

What does the Bible Say About... The End Times?

July 25, 2021

The Question Behind the Question:

- God is supposed to be in control, but it doesn't always look like it to us.
- We want to know that things are going according to _____, and we want to know our role in that _____.

Reading Revelation 1:

- Revelation uses complex, _____ images to drive home _____ points about the future. (Genesis 41:32)

The Plan: (Matthew 24:4-14)

1. Human sin will cause widespread _____.
2. God will send signs to call humanity to _____.
3. The church will testify through _____.
4. God will _____ the world and establish his kingdom.

Reading Revelation 2:

- Revelation uses vivid _____ to show us the _____ of world events. (Revelation 17:1-6)

Our Mission:

- God's people live under his _____ and _____. (Revelation 7:1-8)
- God will _____ his people to face persecution and _____. (Revelation 12:17-13:18)
- The Church's job is to stay true to _____ by staying faithful through suffering and temptation. (Revelation 14:1-5)
- God will _____ the Beasts and _____ the church. (Revelation 20:11-12, 21:1-4)

Conclusions:

- God is in control, even when the Beasts seem to be _____.
- We cannot defeat the Beasts by acting _____. We must follow _____.
- Our job is to point _____ the Beasts and point _____ the Lamb.

Discussion Questions

1. Getting Started:

- What did you find most interesting about the sermon this week? The most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling?
- What is your experience with the Book of Revelation? Do you find it fascinating? Bewildering?
- Why do you think people find End Times speculation so compelling?

2. Into the Bible (Revelation 2)

- The Book of Revelation begins with seven letters. Read the letter to the Church in Ephesus (Rev. 2:1-7). Where do you see the themes of “our mission” reflected in this letter?
- Now read the letter to Smyrna (Rev. 2:8-11). How does this letter connect with the themes of “our mission?”

- Now read the Letter to Pergamum (Rev. 2:12-17). How is this church doing with their mission to stay true to the Gospel?

- Now read the Letter to Thyatira (Rev. 2:18-29). How does this letter resonate with the themes of “our mission?”

3. Going Deeper

- If Jesus were going to write a letter to the Church in America, what might he say? How are we doing with our mission?
- Where do you see beasts in the world around us? How do they tempt us to act in beastly ways?
- How do we testify against those beasts? What does it look like to follow the Lamb instead of the beasts?