



Daily Reflections

November 26, 2016

Scripture

Revelation 22:1-7

John said:

An angel showed me the river of life-giving water,
sparkling like crystal, flowing from the throne of God
and of the Lamb down the middle of the street,

On either side of the river grew the tree of life
that produces fruit twelve times a year, once each month;
the leaves of the trees serve as medicine for the nations.

Nothing accursed will be found anymore.

The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it,
and his servants will worship him.

They will look upon his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.

Night will be no more, nor will they need light from lamp or sun,
for the Lord God shall give them light,
and they shall reign forever and ever.

And he said to me, "These words are trustworthy and true,

and the Lord, the God of prophetic spirits,
sent his angel to show his servants what must happen soon."
"Behold, I am coming soon."
Blessed is the one who keeps the prophetic message of this book.

Our Scripture Reflection

Far from being a book of gloom and doom, Revelation is a book of profound hope. It reminds us in page after page that God is in control. He will bring about the victory. He is faithful to His word and we must remain faithful to Him.

Food for your Journey

Revelation thus warns about a dramatic reversal in human history because of divine justice. In a biblical version of "what goes around comes around," God will give back to Rome as she has given. He will "pay her back double for what she has done. Mix her a double portion from her own cup" (18:6).

Revelation also anticipates a comprehensive restoration rooted in divine mercy. In this regard it tracks with Paul's remarks about the redemption of the entire cosmos by a God who is the "Father of every family, in heaven and on earth" (Ephesians 1:14-15; Romans 8:19-22). The Biblical story that began in Genesis with a Fall in a garden ends in Revelation with a restoration in a city. The narrative travels from Eden to the New Jerusalem.

On the last page of the Bible John describes this plot fulfillment as "the healing of the nations," and he imagines nations from around the world streaming to the holy city (21:24, 22:2).

--Daniel Clendenin, journeywithjesus.net.

Prayer from the Heart

Dear Lord, As I prepare for the holy season of Advent, I ask for the Grace to be courageous in all things and at all times. May I never forget, even during the times of trial, that You are in control. Amen.