

Revelation: Chapters 18-19:10

Opening Question: Discuss the contrast between the “harlot” clothed in worldly riches (17:4) and the “bride” clothed in righteousness (19:8) in this section. What brings about this change?

Key Takeaways:

1. Revelation 18 reveals how God’s judgment on Judah and Jerusalem, foretold by the prophet Isaiah, will come to pass.
2. Understanding the message of the book of Isaiah is the key to unlocking what is happening in Revelation at the end of the story.
3. Isaiah describes Israel’s return from Babylonian captivity to the land of promise where Israel continues to play the harlot against God.
4. Israel’s rebellion against the LORD and against His Messiah continues until the end of the story, the book of Revelation, when Israel finally turns back to the LORD.
5. Despite Israel’s unfaithfulness to the LORD described in Isaiah, God will remain faithful to Israel and will restore Israel both spiritually and physically.
6. This passage in Revelation culminates with repentant Israel, no longer the harlot, but now the bride prepared for the marriage supper of the Lamb.
7. Christ’s return to rule happens when Israel repents and returns to the LORD.

Discussion Questions:

1. Read together Revelation 11-19:10. Describe what is happening in this second pass through the seven-year tribulation period.
2. Reread together Revelation 2-3 and discuss how knowing what is taking place in Revelation 18-19:10 would encourage John’s original audience. What were these churches experiencing and through what were they persevering? Who was opposing them in their faithfulness to the LORD?
3. Read Isaiah chapters 40 and 47 and Revelation 18. What connections do you see between what Isaiah and John are saying in these passages?

Practical Application:

1. Spend time this week reading the book of Isaiah, (this will take about three and a half or four hours), and look for language that is used in Revelation 18-19:10.
2. List as many connections as you can between Isaiah and Revelation.
3. How has understanding the book of Revelation in light of Isaiah's prophecy concerning Judah and Jerusalem helped you in tying the biblical story together?

Closing Prayer:

Father, thank You that You are faithful to all of Your promises. As we learn more of You through Your Word, please strengthen our conviction to live our lives in a manner that brings You glory. We joyfully anticipate and await the return of Your Son, Jesus. Amen.