



## WEEK 15 - THOUGHTS FROM THE MESSAGE

ICEBREAKER - The book of Revelation - called “apocalyptic literature” - is associated with a genre of movies and film depicting the end of the world and life after the apocalypse. Share with your group the most recent apocalyptic movie, show or book you’ve watched. Was it horrifying, hopeful or both?

### **Read Revelation 21: 1-5 (pg 475)**

- In the middle of this passage in 21, we see the idea of God once again “dwelling” with people - “among” and “with” us. In the message this weekend, Jon shared how significant God’s “dwelling” is by explaining that this is the first time since the Garden of Eden that the Trinity (all of God) fully exposes his presence to us in a complete tangible, physical, material form with us all at once, all his glory revealed!
  - What longings does God’s complete, uninhibited presence with us fulfill for you?
  - How is God’s full, complete presence with you in Revelation different than Jesus’ indwelling of you right now, today?
- *“The new heaven and new earth will be new in a new way; newness itself will be renewed, so that instead of a mere transition within ongoing human life, what God has planned will be the renewal of all things. ‘Look’, he said, ‘I am making all things new.’” - N.T. Wright*
  - As you read about “a new heaven and new earth,” in Rev. 21, what thoughts and questions do you ponder about this idea? What do you think this means about eternity?
  - Why is it important to distinguish between “making all things new” and “making all new things?” What does this tell us about who God is?
  - What does *newness* or *renewal* look like in your dreams for your eternal future?

### **Read Revelation 22: 1-5 (pg 476)**

- In this portion of the Word, we see the tremendous capacity of God’s renewal to **heal** the effects of the **curse** by his presence permanently eliminating the curse itself, “*No longer will there be any curse.*” As we wait for the fulfilment of these tremendous promises, Jon said we are called to “Longsuffering in the now while longing for the Not Yet.” Try to imagine the “not yet” below:
  - To Enmity (Hostility), God will heal: \_\_\_\_\_?
  - To Pain (Hurt, Illness, Ailment), God will heal: \_\_\_\_\_?
  - To Toil (Futility, Opposition), God will heal: \_\_\_\_\_?
  - To Subservience (Worth Hierarchies), God will heal: \_\_\_\_\_?
  - To Separation (Fear, Loneliness, Shame), God will heal: \_\_\_\_\_?



## **WEEK 15 - QUESTIONS FROM WEEKDAY READING (pgs 447-477)**

### WEEKLY QUESTIONS:

1. *What's something you noticed for the first time?*
2. *What questions did you have?*
3. *Was there anything that bothered you?*
4. *What did you learn about loving God?*
5. *What did you learn about loving others?*

### To the Preface | (p. 447-449)

- As we take in the editor's preface to the book of Revelation, what are your reflections or understanding of books of *prophecy* or *apocalyptic* literature?
- For some of us, our views of the End Times (or the "tribulation") are heavily influenced by the opinion of others rather than by our own inquiry, investigation or study.
  - Is it relieving and helpful for you to see how much of the "end of days" in John's epistle is aimed at his current events with the diabolical Roman practice of emperor worship? Why?
  - Does this awareness alter or change any of your previous understanding or perspective on this unique book of the Bible?
- Explain what the editor means by the statement "The book also functions as the appropriate conclusion to the entire drama of the Bible" from page 449.

### To the Church at Sardis | (p. 454)

- In some of the language of Revelation, the Church (us) is confronted directly and even harshly for our mediocre and hypocritical commitment, faithlessness and disloyalty to the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. To Sardis, the angel contrasts being "alive" outside with really being "dead" inside. He paints a picture of a our spirit's "remains" listlessly eroding and calls for us to wake it up and strengthen it again.
  - What do "unfinished deeds" look like to us and to the world?
  - Assessing the vital signs of your relationship with Jesus, what needs to "Wake Up?"
  - In your own words, write out what "remember" "Hold it fast" and "repent" means for you.