

# CONNECT GROUP NOTES

## Revelation Readiness.

Preparing today for an uncertain tomorrow.

# Are You Ready for a New Beginning?

The revelation from Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to

Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it

the seven spirits[a] before his throne, 5 and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the



Encourage the group to take turns reading and answering questions. It is best to ask the questions as they appear instead of waiting till the end

**TOPIC : Are you ready for a New Beginning?**

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**TIME TO PONDER:**

This week we are onto the final episode - Revelation 20, 21 & 22. Where two major events remain; the Final judgement and the New Heaven and New Earth.

Let's start with the Final Judgment.

*Revelation 20:11-15*

*11 Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. The earth and the heavens fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. 12 And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. 13 The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what they had done. 14 Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. 15 Anyone whose name was not found written in*

*the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.*

We need to answer eight questions about Judgement Day

1. Is judgement real? - Yes

The coming judgement day is taught throughout scripture: Old Testament and New, from Jesus to Paul to Daniel.

*Matthew 12:36*

*36 But I tell you that everyone will have to give account on the day of judgement for every empty word they have spoken.*

*Jude 1:6*

*6 And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their proper dwelling—these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgement on the great Day.*

*Daniel 12:2*

*2 Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt.*

2. Who judges us? - Jesus

**JESUS IS OUR LORD, OUR SAVIOUR  
AND OUR JUDGE**

*2 Timothy 4:1*

*1 In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus,  
who will judge the living and the dead*

## TIME TO REFLECT:

3. When exactly will final judgement happen? - At the end of the Millennium.

### *Rev 20: 13*

*The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what they had done.*

### *John 5:28-29*

*28 “Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice 29 and come out—those who have done what is good will rise to live, and those who have done what is evil will rise to be condemned.*

After all of Jesus' enemies have finally been brought under his feet. We see the final judgement will happen. This is the final scene on the old planet earth.

4. Who is judged? - Satan is judged, unbelievers are judged and believers also face this judgement

*Acts 24:15*

*15 and I have the same hope in God as these men themselves have, that there will be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked.*

But for believers this should not bring fear.

## *Revelation 20:5-6*

*5 (The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.*

## *John 5:24*

*24 “Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.*

EVERYONE FACES JUDGEMENT BUT  
BELIEVERS HAVE ALREADY BEEN JUDGED  
FOR SIN BY THE CROSS OF JESUS



5. How are we judged? - a record has been kept of all that we have done on earth.

*2 Corinthians 5:10*

*10 For we must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.*

Judged not just by deeds but by our very words! None of us would be declared righteous if not for the blood of Jesus. Only those whose names are in the Lambs Book of Life will survive the final judgement.

**Question 1: When you consider what will be written in 'your' book, how grateful and certain are you that your name will appear in the Lamb's Book of Life?**

## TIME TO DISCUSS:

6. What is hell like? - a literal hell.

Many people might not believe in hell, BUT  
JESUS DOES!

*Matthew 13:49-50*

*49 This is how it will be at the end of the age.  
The angels will come and separate the wicked  
from the righteous 50 and throw them into the  
blazing furnace, where there will be weeping  
and gnashing of teeth.*

*Rev 21:15*

*Anyone whose name was not found written in  
the book of life was thrown into the lake of  
fire.*

**Hell is eternal separation from God described as a lake of burning fire.**

**Question 2: How does the thought of a literal hell change the way you feel about those you love who have not given their hearts to Jesus?**

7. How should the thought of judgement motivate us now? - it should inspire us to live lives holy unto the Lord and it should inspire us to urgently preach the gospel.

*2 Peter 3:11*

*11 Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives 12 as*

*you look forward to the day of God and speed  
its coming.*

The reality of judgement should inspire us to live lives devoted to God and do all we can to warn others.

8. What then is the final outcome of the Judgement? - The human race will be permanently divided into two groups. Those destined for hell and those destined for the new heaven and earth.

*Matthew 25:41*

*41 “Then he will say to those on his left,  
‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the  
eternal fire prepared for the devil and his  
angels.*

For the other, a new city has been ‘prepared’

*John 14:2-3*

*2 My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me so that you also may be where I am.*

The final judgement results in a separation of humanity and the introduction of eternity.

**Question 3: What is it about eternity that you are most looking forward to?**

**New Heaven and New Earth**

### *Revelation 21:1-3*

*1 Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. 2 I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.*

### *Revelation 21:9-14*

*9 One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, “Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.” 10 And he carried me*

*away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. 11 It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. 12 It had a great, high wall with twelve gates, and with twelve angels at the gates. On the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel. 13 There were three gates on the east, three on the north, three on the south and three on the west. 14 The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.*

The new heaven and new earth consists of the Bride City (the New Jerusalem), and a new Garden of Eden. God is moving his residence!

## *Rev 21: 3*

*And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God."*

God will dwell with man on the new earth. No longer Our Father in heaven, but our Father on earth with us in glorious uninterrupted fellowship with God on earth.

Only once do we get a glimpse of this in Genesis 3:8 in the first Garden of Eden. Now it will be permanent. No more tears. No more sadness. Glorious fellowship with God.



## ACTION STEP

Let us now apply all we have heard to living lives worthy of this King. Sharing our faith so that we may be surrounded by those we have introduced to Jesus on the Day of Judgement.

## PROLOGUE:

*“The world is coming to an end, but that end is personal rather than impersonal. In fact, the end is a person. Jesus is the end.*

*To study Revelation primarily to discover what the world is coming to is to miss the point.*

*The essential message is about who the world is coming to or, rather, who is coming to the world.”*

What have we learnt?

- The completion of the Bible
- A defence against heresy
- The interpretation of history
- A ground for hope
- A motivation for evangelism
- A stimulus to worship
- An antidote to worldliness
- An incentive to godliness
- A preparation for persecution
- An understanding of Christ

*Revelation 22:20-21*

*20 He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.*

*21 The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen.*

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