



the book of the

REVELATION

READING PLAN

PART FOUR:
Kingdom Come



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the REVELATION

PART 4: KINGDOM COME

The cry of a believing heart is Maranatha! It is a word that means Come Lord Jesus! The end of the Revelation is the renewal of all things with

justice, the defeat of evil and the ushering in of the New Jerusalem and the Kingdom of God, where all things will be made new.

WEEK TWELVE: WRATH & MERCY

DAILY READINGS

SUN 3/27 Revelation 20:11-15

MON 3/28 1 Cor. 4:1-5, 2 Cor. 5:1-10

TUE 3/29 Rom. 14:1-12, Luke 6:37-42,
Matt. 12:33-36

WED 3/30 Daniel 7: 9-10, Eccl. 12:9-14

THU 3/31 Hebrews 10:26-31

FRI 4/01 Matthew 5:31-46

SAT 4/02 Revelation 21:1-8

TEXT Revelation 20:11-15

BOTTOM LINE All of us will stand before the judgement seat of Christ.

DEVOTIONAL EMPHASIS How I am preparing for the Judgement?

QUESTIONS on Revelation 20:11-15:

- 1 What do you think and feel when you hear the term judgement?
- 2 Many people experience fear when they think about judgement. Why is that?
- 3 Are you more comfortable with the idea of justice? Why?
- 4 How does justice require judgement?
- 5 Why do you think some people consider judgement to be wrong while at the same time longing for justice for evil?
- 6 What might be the benefits of judgement?
- 7 Why does the Bible tell us that judgement is coming (Rev. 20) and also warn us NOT to judge each other? (Rom. 14:10-12 & Luke 6:37) Do you think this is a contradiction? If it's not a contradiction, why not? (Hint: Read 1 Corinthians 4:5, Romans 12:18-20)
- 8 What do you think about the warning in Matthew 12:36? Have you said things recently or even in the last week that you need to repent of- perhaps to a coworker, spouse, child, etc.?
- 9 What areas of your life right now are troubling to you when you imagine standing before the Great White Throne?
- 10 Read Matthew 25:31-46: In this parable the standard for judgement seems to be how we treat people, especially the most vulnerable. How does this passage reconcile with the truth that we are saved by grace through faith? Read Ephesians 2:8-10: In what ways are you serving the least of these?

WEEK THIRTEEN: JUST & TRUE

TEXT

Revelation 15:1-7; 16:5-6; 19:1-5

BOTTOM LINE

God is the only one qualified to bring judgements that are just and true.

DEVOTIONAL EMPHASIS

Can we trust God to bring judgement to all people in a way that is Just and True?

QUESTIONS on Revelation 20:11-15:

- 1 Be honest, have you ever considered whether God's judgement is fair? Whether it's good? Whether it's loving?
- 2 Revelation says God's judgement is just and true. Do you trust God to be judge for you and others? Do you believe He is qualified?
- 3 Which is harder for you to believe- That God would judge you or that He would judge others?
- 4 What about those who have never heard about Jesus or other religions? Is His judgement of them still just, true, and loving? Read Romans 1:18-23.

There are many questions about judgement, Hell and how evil will be dealt with by God. Take a few minutes to read Revelation 15:1-7; 16:5-6; 19:1-5 and think through your responses to these questions (or discuss them with your group). We are not necessarily endorsing any of these ideas. It is OK to not know what you think or how you feel about some of these questions. We are simply articulating the questions and some answers people have given about the subject, for discussion and greater understanding.

- 1 What is the purpose or nature of judgement?
- 2 Will we be judged based on good deeds we have done or on whether we have faith in Christ?
- 3 Some believe there are two judgements: The first for salvation and entrance into heaven and the second for rewarding good things we have done. What do you think about this idea?

- 4 Do you think we will be judged for sins we have already asked forgiveness for and repented of?
- 5 What does it mean to fear God? Am I supposed to fear judgement and God?
- 6 How can I take sin seriously in my life through confession and repentance, without being crippled by guilt and shame?
- 7 Will God's judgement be fair?
- 8 Is there a Hell or punishment for sins?
- 9 Is Hell eternal, temporary, or will the evil simply be annihilated?
- 10 Is the soul eternal or will those who reject Christ just be annihilated?
- 11 Do you think those who have never heard about Jesus in life will get a chance to respond to Jesus after death?
- 12 Some believe those who were "faithful" in other religions will have their worship counted as worship of the true God, Jesus. What do you think of this idea?
- 13 Some theologians have suggested that, "no one will go to Hell except those who choose to go". What do you think of this statement?
- 14 Some theologians believe all people will eventually go to Heaven. What do you think of that idea?

DAILY READINGS

- SUN 4/03 Revelation 15:1-7
 MON 4/04 Revelation 16:1-7
 TUE 4/05 Revelation 19:1-5
 WED 4/06 Proverbs 24:23-34
 THU 4/07 Matthew 5:38-42
 FRI 4/08 Psalm 37:27-40
 SAT 4/09 Hebrews 10:19-39

- 15 Is Hell a conscious torment or an abandonment to our own desires?
- 16 What do you think of this statement: Only God is qualified to bring judgement.
- 17 Are you able to trust that God's judgements are just and true even if you do not know how exactly how He will bring judgement? What is the purpose or nature of judgement?

WEEK FOURTEEN: THE BRIDE & THE FEAST

DAILY READINGS

- SUN 4/10 Revelation 19:6-16
 MON 4/11 Mark 11:1-11
 TUE 4/12 Matthew 24:1-32
 WED 4/13 Matthew 24:36-51
 THU 4/14 Matthew 25:1-13
 FRI 4/15 Matthew 25:14-30
 SAT 4/16 Matthew 25:31-46

TEXT Revelation 19:6-16, Mark 11:7-9

BOTTOM LINE Jesus is returning.

DEVOTIONAL EMPHASIS Are you anticipating the return of Christ?

Weddings are exciting, particularly for the bride, groom, and their families. As we think about the questions for this week, take some time to reflect on the excitement surrounding weddings, especially yours if you are or have been married.

QUESTIONS on Revelation 19:6-10:

- 1 Why do you think the Bible speaks about Christ as the Groom and about us (Believers) as the Bride?
- 2 How will anticipating the return of Christ change how you will live in the present?
- 3 What should the role of the Bride (the church/Christians) be in preparing for this ultimate wedding?
- 4 Do you anticipate this moment? Have you thought about how spectacular it will be?
- 5 Do you feel like you have prepared yourself for the Marriage Supper of the Lamb? What does it mean to be prepared?
- 6 What is missing from your preparation? What do you think you are doing well?

Read Revelation 19:6-10 and Mark 11:7-9

- 1 Compare these two versions of Christ's entrance into Jerusalem: What stands out to you? What is significant about each scene and what follows?
- 2 To a first century reader of both stories, they would have understood that a king riding on a donkey into a great city like Jerusalem meant that the king came in peace. In contrast, a king riding on a horse into that great city would have been seen as a conquering king. Why is that significant? What does that mean for us? What does each scene mean for those who don't know the Lord?
- 3 What do you notice about the mood of these events from these passages?
- 4 Take some time to reflect and journal about your responses to these two scenes.
- 5 How prepared are you for the return of Christ?
- 6 In what ways does Christ's return make a difference in your daily activities?
- 7 As you think about the sacrament (practice) of communion, why is that so pertinent to our readiness for the return of Jesus (the Groom)?
- 8 Option: Take some time this week to have communion on your own or with your group and reflect on the return of Christ.

GOOD FRIDAY: The Defeat of the Dragon

Attend Good Friday Service - April 15, 5pm and 7pm

Bottom Line: The Dragon was defeated by the obedience of Christ in the garden, the sacrifice of Christ on the cross and the resurrection of Christ from the Grave.

WEEK FIFTEEN: NEW

TEXT Revelation 21 & 22

BOTTOM LINE The resurrection is the beginning of everything being made new.

DEVOTIONAL EMPHASIS Think about “Heaven” the New Jerusalem. What will it be like for everything to be made new?

DAILY READINGS

SUN 4/17 Matthew 27:32-56

MON 4/18 Romans 5:1-21

TUE 4/19 Revelation 20:1-10

WED 4/20 Revelation 21:1-8

THU 4/21 Revelation 21: 9-27

FRI 4/22 Revelation 22:1-10

SAT 4/23 Revelation 22:12-21

- 1 How do you feel about new things in general? Do they excite you or scare you?
- 2 Discuss/journal your thoughts on the New Heaven and the New Earth.
- 3 What makes you most excited about the return of Christ: Seeing Him face to face? Having a new body? Being a new creation? Receiving a new heart and mind? Seeing those who have gone before us?

Read Revelation 21:1-5

- 1 What significant events do you see happening in this passage?
- 2 What is the significance of the statement, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man”?
- 3 Why is it important that we have a New Heaven and a New Earth? Why is it important that “the former things have passed away”?

Read Revelation 21:9-11; 22-27

- 1 The presence of God is so significant in these verses. What are the benefits of the presence of Jesus in these verses?
- 2 What key attributes of the New Jerusalem stand out to you?
- 3 What does it mean that God and the Lamb are the temple in the new Jerusalem?

Read Revelation 22:6-21

- 1 Do you really believe the words in Revelation (and the Bible) are “trustworthy and true”? (Rev. 22:6) If so, what makes you certain? If not, what causes you to doubt?
- 2 In verse 14, what do you think it means to “wash your robes”?
- 3 In what ways are you striving for Kingdom rewards?
- 4 Why are we able to take the Water of Life without price?

Final Thoughts

- 1 As you think about all these passages, what cultural concepts of Heaven are incorrect?
- 2 Which of the promises of God in Revelation 21-22 do you most long for? Why?
- 3 What difference is the reality of Heaven and the reality of Hell making in your life currently?
- 4 Take some time this week to journal on aspects of your life that still need to be made new. What steps can you take to let the Holy Spirit make them new?

- 4 2 Corinthians 5:17 says that we as believers have already begun to experience this transformation of the old becoming new. Why is it important that we begin living a new life now, if ALL will become new later?
- 5 Discuss/journal the ways your life reflects this newness. Then, journal/discuss ways it still needs to experience this newness.

Read Revelation 22:1-5

- 1 What aspects of this passage are you most excited about?
- 2 Is it important to think about Heaven? Why?
- 3 What is one thing in your life that you could become more “heavenly” minded about?