



## Week 51: Revelation 15-22

### Study Guide for the week of Dec. 14-20

#### Personal reflection / journaling exercise

Spend time this week reviewing your journey through the Bible this year. Where were you surprised? Challenged? Comforted? Where were you especially aware of God's presence? The need for change in your life? Of God's incredible love for you?

As those things come to mind, thank God for revealing himself to you in a new and deeper way. Ask him to show you how to continue to grow closer to him through his word and through prayer. Finally, praise him for his word and how it leads to a deeper relationship with The Word, Jesus.

#### Discussion starters

1. The seven last plagues complete the series of three groups of plagues (7 seals, 7 trumpets, 7 bowls). Each series asks, in the light of God's judgment, whether people will repent or not and functions to strip John's readers down to their deepest loyalties. Share your deepest loyalties with your group. Are you surprised by the response of anyone? Why or why not? Remember, people cannot act in opposition to their deepest convictions, their deepest loyalties. Reread Rev 18:9-24. What do the eulogies of the kings reveal about their greatest loyalties? The merchants? The shipmasters and sailors?
2. The image of the bride and the harlot/whore are images of relationships. What do you think of when you think of a bride? A whore? In using these images, John focuses the entire message of Revelation – what is that message (Rev 19:10)?
3. Reread Rev 19:11-21. Who is the warrior in the great battle (Rev 19:16)? What is the only weapon mentioned in the battle (Rev 19:15)? Is the army following Jesus dressed in battle gear or in clothing more appropriate for a celebration (Rev 19:14)? Who captures the beast and the false prophet and kills the rest of the army of the beast (Rev 19:21)? How does the picture of the final battle presented in the biblical text differ from that presented by popular writers? What surprises you about the differences?
4. Read Ez 47:1-12. Now reread Rev 22:1-5. What do the nations of the world need healing for? Our nation? Our community? What do you need healing for? Reread Rev 22:14-17. Close your small group time together by bringing those needs for healing to God in prayer, accepting Jesus' invitation to come and be healed.

#### Bible verse to memorize: Rev 21:5-6