



All Things Renewed - Our Future Hope!

Intro Reading: We've explored the Story of God's already completed work as Father, Son, and Spirit, as well as His present work in our daily lives. Now we turn our attention to the **future hope** we have as believers in Jesus! Where is this story headed? Jesus' victory over sin and death at the cross and empty tomb set the stage for something **even greater** yet to come...

- **Watch Video #10 - Use the back side of this paper to take notes for reference**

Group discussion starters:

- In the video, Pastor Scott shared the origin of Isaac Watts' poem about the Return of Jesus, which we have come to know as the Christmas carol "Joy to The World". If we think about this song as describing the Return of Jesus, rather than His birth event, how does that change our understanding of our future hope?

Our Future Hope:

Read Revelation 19:11-16 - The Return of Christ the King

- **Discussion:** This passage describes the scene of Jesus' 2nd Advent - His physical return to Earth. When Jesus returns, the host of Heaven, led by Michael the Archangel, joins Christ in fighting and defeating the spiritual forces of darkness. What other event caused the host of Heaven to gather and appear? (Hint: see Luke 2:13-14). What connection do you see between these events?
- In Jesus' victory of Revelation 19, what is the **only** weapon mentioned? What does this tell us about how darkness and despair can be defeated in our lives?
- ***Additional Reading (at home, or if you have time!):** Jesus' triumphant Return (called Parousia in Greek) is also described in the prophecy of Zechariah 14:1-5. Note the contrast to Jesus' first coming to Jerusalem in Luke 19:33-42 where He comes in peace. Jesus' first Advent established peace with God for all who received Him. His return will be to wage war against the enemies of God and establish eternal peace in all of renewed Creation.

Read 1 Corinthians 15:21-26 - Every Enemy Defeated

- **Discussion:** This passage describes details of the purpose and events of Jesus' return. Who will be brought to life? What will be destroyed?
- Does this passage give you hope or fear in thinking about Christ's Return?

Read Revelation 21:1-7 - Creation Renewed and Restored

- **Discussion:** This passage describes the Final Scene of the Story - the Renewal of Creation after God's enemies are defeated! How is it like the original perfection of the Garden in Genesis 1 and 2?
- There are some specific items that show up from the original Garden of Creation, and some things are not conspicuously not there! What do you notice?
- There is incredible symmetry to the whole Story of Scripture - the last 2 chapters of the Bible are the echo and fulfillment of its' first 2 chapters! How does the unity of **The Story We Live In** point to the inspiration and authority of God's Word?
- After journeying through these 10 lessons on the Story, how would you summarize the narrative of God's Story revealed in Scripture?

EN-CORE

JOURNEY

SCRIPTURE • BELIEFS • PRACTICES

Spiritual Health in Practice

Many Christians have been taught to think of the End Times as something to fear, but what if a more accurate reading of Scripture reveals an incredible story of hope? As a group, be ready to point out those places where the end of God's Story can bring encouragement rather than anxiety!

Close with Prayer for One Another

We are entering into the Advent season on the Christian calendar - a time of reflecting back on the 1st Advent of Christ while also looking forward to His 2nd Arrival. How can we share God's hope and love this season with the true End of Story in mind?