

## Finding Home Away from Home



## “FINDING HOME IN THE LIGHT OF THE FACE OF JESUS”

### REVELATION 21:1-5; 22:1-5

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#### **Displacement in the Christmas Story**

Displacement can function to remind us to name and seek after our true home.

Hebrews 11:13-16: we are seeking a homeland, a heavenly country, a prepared city.

The heavenly country is not a “disembodied heaven” but heaven on earth

Our final destination is a new earth in which heaven comes down and heaven/earth become one

#### **The New Earth as Pictured in Revelation 21:1-5**

It will be new (not as in other but as in remade): vs. 1,5

There will be no more tears, death, mourning, crying, pain: vs. 4

God will dwell with humans: vs. 3

#### **A Closer Look at This Dwelling Together with God in Rev 22: 3-5**

The throne of God and Jesus in the center: vs. 3

Humans will worship, **seeing His face**, with His name on their foreheads: vs. 4

God will be the light: vs. 5

#### **Seeing the Face of the Other**

Looking into the eyes of another tells you a lot about your relationship with that person

The ease and length which eyes can hold one another belies love and safety

Looking away, hiding are the signs of distance, lack of safety, lack of welcome

Adam’s hiding in the garden from God captures this perfectly

God’s “where are you” (gaze disrupted) precedes the expulsion from Eden and the looking for home

Longing for the face of God ( this is perhaps behind our experience of all we call beautiful)

See this theme common in the Psalms: e.g. Psalm 27:4, 8, 13

#### **The Bread of the Presence (or Showbread) in the Tabernacle and Temple**

The Sinai Covenant confirmed in which the people ate, drank and saw God: Exod 24:9-12 (Num 14:14)

Moses: face to face with God or not? See Exodus 33:11 with 33:20

12 unleavened loaves in two piles, exchanged out weekly, accompanied by frankincense

Across from the Lampstand that was kept continually shining

A sign of God’s intimate personal fellowship

Table fellowship in the Ancient Near East was the place of friendship

The literal Hebrew name for the Showbread: *the bread of faces (lechem panim)*

“Face” was how the Hebrew writers would talk about the presence of God

“God hiding His face” would be a way of talking about God withdrawing His presence

“God setting His face against” would be God’s presence opposing a person

“God’s face shining upon a person” would be a way of talking about God’s presence granted with favor

In the Holy Place (where only priests come) there is a **promise of a restored face to face relationship**

### **Jesus as the Bread of the World and the Light of the World**

Jesus fulfills the signs of the Bread (John 6:35 ) and the Lampstand (John 8:12) in the Temple

Everyone who looks on the Son and believes: John 6:40

Jesus is the face to face relationship in which we can gaze, be bathed in light, in which are not consumed

The knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ: 2 Cor 4:6

If you have seen Me, you have seen the Father: John 14:9

Our final home is to be found in the light of the glory of the gaze of the face of God in Christ: Rev 22:4

We have been given our own form of the Bread of Presence (Bread of the Face!) until that final day

Communion as seeing Jesus (encountering His true presence) until our faith becomes sight

Every eucharist is a Road to Emmaus leading us home (see the story in Luke 24:28-35)

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