



Session 8 Leader Guide

OUTLINE:

I. Revelation 19:6-22 reveals the wedding feast of the Lamb, the millennium reign of Jesus, and our new home with Jesus.

A. The wedding feast of the Lamb (see 19:6-8) celebrates the ultimate victory of King Jesus and His marriage with the church.

B. Meals are significant in celebrating God's grace for His people, as seen in the Passover meal, Psalm 23, and the Lord's Supper.

C. As Overcomers, we are invited to partake of this meal in the presence of Jesus.

II. Jesus reigns with and through His people for a millennium (see 20:6).

A. There are three orthodox views of this reign: premillennialism, postmillennialism, and amillennialism.

B. Jesus is described as the King of kings, a victorious and regal warrior (see 19:11-16).

C. God's kingdom is already here (see Mark 1:14-15) and Satan is defeated (see Revelation 20:7-10).

III. Heaven comes down and is a literal place that God has renewed and remade (see 21:1-7).

A. We often inaccurately view heaven as intangible, but the Bible is clear it is a literal place (see 2 Peter 3:8-10; Isaiah 35).

B. God is not going to concede the earth to His enemies. Throughout Scripture, He redeems His creation for His purposes.

C. The Christian vision for the future is that of a renewed world, not a brand-new heaven.

IV. God gathers up the full range of the world's ethnic diversity and unites us all as His people.

A. No one ethnic group or culture can reveal the full image of God-it requires all of us.

B. When heaven converges with earth, it will feature a physical place with peoples, kings, and cultures (see 21:24).

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C. Our future home includes not only a renewed physical earth but a renewed creativity and calling for God's people.

V. The greatest reward is that we will be in the presence of Jesus (see 21:22; 22:4).

A. This is what we were made for, our eternal reward: to dwell in the presence of God.

B. In God's presence, there are no tears, death, disease, mourning, or crying (see 21:4); no temple (see 21:22); and no closed gates (see 21:25).

C. We will see God face-to-face because we have been transformed (see 22:4).

DISCUSSION:

1. Ask someone to read Revelation 19:1-10. What stands out to you in this invitation to • the wedding feast of the Lamb? What is the role of worship in this celebration?
2. Of the three orthodox views of the millennium-premillennialism, postmillennialism, and amillennialism-which one do you tend to hold? Why is any such view not as important as the fact that Jesus' ultimate victory is being celebrated?
3. What surprises you the most about the physical, literal reality of heaven as described in Revelation 21-22? What do you think has been the basis for your expectations about heaven?
4. After John sees the New Jerusalem descend from heaven, the One seated on the throne says, "I am making everything new!" (21:5). What call does He then make to His followers? Who does He say will inherit all these riches (see verses 6-7)?
5. John's vision ends with an invitation: "Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life" (22:17). How are you accepting His invitation today? What feelings do you experience when you consider being face-to-face with Jesus?

RESPOND:

Revelation ends with quite the big reveal, and there's a lot to take in. As you consider these final scenes, pay attention to how your heart is responding to the unveiling of your new heavenly home. What evokes excitement and joy? What confuses or concerns you? Regardless of your reaction now, know that when heaven converges with earth and is remade by God, you will experience more joy, peace, fulfillment, and gratitude than you can presently imagine. You will be with your family of faith in the midst of ultimate reality in your forever home.

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- What images from these final scenes in Revelation stand out and linger with you?
- What remains uncertain or confusing to you about heaven based on what you read? What one question would you want to ask John to help alleviate your concerns?
- Consider and discuss with your group the possibility of planning a meal together as a foretaste of the Lamb's wedding feast as well as a fitting way to celebrate concluding this study. What are some of the things you would need to make this occasion extraordinary without too much effort or expense?

PRAY:

End your time by praying together as a group. Thank God for the experience of learning with your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. Praise Jesus for the victory you all share as you anticipate your heavenly home. Follow up on previous prayer requests and ask if anyone would like any ongoing prayer as your study concludes. Write down those requests so that you and other group members can continue to pray about them moving forward.