

# ***This Is ~~Not~~ The End***

Group Discussion Guide // Week 6

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## **WARM-UP**

1. In the city or town where you grew up, what's a place that's special to you (restaurant, park, etc.)? What makes it special?
  2. What did you tend to spend money on when you were growing up?
  3. What insight from Sunday's sermon has stuck with you this week?
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## **TRUTH**

In today's discussion we're dealing with the second cycle of seven from Revelation. Although each cycle recounts the same events from a different perspective, we must pay attention to the different emphasis given by each. Earlier in the Bible, trumpets are used to sound a warning as well as a call-to-arms for God's people. Let's see what this rich passage has to say for our lives and what it looks like to worship God.

### **Spiritual Blindness**

Read Revelation 9:20-21

Something has made these people so blind that they don't recognize God's judgment against sin. They can't see what they're doing because they're worshiping the wrong thing. Rather than worshiping God, they're bowing down to idols. We're all born with this spiritual blindness and we opt to stay blind by refusing to repent. Rather than worshiping God, we try to get ultimate fulfillment from career, family, pleasure, and whatever else we think will get the job done.

- ▶ For ancient pagan worshipers, bowing down to an idol would hopefully earn them a good harvest, fertility, divine favor, etc. In your experience, what do people often look to, other than God, to get them what they want and need in life?

### **True Worship**

Read Revelation 11:15-16

When the seventh trumpet is blown, we see a contrast to the first group of idol worshipers. We're supposed to see how much greater this picture is than the first. The first group bowed down to wooden idols that couldn't speak, hear, or walk. The elders in heaven fall down and worship the one who reigns over all worldly kingdoms. The point is, this is true worship. They see the royalty and the grace of God, and idols made of wood or stone look foolish by comparison.

- ▶ For suffering Christians in the first century, what kind of impact do you think it would have had on them to hear that all kingdoms will become God's?
- ▶ Why do you think Jesus' position as the King of kings makes idolatry look foolish?

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## GRACE

### Our Great Reward

Read Revelation 11:17-19

All humanity has gone after other things, thinking they'll find satisfaction in dead idols. But by his grace God has saved a people, opening their blind eyes to see the greater reward he offers. God's reward for his saints won't dilapidate with time, it won't suddenly disappear because of circumstances, and it's guaranteed by the resurrection of Jesus. We no longer have to bow down before dead idols, but we can bow down before the God who is worthy of all worship.

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## CHANGE

1. What symptoms do you experience in your life when you're looking to something other than God to provide meaning, purpose, and fulfillment?
2. How can you "redirect" your worship away from idols and back to God?
3. With Jesus in mind, why is God so much worthier of our worship than created things?

Pray for a revelation of the superiority of Christ over idols. Pray for God to be your all-in-all, the provider of your every need, and the very person you need for fulfillment in life.