



**Easter's Gardens**  
**Revelation 21:1-7, 22:1-5 p. 1041**  
**April 1, 2018**

**Introduction**

In this sermon we learn Easter tells the story of the world, a story that begins and ends in a garden.

**The Text: Revelation 21:1-7, 22:1-5**

The biblical account of the story of the world can be summarized as “The Story of Three Gardens:”

- 1) It is not insignificant that the story of the world begins in a garden (Gen 1-3).

*The First Garden: Adam, Eve, and the Beginning of the World*

- 2) The turning point in the story of the world also takes place in a garden (John 18-20).

*The Second Garden: Jesus and the Salvation of the World*

- 3) The story of the world makes clear that the goal of history is located in a garden (Rev 20-21).

*The Third Garden or the Garden-City: God, his People, and the Renewal of the World*

**Response**

- Easter tells the full story of the world – and your story!

## Sunday Text Questions for Revelation 21:1-7, 22:1-5 (Easter)

April 1, 2018

Pastor Mickey Klink

- 1) Starter Question: How do you celebrate Easter?
- 2) Read the text aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.
- 3) Revelation 21:1-2 (see also 21:6) speaks of the New Creation. Why do Christians often imagine a departure from creation when this passage describes the renewal of creation (new = renewed)?
- 4) How does a biblical understanding of a “renewed creation” help explain the goal of human history, or change the way you look at the world?
- 5) How does Revelation 21:3 describe the relation between God and humanity in the New Creation?
- 6) How does Revelation 21:4 give comfort and hope to Christians who are living in the fallen world or yet-to-be-renewed creation?
- 7) How does Revelation 22:1-2 describe a Garden-City, and why is “garden-city” important in light of the full biblical story?
- 8) What does Revelation 22:3-5 tell us about the nature of life in the New Creation (pay close attention to the details in the text)?
- 9) How does Easter tell the full story of the Bible, and the goal of the story?
- 10) What is the purpose of Easter, and why is it good for the church to celebrate it annually?

**Further study this week:** Genesis 1-3 on the First Garden (Mon); John 18-20 on the Second Garden, noting especially 18:1, 19:41, and 20:15 (Tues); Revelation 21-22 on the Third Garden or Garden-City (Wed); Matthew 28 and Mark 16 on the Resurrection and Great Commission (Thurs); Luke 24 on the Resurrection and Ascension (Fri).