



Revelation 21.1-5 and 22.1-5

All that is broken will be remade. All that is amiss will come into alignment. All that is. All that I experience. All that has ever been wrong and undone will come untrue, and life will never be the same again. This is the hope we have as followers of Jesus. The God who broke into time and space to redeem us will finish His work by bringing life full circle. That which was will one day be again. God's life, His creation life will be our future life. I can't tell you what hope this provides for me. I see so much around me that is broken. So much in me is broken. I simply shake my head, overcome by what is. The weight of it all is staggering. What keeps me going is the truth that what is will not always be. This truth keeps me trudging forward. The problem is that it is just that, trudging. Life will be. . . It all seems so far off. What about today? Is there any hope for today, or must I trudge forward to the future, glorious no doubt, but the future nonetheless?

I trudge along because it all seems so distant, this coming untrue of all that is. Is this reality or just my perception of reality? God said that He was making all things new (Rev. 21.5). Not in the future. Not tomorrow. Making all things new, today. Surely the life God has for me, for you, will come. It will come with the final work of God. The reality is that God's final work comes as the culmination of the work He is doing even as we speak. Today God is making all things new. Today, we can see and experience glimmers of life as we know it coming true. One day in fullness. Today, only glimmers. But, glimmers give me hope that what God promises is not a dream but reality. Glimmers create a faithful longing as I see what life can and will be. Glimmers show me God is alive and working. Glimmers give me strength to do more than trudge forward. What will be is not yet, not fully. However, what I now am is not fully what I was. For that I am thankful, thankful that I am part of *The Story*.

A fellow traveler,

Blake
Spiritual Formation Pastor

My Next Step

We encourage you to consider doing the following as a way of handing off faith to your family. . .

- **Turning to God in the present:** God is now working in our lives to make all things new. However, we often behave as if His work was limited to some point in the future. The present is left for us to struggle through. As a family, consider turning to God for His redemptive work in the present. This can be done by using family prayer times, such as prayers before meals, to ask for God to move in areas of our lives and world that need His redemptive touch. We might pray for things like peace in areas of unrest and for things like peace in our relationships with one another. Take every family concern as an opportunity to turn to God and ask that what is would come untrue.

We encourage you to take one of the following next steps on your faith journey. . .

- **Give thanks:** We can easily be overwhelmed by the brokenness that surrounds us and pervades our lives. Consider taking time this week to offer thanks for God's redemptive work in the present. Once this week, or once each day think of at least five areas in which you see God moving. This could be provision for a need that you had, or the granting of freedom in big or little ways from brokenness in your life. For example, today you might have found yourself able to be patient in a circumstance in which you normally have no patience. Offer thanks for these and see them as glimmers of God's present redemptive work in your life.