

Who reigns in heaven?

God AND Humans! Of course God rules, because He is God! But did you realize that his image bearers also rule in heaven? God's original plan for humanity will come to pass. The bookends of "Hebrew parallelism" keep going to the end! (Where the beginning matches the end.)

Finally in Revelation, we find the beautiful ideal of God... realized!

"There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And THEY will REIGN for ever and ever."

Revelation 22:5

"And THEY will REIGN for ever and ever." SELAH!

Hebrew Parallelism... Chiasm... Bookend Theology...

There is beautiful symmetry within Scriptures and consistency to the commands of God. In Genesis, God commissioned the first man and woman to rule together. In Revelation this plan will be fully realized when the Bride (both males and females) reigns forever and ever with the Groom.

Notice the magnificent parallels between Genesis 1-2 and Revelation 22. In Revelation, God is present ("In the beginning God"). God gives light ("Let there be light.") The sun is no longer needed to govern ("God made two great lights—the greater light to govern the day"). We also find in Revelation the culmination of family which began in the Garden, near the Tree of Life, planted by the river of God. In both places we find a sinless couple, a united couple. In Genesis we have the ideal, the first man and woman. In Revelation we have Jesus and His Bride, the final couple.

If the men and women who comprise the Bride of Christ can reign together in heaven where God's presence provides the light, why can't both men and women reign on earth, when there is a desperate need for more godly laborers to demonstrate and extend the reign of God to all nations? It IS what God commissioned us to do.

When our work is done, we can join the multitudes singing a new song like in Revelation 5:9,

"You (Jesus) are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from EVERY tribe and language and people and nation."

But we can't forget Revelation 5:10.

"You have made THEM to be a KINGDOM and PRIESTS to serve our God, and THEY WILL REIGN on the earth."

In Revelation "THEY REIGN" "on earth" and "forever."

Conclusion

What God intended will come to pass—co-rule by his image bearers. He commanded it in Genesis 1, and we still pray "on earth as in heaven" in the Lord's prayer. Let us labor to overcome the patterns of this world, and practice here and now what will be the culture of heaven—"THEY will REIGN forever and ever."

Key Term

Βασιλεύσουσιν

Basilouo = to reign; basileia = kingdom

4 Crucial Questions

1. What does this teach us about **GOD**?
2. What does this teach us about **PEOPLE**?
3. What command should I **OBEY**?
4. With whom can I **SHARE** this?