

For the week of December 16, 2018

Preacher: Dan Westman

Between the Advents

Third week of Advent

Revelation 21:1-4

In Advent, we reflect back on Jesus' birth as a baby and we anticipate his return as a king. What will that day be like? Better than we can imagine! Jesus has come, and he is coming again — to remove every barrier that keeps us from him.

Discussion Questions:

1. How does the future return of Christ affect your present relationship with God? Do you long for Jesus to come back?
2. The absence of the sea in the new heavens and the new earth is a symbol of God's final victory over evil (Rev 31:1; 16:3; 17:1-2; cf. Is 57:20). How have you experienced aspects of God's victory over evil in your life?
3. The reference to the new Jerusalem as a bride in Revelation 21:2 is an allusion to Isaiah 62:1-5, where God is said to delight over his people whom he will restore. Do you believe that God delights in you as a groom delight in his bride?
4. Revelation 21:3 is the final result of God's eternal desire to dwell with his people. What do we learn here about the kind of relationship that God desires to have with us?
5. How does the description of the removal of suffering in the new heavens and the new earth (Rev 21:4) give you hope in the midst of your present suffering?