

## **This Is the Way the World Ends (and Begins Again)**

Revelation 21:1 – 22:5

Building on Steve Huber's words last week...

The Big Story of Everything: Creation, Fall, Redemption, Consummation

- Consummation: the return of Christ and the remaking of the world
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Some say Restoration instead of Consummation. Why do I prefer the latter term?
  - Because things aren't just restored: a major upgrade is coming!

How the end is different than the beginning:

1. Many people, not only two
  - Gen 2:22 vs. Rev 21:24,26: From a garden to a city!
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. A change in our light source
  - Gen 1:16 vs. Rev 21:23, 22:5

3. The world is so beautiful that precious gems are commonplace
  - Gen 2:11-12 vs. Rev 21:10,11,18-21, 22:1
  - Glory of God: Rev 21:11
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. No evil will enter
  - Gen 3:1 vs. Rev 21:4,8,27, 22:3
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. Marital imagery: our full relationship with God is finally realized
  - Gen 2:18 vs. Rev 21:2, 9, also 22:4

### Questions for Reflection and Application:

1. Read Revelation 21:1-22:5.
  - a. Review from the sermon notes how the next world is a major upgrade.
  - b. Can you find another example of an upgrade?
2. Is this practical? How does knowing the end of the world (and its rebirth!) affect your life?
  - a. Do you agree with this statement: "Knowing the end of the story has huge implications for us, even this very day—but *only if we have strong faith*. Otherwise it's not important."
  - b. Contrast this with Steve Huber's words: "Some people believe that the story is that we came from nothing and we're returning to nothing."