

## Lesson 9: Revelation 21

Opening Question: Where is one of the most beautiful places you have ever been?

Opening Prayer: Earthly beauty creates in us a longing for heavenly beauty, Lord. Open our eyes each day to the beauty surrounding us, so that our hearts are regularly drawn toward



and the lamb come together - both of them signs that the dualities in Genesis are at last united, as was always intended - so the garden and the city come together as well. Humans, in community with one another and with God, are to exercise their delighted and wise stewardship over the earth and its fruits, in the glorious light that comes from the throne. Like other aspects of this vision of the ultimate future, this, too, is to be anticipated in the present (200-201).

Optional Discussion Questions:

1. What delights you about visiting large cities?
2. What delights you about visiting natural places - national parks, Lake Michigan, the Rockies?
3. How can we anticipate and work for the new heaven and the new earth in both of these places?

Closing Prayer, from the hymn "When Peace Like a River" :

O Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight;  
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll.  
The trump shall resound,  
and the Lord shall descend!  
Even so, it is well with my soul.  
Amen.