



Week 50: Revelation 8-14

Study Guide for the week of Dec. 7-13

Personal reflection / journaling exercise

This week, meditate upon Rev 11:15-19.

The visions of Rev 8-9 paint a picture of what the world would look like if God gave it over to evil. Imagine yourself how the world would be if God was absent and Satan reigned supreme. What would that picture look like?

Now imagine what the world looks like when Jesus returns and the kingdom of the world becomes the kingdom of the Messiah where Jesus reigns supreme. What does that picture look like?

End your time slowly praying the Lord's Prayer, dwelling especially on the phrases, "thy kingdom come, thy will be done."

Discussion starters

1. The vision of the seven trumpets serves to issue warnings that are designed to bring people to repent and to "wake up" from their complacency, idolatry and tendency to assimilate. How did the wicked respond to the trumpets' warnings (Rev 9:20-21)? Have you ever received a warning to change your behavior, maybe a warning for speeding? Did the warning change your behavior? What warnings have you received that have changed your behavior? Do the trumpets' warnings in Revelation wake you up to a new awareness of the consequences of sin and evil? Why or why not?
2. Reread Rev 11:15. Who will hear this declaration as good news? As bad news? With the visions of destruction John is challenging his readers about their attempt to remain neutral in the face of God's reign. Is neutrality an option in our world today? Can you be for God and for the world? What happens to those who acknowledge God's sovereignty? What happens to those who seek to take God's place?
3. Rev 12-22 traces the defeat of Satan, Act Two in the drama. Often people try to identify the dragon, the beast from the sea and the beast from the land. But John uses this symbolism to remind his readers of threats that aren't limited by time. When is the beast (a composite picture of evil) not present in the world? When is idolatry not a threat to God's people? When are Christians not pressured to give up their commitments to God? Think through history and name times when evil and idolatry and pressure to stray from the faith were prevalent. Is it any different today?
4. Where does the great seven-headed beast dominate (Rev 13:1)? The other beast from the land (Rev 13:11)? Who holds the high ground (Rev 14:1)? What clue does this give the readers about the final outcome of the battle between God and Satan? How much confidence do you put in something or someone who you know will be utterly defeated?

Bible verse to memorize: Rev 11:15