

Reversed Thunder questions

Overall impressions of the book?

- rate from 1-10

What were some of the things you most appreciated?

- feel free to share a quote

What was something you disagreed with?

- Feel free to share a quote

Chapter 1

Have you ever considered the importance of the author's character behind scripture? Do you see the influence of John's theologian, poet and pastor roles in revelation?

What do we lose in the book of revelation without a balance of all three roles?

Chapter 2

Have you ever heard scripture spoken aloud in large parts instead of read alone? Do you agree with Peterson that they carry a living resonance when spoken?

Do you agree that "we remain so unaffected" by scripture due to a lack of imagination? (Page 14)

Chapter 4

How might you envision the "Letter to Living Springs" if it were written to us today to help us in the process of always reforming?

Do you think most churches land in a balance of affirmation, correction and motivation? Why or why not?

Chapter 5

Peterson writes, "The end result of the act of worship is that our lives are turned around." Do you agree with the statement? Is that how worship is often presented in a Christian context?

Chapter 6

Do you agree with Peterson's assessment of the horses disguises (war famine and

pestilence) and our complacency towards them in our culture?

"Christians, for the most part, are the very persons in our society who can be counted on to have no illusions about the depth of depravity in themselves or in the world at large. No other community of people has insisted so consistently through the centuries on calling evil by its right name. No other community has so mercilessly exposed its rationalizations, nor so courageously confessed its own complicity" (81) do you feel this describes the churches function in society today?

Chapter 7

"When we pray, we participate in doing God's will 'on earth as it is in heaven.'" How can we shift our paradigm of prayer to understand in this perspective.

God's judgement is presented with the purifying us in this chapter. Have you experienced this in your own life?

Chapter 8

Share your reflections on the statement "Law tells us how God is involved in our lives. Prophecy tells us how we are involved in God's life life." (114)

Chapter 9

How are christians to be political without falling into either of the temptations laid out on page 119? "Two temptations exert a powerful pull on the Christian community. One is to retain the political dimensions of the gospel and to take up the usual political means, namely, force. Instead of writing that silly donkey, Jesus should have charged into Jerusalem on a stallion and let a few heads roll. The other is to give up the political and have a nice little fellowship – cultivate a faith that more or less abandons the world of government, economics, culture, and society, and settle for saving a few souls"

Chapter 10

The understanding of the Great Whore was one of my favourite parts of this book. "Whore-worship brings us great gain: we get what we want when we want it. Bride-worship is an offering: we give ourselves and don't know how long we will wait for fulfillment." (148) How can Christian culture develop the patient endurance to focus on bride-worship in the midst of a whore-worship world?

Chapter 11

Do you think we as Christians fall into the optimism trap? If yes, how and why?

(154)

There is an urgency placed in our minds as we consider the battle before us. Consider this quote, "If we suppose (which many seem to) that salvation is a diploma that qualifies us for eternity, a diploma we can frame and hang on our bedroom wall, then we have it all wrong. It is battle. The moment we walk away from the Eucharist, having receive the life of our Lord, we walk into Armageddon, where we exercise the strength of our Lord" (161). Why have we as Christians lost this sense of urgency towards salvation and how do we get it back?

Chapter 12

The chilling last sentence of this chapter is enough in and of itself to discuss. "If we don't want God, or don't want him very near, we can hardly be expected to be very interested in heaven." If you truly examine who God is, and what his kingdom is about, are you a citizen who would fully embrace the new city?

Chapter 13

"Urgency must not be misunderstood as hurry" and "If we are dominated by a sense of *chronos*, the future is a source of anxiety, leeching energy from the present, or leaving us whiningly discontent with the present, like a child who can't wait for Christmas. But if we are dominated by a sense of *kairos*, the future is a source of expectation that pours energy into the present." (193) These statements have caused me to contemplate our perspective on church. We seem to be focused on a sense of hurry and are insistent on metrics of productivity, and I believe we then miss out on the unexpected and uncontrolled mysteries of grace Peterson mentions. Do you agree or disagree? What can we do to better participate in Christ's redemptive work instead of our own agenda?

Other Questions:

After reading the book, and Peterson's take on revelation, how can we rekindle the "praying imagination"? Why do we often settle for such "safe" default views of scripture and life in Christ?