

COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS FOR REVELATION

WARM UP

We know from our reading in the four gospel accounts that many Jews missed the prophecies of Jesus as the Redeeming Savior. In hindsight, we can see these prophecies and their fulfillment in Jesus' life, death and resurrection. Many Jews of Jesus time would only accept a Messiah who was a Victorious Warrior King. Given the yet-to-be-fulfilled prophecies in the Old Testament and New Testament, the level of undefined imagery in those prophecies and the uncertainty of the time frames mentioned, **what safeguards do you think would help you avoid making the same mistake made by many Jews, when you read and study prophetic Scripture? What if you have a different opinion than other people about future prophecy's fulfillment? How might you maintain unity given these differences?**

EXPLORATION

1. Up to this point, if you have been following one of the reading plans, you have read all or part of the Old Testament prophets, you may have read Matthew 24 and you read Acts 1. The role of a prophet, both in the Old Testament and the New Testament was to proclaim a message from God, which always included truth, always pointed people to a right relationship with God and often included things that would be fulfilled in the future. With the apostle John as the prophet, the book of Revelation is no exception. One of the enigmas about Biblical prophecy is that there is never a statement like "on _____ date, this will happen".

Read Matthew 24: 3-4, 32-44 and Acts 1: 6-8. Based on these verses, what is Jesus saying about trying to know the "when" of future events? Rather than working on the "when", what does Jesus say to do? What does this look like for you?

2. In Revelation chapter 2 and 3 there are seven letters that Jesus essentially dictates to John to seven churches that are in Asia Minor. **Skim through these seven letters and make (1) a list of things for which the Son of Man (Jesus) commends them, (2) a list of things He holds against them and (3) a list of the rewards for those who overcome.** In every church there are people who exhibit the characteristics of each of these churches. In fact, at various times in our individual lives, we have or may exhibit some of these characteristics. The often repeated phrase in these letters is “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches” – plural! The intent seems to be that the person or church reading all of these letters would hear, take heed, do the commendable things and overcome the things held against them. **Can you see yourself in any of these letters? What Biblical strategy will you adopt to overcome what needs to be overcome?**

3. At Christmas time we focus on Matthew and Luke’s accounts of Jesus birth. Mark and John’s gospel accounts don’t cover that period of Jesus’ life. But John does cover Jesus birth here in the book of Revelation. **Read Revelation 12: 1-6 & 13-17.** This account probably doesn’t make you want to break out in song with a couple verses of “Away in a Manger”! At the same time, it is what God wanted John to record. “The woman” in this account does not seem to be the virgin Mary. **Based on Genesis 37:9-11, who might this woman be? Based on Revelation 12:9, who is the dragon? Do you remember where this “serpent of old” showed up in the Old Testament?**

Read Genesis 3:13-15 and 1 John 3:7-8. Based on what you have read in Revelation, discuss how God’s plan to destroy the works of Satan plays out, from Genesis to Revelation.

