G.K. Beale

Eschatology should be a lens, affecting the way we see everything in scripture (and I would argue the world) rather than only serving as an appendix to the theological system.

-Michael Horton

Revelation 21:1-4 sums up and contain the entire message of the Bible. The whole of the history of the covenant and redemption lies behind this glorious affirmation. Every aspect of the hope of Israel - covenant, redemption, promised land, temple, Zion, Davidic prince, new Eden - is woven into one simple and profound statement: the dwelling of God is with man.

-Graeme Goldsworthy

Matthew 1:23

See, the virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they will name Him Immanuel, which is translated “God is with us.”

Revelation 21:3

Then I heard a loud voice from the throne: Look! God’s dwelling is with humanity, and He will live with them. They will be His people, and God Himself will be with them and be their God.

Leviticus 26:11-12

I will place My residence among you, and I will not reject you. I will walk among you and be your God, and you will be My people.

Ezekiel 48:35

...the name of the city from that day on will be: Yahweh Is There.

The vision of Revelation 21-22 establishes the 'coherent and richly evocative image of a place in which the people live in the immediate presence of God.

-Richard Bauckham

Revelation 21:7

The victor will inherit these things, and I will be his God, and he will be My son.

What we are continually being sold are possibilities for pleasure...as though all we want to do is get away from the pain and increase the pleasure. Longing solely for happiness literally sabotages the pleasures of experience. A life built in pursuit of ultimate satisfaction often tends to run your satisfaction to the ground.

-British philosopher and psychoanalyst Adam Phillips on Western culture's fixation with happiness, New York Times.

The twentieth century will be remembered as an age of wondrous creativity, when Americans voluntarily shattered their lives into distant and dissonant fragments. America's industries learned how to assemble atomic bombs, airplanes, iPads and the genetic codes of life itself in the same era that American society disassembled the ancient overlap of family, food, faith and the field of work. Americans reached for the stars as they withered their roots, inhabited space but lost any sense of place.

-David Janzen

Revelation 21:1-2

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea no longer existed. I also saw the Holy City, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared like a bride adorned for her husband.

Revelation 21:5

Then the One seated on the throne said, "Look! I am making everything new." He also said, "Write, because these words are faithful and true."

As the better Eden, better Jerusalem, and better temple of the Lord, the new heaven and new earth shows us that God has fulfilled his promise to establish dominion over all creation.

1 Thessalonians 2:8

Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well.

He prioritized his life around loving people. He didn't dabble with love but devoted himself to his disciples. He washed their feet and restored them after they failed. He died for their (and everyone's) sins, and then rose again on their behalf. He came to us to secure a place for us. He takes his kingdom and this earth seriously. He has been preparing a place for us, and one day the beautiful city will come to earth, and we will dwell with him forever.

-John Tyson

Where do we need the grace to see God's presence in our lives?

Where/Who do we need the faith to show God's presence in our lives?