

ENGAGING GOSPEL DOCTRINE (EPISODE 172)

LESSON 46

"He Will Dwell with Them, and They Shall Be His People"

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| Hook | The book of Revelation reads like an action movie. In fact, the Book of Revelation has inspired numerous action movies (go watch the trailer for X-Men: Apocalypse). But how do we apply these apocalyptic, over the top symbolic messages to our lives here and now? |
| Manual Goal | To encourage class members to face the future with hope because they know that the forces of evil will be overcome and the Savior will reign in triumph. |
| EGD Goal | To inspire class members to "help the kingdom come" by dwelling with and comforting those around them. |
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I. Sunday School

- a. Business
- b. Corrections to consider
- c. Framing
- d. Two minute take-home
 - i. Chapters 21 and 22 are where it's at.
 - ii. How can these chapters give us hope?
 - iii. How can we make these chapters true in our own lives, right now? How can we claim, and "dwell with" others? How can we wipe away their tears?
 - iv. 21:5: "I am making all things new". One of the greatest hopes of the gospel. How do we help make this happen?
- e. Scripture Commentary
- f. Lesson
 - i. What do these chapters mean? (Give a clear overview of the symbolism/meaning)
 1. If you don't have any help, what is the best way to approach this text?
 2. If you have done your homework, how can you inform others as well?
 - ii. What "apocalyptic" dangers do we face? (OUR "horsemen of the apocalypse") (climate change, inequality, exploitation, corruption, violence...)

- iii. How can these beautiful chapters empower us in our lives?
<https://lettersfromthevineyard.wordpress.com/2015/09/24/not-all-not-yet/>
- iv. What can we do to “wipe away each other’s tears”? (use example of Canadian minister, response to Syrian refugees “you are home now”).
 “You are here and you are safe. You are here and you are loved. You are here and you can stay.” (Don’t we all want to hear exactly that?)
- v. How can “all things become new”?
- vi. What can we do to bring about the state described in these chapters?
- g. Full Reading

II. Scripture Study

- a. Another overview (From Oxford Companion to the Bible, which by the way is my book recommendation this time)

III. Study Notes

- a. In light of the symbolic, over-the-top descriptions in Revelation
 - i. How does hope work?
 - ii. Is false hope still worthwhile?
- b. What are the problems with this forces of good/forces of evil dichotomy?
- c. Justice and punishment down the rabbit hole.
 - i. Literal belief (still need to deal with this life)
 - ii. Karma
 - iii. Natural consequences
 - iv. Life sucks.
- d. The devil down the rabbit hole
 - i. Literal being
 - ii. Literal being but misunderstood (nuances such as being recycled, the richer LDS story, perhaps even well intentioned)
 - iii. Symbolizes parts of our natures
 - iv. Unhelpful/counterproductive myth
- e. Why is fear so powerful?