

~~This Is Not~~ The End

Group Discussion Guide // Week 5

WARM-UP

1. Give one example of a movie, TV show, or book that you find hard to explain to people (one of those “you just have to experience it” things). What makes it hard to explain?
 2. What comes to mind when you think of the word “justice”?
 3. Describe a moment of serenity in your past.
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TRUTH

Last week we saw that the slain Lamb was worthy to take the scroll from God’s hand and open it. This tells us that Jesus is the one who will bring God’s kingdom on earth. As he begins to open the scroll, we get further insight into what it looks like for God’s kingdom to come on earth. Although it’s unexpected, even jarring, the reality of what is represented is really good news for those who follow Jesus.

The Promise of Justice

Read Revelation 6:12-17

The four horsemen in 6:1-7 represent what happens when sinful humanity seeks power and wealth above all else. It leads to destruction, injustice, and eventual death. Although God allows these injustices to show people the true danger of sin, he won’t let them go on forever. The breaking of the sixth seal brings with it the day of God’s judgment, when he will pour out due punishment on sin and stop the chaos it causes.

- ▶ In 6:9-11, the martyrs cry out to God for judgment. We don’t typically think of judgment as a good thing. Why do you think that is?

The Promise of Salvation

Read Revelation 7:9-14

At the end of chapter six, all the people cry out, “[T]he great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?” John’s vision of the multi-ethnic gathering before God’s throne gives us the answer to that question. Those who will be saved from God’s righteous wrath against sin will be those who

have followed the Lamb. They have white robes that have been washed in the blood of the Lamb. In other words, they have received the righteousness of Christ and lived lives of sacrificial love like Jesus did. They alone will be saved.

- ▶ This passage tells us that followers of Jesus will experience the “tribulation” of this age, but that they’ll be safe at the end. How should that affect the way we live in the midst of trouble?

GRACE

The Promise of Peace

Read Revelation 7:15-17

Here we get a poetic vision of the destiny of disciples. All of the chaos and brokenness illustrated by the four horsemen is gone – no bloodshed, injustice, or death. Also, every tear that results from suffering for Jesus is wiped away from their eyes. They stand before God’s throne, serving him forever, in perfect peace. In an age where sin and its consequences create suffering, it’s the greatest hope in the world to know that following Jesus means every tear we cry isn’t for nothing. God will do away with all evil, and every painful experience will be redeemed.

CHANGE

1. How do these chapters in Revelation impact your view of the world?
2. What have you learned from these chapters about what it means to follow Jesus in this age?
3. In what ways are you impacted by the vision of a multi-ethnic gathering of disciples standing before God’s throne?

Pray for faith to endure trials. Pray for God’s kingdom to come on earth as it is in heaven.