

THE ONE WHO CONQUERS

For many weeks in this study, we examined the portrait of Christ through the letters to the churches in *Revelation*. Each letter ended with a statement to “*the one who conquers.*” Last Week we saw the terrible and swift violence reaped by those who stood in opposition to Christ. This Week, we’re embarking on eternity as the prophetic word of *Revelation* comes to an end. With the final battle of Armageddon over, the conquerors reap their great reward

Revelation 21:4 says, “*He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.*” Christ will gently wipe away all the hurt, anguish, shame, and guilt we’ve ever faced in this life.

Eternity promises unimaginable joy and peace. We will find fulfillment and wholeness we have never found in any person or thing. The journey, however, is not over. The one who conquers has a sure promise, but this time of enduring will continue until then.

REVELATION 22:3–13

³No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. ⁴They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

⁶And he said to me, “These words are trustworthy and true. And the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place.” ⁷“And behold, I am coming soon. Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.”

⁸I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed them to me, ⁹but he said to me, “You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers the prophets, and with those who keep the words of this book. Worship God.”

¹⁰And he said to me, “Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near. ¹¹Let the evildoer still do evil, and the filthy still be filthy, and the righteous still do right, and the holy still be holy.” ¹²“Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done. ¹³I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

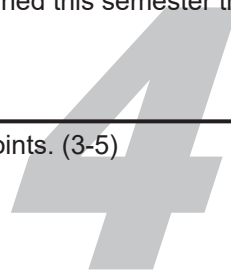
"We will thrive when our God shines... 'Cause if everything exists to lift you high, so will I." We are headed for an eternity in awe-struck worship, so let's start the party now.

We have seen God's Throne Room, and we worship his majesty and might. We have seen Christ's sacrifice, and we worship that he made our presence possible. We have seen Christ's return, and we worship his righteous judgment. Now we celebrate the destiny where we will enjoy him forever.



DISCUSSION

What is the main thing you learned this semester that God is challenging you with?



ICEBREAKER

OBSERVATION

1. Describe Heaven in bullet points. (3-5)

2. How credible is this info and what difference will it make to heed it? (6-7)

3. What were the angel's final words? (10-12)

4. What does it mean "*not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book*"? (10)

INTERPRETATION

5. How does this snapshot of Heaven impact your faithfulness on Earth and eternity and your longing for an eternity with Christ?

APPLICATION

As we wrap up, don't leave anything un-said, un-questioned, or un-done. Time is running out in more ways than one. Talk to your coach today.

STUDY NOTES

THE REAL ME

On April 1, 1942, Desmond Doss voluntarily joined the Marines. However, due to religious convictions, he refused to kill enemy soldiers or even carry a gun. He was considered a “coward.” He faced abuse, being physically beaten by his fellow soldiers trying to get him to quit. Later, on the battlefield, they saw a Doss they never imagined.

As a medic in Guam and the Philippines, Doss earned two Bronze Stars for exceptional valor. At Okinawa, although wounded four times and under heavy artillery and mortar fire, he saved 50-100 men atop Hacksaw Ridge. Long after the army had pulled back, Doss kept searching for the wounded and found more people to rescue—each trip could easily have been his last. Boldly and courageously, he lowered each one down the 400’ cliff, earning him the Medal of Honor. Humbled, his peers easily granted him their long-denied respect.

Some people see Jesus like the Desmond Doss from boot camp—weak and abused. Doss’ *character* never changed, only the circumstances. Similarly, this Week, we’ll see a Jesus that may not fit *our* image. Remember, *he* never changes. However, *we* may need to humbly acknowledge seeing Christ as never imagined as we experience a small taste of heaven.

CHRIST’S GLORY IS REVEALED THROUGH HIS AUTHORITY

In Revelation 21, we glimpse the New Creation that will be the eternal home for believers. In the New Creation, ***No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.*** We’ve discussed worship in a variety of ways, but here we see that it becomes even more personal.

In the New Creation, ***they will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.*** How does this work? In speaking with a physicist friend, there are very interesting ideas surrounding light and its relationship with time. When we enter eternity and time is no more, all bets are off. It’s very possible that light need not come from a source like a bulb, but from the very One who created light in the first place and it’s just all around forever. Just because we haven’t

experienced it here in time, doesn’t mean it will not be true in eternity.

The angel of the Lord said, ***“These words are trustworthy and true... behold, I am coming soon. Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.”*** The Christ, whose glory will literally light eternity, will return for his people. As if he was in court, John testified, ***I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things.***

AUTHORITY IS EXPRESSED THROUGH HIS ETERNAL REIGN

As we draw this semester to a close, how should we respond? The angel said to John, ***“Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near.”*** We hope in each study we have a balance of people—we hope there are some Christians who are walking with the Lord daily. If that’s you, take what you’ve learned, leverage your resources and platform, and share what you know of Jesus. Don’t seal it up, share it!

In each study we also hope that there are those who believe, but have struggled or are not walking with the Lord. Hopefully, you’ve had a fire lit under you. The Warrior King is coming. Suit up, know him, serve him. Stop wasting your life.

Finally, we hope that each study every semester has students who do not have a relationship with Jesus. We hope that you have been searching, heard of this Bible study, and decided you wanted to see if it’s real. Hopefully this study has shown you a different picture of Jesus than you’ve ever seen before. We pray that you’ve had your heart pricked when discussing sin and the need of salvation. God didn’t make humanity robots, programmed to love him. If you want to live in sin, he will let you go your own way. Yet, he sent his Son for your sin so that you might know him and have a relationship with him.

No matter where you land on this spectrum, we hope that each of you have discovered a next step in faithful obedience to Jesus. Christ is not who we make him to be—he is more than we could imagine. We will conclude as the angel concluded with John, ***“Let the evildoer still do evil, and the filthy still be filthy, and the righteous still do right, and the holy still be holy. Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”***