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Talk together about the glory of God's kingdom. –Psalm 145:11
Love the Lord your God and **walk** in all his ways. –Joshua 22:5

Questions for Reflection or Discussion

Observation—*What do I see?*

- Read Revelation 1:1-3. According to v. 1a, what is the Book of Revelation about?

1 According to v. 3, who is "blessed" (they are described in three ways)?
How do v. 1a and 3b describe the time frame for these events?

- Revelation 1:19 gives a simple, three-point outline of the content of the book. What is it?

2 (1) "the things which you [John the Apostle] have _____"
(2) "the things which _____"
(3) "the things which will _____ after these things"

- (1) Briefly describe what John **saw** (Revelation 1:12–18)?
(2) Quickly skim the paragraph headings of Revelation chs. 2–3 and describe "the things that **are**".
(3) **Very** quickly skim Revelation chs. 4–22 and describe "the things which will **come after**":

3 (a) chs. 4–5
(b) chs. 6–18
(c) chs. 19–22

Interpretation—*What does it mean?*

- In the schema of Revelation, we are living **after** the events of chs. 2–3 ("the things that are") but **before** the events described in chs. 6–22 ("the things which come after" the first century).

4 Revelation 4 describes what the heavenly hosts **currently** are doing. What are they doing—and why?

5 Revelation 5 describes the prelude to coming tribulation. Why is Jesus worthy to initiate this judgment?

Application—*What do I do with this?*

6 What from this overview of Revelation **encourages** you? . . . **terrifies** you? . . . and **why**?

7 Review the response required in order to be blessed (Revelation 1:3). Will **you** be blessed?

8 What changes do you think you should make in your own life? Why those ones?

9 Who in your circle of influence **needs** to hear this message of "what **must soon** take place"?

- 1 The Book of Revelation is about **showing to God's slaves the things which must soon happen** (v.1a). Those are "blessed" who (1) **read**, (2) **hear**, **and** (3) **keep the words of this prophesy** (v.3). The time frame for these events is that they "**happen soon...for the time is near**" (v.1a and 3b).

- 2 The simple, three-point outline of the Book of Revelation is:
 - (1) "the things which you [John the Apostle] have **seen**" (1:1-20)
 - (2) "the things which **are**" (2:1—3:22)
 - (3) "the things which will **take place** after these things" (4:1—22:21)

- 3 (1) John **saw the terrifying, awesome risen Christ** (Revelation 1:12–18).
(2) The "things that **are**" are **seven churches of Asia Minor in various stages of faithfulness and apostasy, and the promise of appropriate recompense** (chapters 2 & 3)
(3) The "things which will **come after**" are:
 - (a) chs. 4—5 **heavenly worship**
 - (b) chs. 6—18 **the Great Tribulation**
 - (c) chs. 19—22 **the return and reign of Christ the King**

- 4 The heavenly hosts **currently** are worshiping Christ, giving him **glory and honor and power**, because **he created all things**, and because **all things exist and were created by his will**.

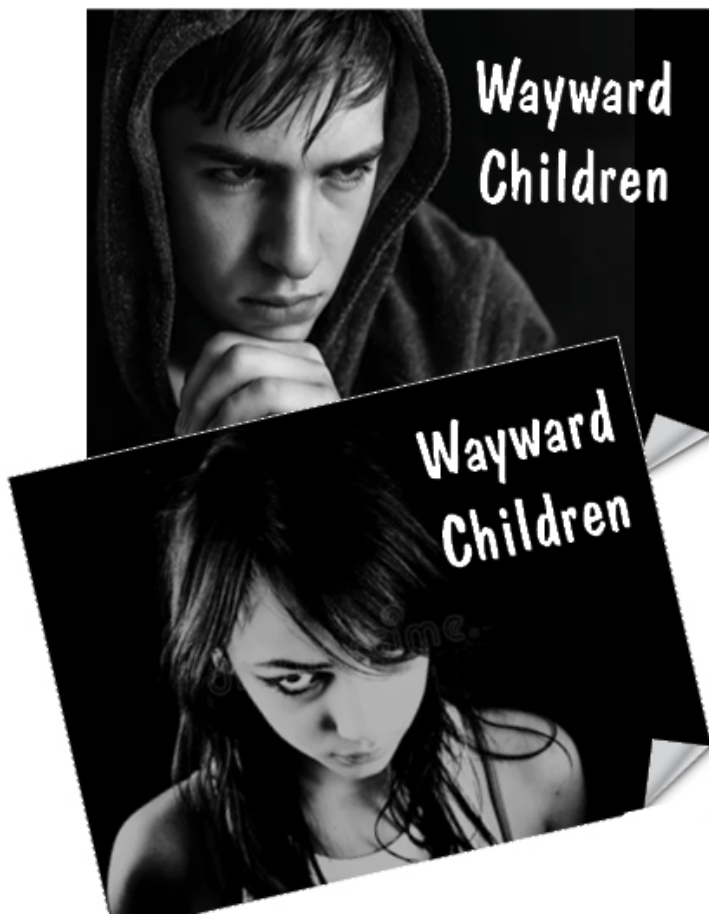
- 5 Jesus is worthy to initiate this judgment because **he is the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, and has overcome** (v.5)...because **he is worthy to take the scroll and open its seals because he was slain and purchased with his blood people from every tribe and tongue and people and nation and made them to be a kingdom and priests to God who will reign upon the earth** (v.9–10).

- 6 You may need to "prime the pump", so be prepared with your own answer to this question. (But wait for others to think and answer. Check your watch—20 seconds feels like an eternity!) Pay careful attention to any strong, negative reactions of group members—that's something for you to pray about and follow-up with in one-on-one conversation.

- 7 Again, wait for others to think and answer—and pay careful attention to any strong, negative reactions of group members.

- 8 Ditto.

- 9 Be prepared to "prime the pump" with your own answers—but wait for others to think and answer.



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Author of the best-seller,
The Exemplary Husband

Professor of
Biblical Counseling at
The Master's Seminary
& Bob Jones University

Executive Director of
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Sermon Summary Mark 13:24-37

Jesus warned us about some “non-signs” of his second coming—things like the arrival of false messiahs, wars and rumors of wars, earthquakes, famines, religious persecution and related family betrayal. About these things Jesus said, “See to it that no one misleads you” (Mark 13:5). He also shared some signs which we should pay attention to—namely “the Abomination of Desolation”. Jesus warned that when you see this person standing in the Jewish Temple, God’s judgment is about to begin in full force. It is called “The Great and Terrible Day of the Lord”. The big idea of Mark 13:24-37 is that when Jesus returns he will condemn evil, end suffering, and gather his people to Himself. We need to be on the alert and to live in anticipation of this glorious event.

Jesus repeatedly speaks about what will happen “in those days” (see Mark 13:17, 19, 20 & 24). Jesus is speaking of that future Great Tribulation which the Old Testament prophets referred to as “The Day of the Lord” (see Amos 8:9; Joel 2:10; Ezekiel 32:7-8 & Isaiah 13:10). There is this consistent prophetic voice that some kind of cosmic disturbance will take place in the heavens which will be followed by the personal, visible return of Jesus as the glorified Son of Man (Mark 13:26 cf. Daniel 7:13). When Jesus returns, it will be obvious to everyone! His return will follow a time of great judgment and tribulation. There will be cosmic signs in the heavens and then suddenly Jesus will come in the clouds with great glory. I can’t imagine what it will be like.

Matthew 24:30 says that “all of the tribes of the land will mourn”, and I believe that this is an explicit reference to the salvation of the tribes of Israel predicted in Zechariah 12:10. Since the context of Zechariah 12–14 is the salvation and rescue of Israel—“I will pour out . . . the Spirit of grace”—the mourning is from a repentant and saved Israel. Thus, Jesus probably has the salvation of Israel in mind as described in Zechariah 12. Consistent with prophecy, it is at this time that believing Israelites will be gathered and restored as a nation. But I think this gathering extends beyond believing Israel to include all of God’s faithful people, both living and dead. None of the faithful will be left out. All will be gathered; Jesus knows his sheep, including Old Testament believers (Daniel 12:2), those martyred during the Tribulation, both Jew and Gentile (Revelation 6:9–11), Christians who have gone to heaven either at the Rapture of the church, or by death (1 Thessalonians 4:17), as well as a remnant of believing Jews who at this time will be restored as a nation (Isaiah 59:20–21; Ezekiel 20:33–44; Zechariah 13:8–9 and Romans 11:25–27). Jesus pictured all believers converging to Him at His Second Coming—whether alive or dead, on earth or in heaven (cf. Matthew 25).

The coming of the Son of Man (Jesus) to earth is a future coming in “glory”, with “all the angels”, and Jesus sitting on His glorious throne! Years before, the angel Gabriel told Mary that Jesus would reign upon David’s throne forever (Luke 1:31–33). God wants us to anticipate these end time events and to live now in light of this future reality. Four times in Mark 13:33-37 he tells us to be on the alert. While he’s gone, Jesus expects us to be faithful and he expects to find us working and on mission when He returns. God wants us to know the signs of the end times so that we will not be deceived. And, as we await Jesus’ return, we must be on mission, pursuing our Father’s will. This is exactly what he told us ages ago in Psalm 96.

Digging Deeper in Your Daily Quiet Time

According to God's promise we are looking for **NEW HEAVENS AND A NEW EARTH**,
in which righteousness dwells. (2 Peter 3:13) Let's learn more!

Monday— Study Isaiah 51:6

Tuesday— Study Isaiah 54:10

Wednesday— Study Isaiah 66:22

Thursday— Study Isaiah 66:1-2

Friday— Study Revelation 21:1-4

Saturday— Study Revelation 21:5-8

Are you ready for Christ's return?

For free, confidential help, write to:
BiblicalHopeAndHelp@gmail.com

Five Question Bible Study

Bible Text: _____ Date: _____



What idea particularly strikes me from this text? [Note in which verse(s) it is found.]



What question does this text raise in my mind—and how would **this text** answer it?



What about Jesus Christ—his character and/or his redemption—relates to this text?



What action must I take as a result of this text? Be concrete and specific.



With whom will I share what I learned from this text? [and what was their response?]