

Revelation 22:1-5

The Eternal Privileges of Heavenly Citizenship: We Shall Reign with Him Forever

INTRO: “He Shall Reign Forevermore” and the “Hallelujah Chorus!”

Heavenly *Membership* Has its *Eternal Privileges*:

1) As Royal Priests, We Shall Serve Our Sovereign God with Joy and Gladness

(Revelation 22:3b)

2) As Glorified Saints, We Shall See the LORD in All His Glory.

(Revelation 22:4a)

3) As Adopted Children, We Will Experience the Father’s Favor in Spiritually Intimate Ways.

(Revelation 22:4b)

4) _____

(Revelation 22:5; 2 Tim. 2:12)

To really appreciate this fourth eternal privilege, we need to grasp the biblical backstory:

A) Our _____ -(Genesis 5:1-2; 9:6; James 3:9)

B) Our _____ - (Genesis 1:26-28; Psalm 8)

C) Our _____ - (Genesis 3)

D) Our _____ -(Rev. 19:11-22:4b; Rom. 16:20)

Where do you fit into God's grand design? (Revelation 2:25-28; 5:8-10; 19:11-20:1-6; 22:3-5)

For Further Reflection/Application: *How has God been sanctifying you through His Word?*

Pay attention to the lyrics of Tomlin's song, "He Shall Reign Forevermore" as well as to Handel's masterpiece, the "Hallelujah Chorus." Are you ready for the King's return? Does the return of Christ thrill your heart or frighten you? Are you actively watching and waiting in a biblically balanced manner? Note our sermon series on Matthew 24-25.

With faith and hope believers should-

1) *Anticipate* the Messianic Kingdom (Luke 1/Acts 1:6-7; Titus 2:13-14);
We should 2) *Pray and long for* its arrival (Matthew 6:10; Rev. 22:20);
And we ought to 3) *Celebrate in song* its cosmic, eternal, and personal significance (Rev. 5; Rev. 20-22). Read through some of the related passages listed above and ask yourself:
Which of the three do I struggle with the most? Why? How can I grow in these three areas?

Memorize Hebrews 10:23 and meditate on its practical significance.

Mankind's inherent dignity is directly related to A) Our Special Status.

Look up the following passages to see how practical this truth is: 1) Genesis 9:6/Psalm 139:14 (murder/abortion). 2) James 3:9 (how we speak to and treat other people). 3) Genesis 1:26-27; 5:1-2; Psalm 8 (our privileged role as vice-regents over all creation).

With great privilege (we are created in the "image of God") comes great responsibility.
Do you feel the blessed weight of these amazing privileges?

Explain how/why God gave man the special privilege of functioning as his "vice-regents" over the earth? As you study Genesis 1:26-28 notice the strong terms, "rule, reign, subdue" and the repeated use of the word "over." Psalm 8 is an inspired commentary of Genesis 1:26-28. How does it help us make sense of this kingdom mandate?

A dereliction of duty "is the shameful failure to fulfill one's obligations." How did Adam fail to watch over/guard the garden in Genesis 3? Are you a faithful spiritual protector of those who look up to you- (as a husband, parent, older sibling, elder/deacon, small group leader, etc.)?

How does Genesis 3:14-15 set the stage for Christ's life and death (Heb. 2:14-16; Romans 16:20) and the retaking of the planet by force in Revelation 19-20.

How does Genesis 1:26-28 relate to the future earthly Kingdom of Christ ("the last Adam")? Remember that man was tasked to rule from and over all the earth for the glory of God. We believe that premillennialism perfectly fits within the purpose/plan of God for man and this present creation. There must be a future, earthly kingdom and we believe Scriptures teaches that there will be one. Christ reclaims the universe (note the battle of Armageddon- Rev. 19:11) and then establishes a "1,000 year" Kingdom on earth (Rev. 20:1-6). After destroying this present earth (2 Peter 3) God will create a "new heavens and a new earth" (Revelation 21). As vice-regents God's people will reign with Christ forever and ever (Revelation 22:5). This must take place because the true Messiah's Kingdom will have no end (2 Samuel 7/the Davidic Covenant).

What other responses/applications flow out a proper understanding and application of this fourth privilege?

Related Praise Songs: *Theology fuels Doxology! We dig deeply in God's Word in order that we may go high in praise and adoration!*

Hallelujah Chorus- Handel

He Shall Reign Forevermore- Chris Tomlin

Jesus Will Reign- Hymn (Watts); note also Keith and Kristyn Getty's version.

Joy to the World! Hymn (Watts);

Rejoice, the Lord is King- Hymn (Wesley)

Come, Lord Jesus- "Prayers of the Saints," Sovereign Grace Music

One Day (When We All Get to Heaven)- Matt Redman

Overcome- Jeremy Camp

This We Know- Vertical Worship

Hymn of the Last Days- Horatius Bonar

O That Will Be Glory- Hymn

Soon and Very Soon- Hymn

We Shall See His Face- Hymn, Ernest Wesley

How Sweet the Day-

Related Scripture Passages: *Search the Scriptures to see if these things be so.*

Revelation 22:1-6; 20. 2:25-28; 5:8-10; 19:11-20:6; Genesis 1:26-28; 5:1-2; 9:6;
2 Sam. 7; Psalm 115:3; Matthew 6:10; Acts 1:6-7; 2 Timothy 2:12; Titus 2:13-14; Hebrews
10:23; 2 Peter 3.

All of our sermons can be downloaded for *free* on our website at www.lakecountrybible.org