

Personal Study Guide

And
Then
the End
Will
Come

*The
Completion of the
Great Commission
and Nine Other Clues
that Jesus is
Coming Soon*

Douglas Cobb

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Introduction

Thank you for downloading the *And Then the End Will Come Personal Study Guide!*

This seven-week, six-day-a-week Study Guide is a companion to the book *And Then the End Will Come: The Completion of the Great Commission and Nine Other Clues That Jesus Is Coming Soon*. You can use it alone for daily personal Bible study, or as part of a small group study. If you use it in a group, you'll also want to use the *And Then the End Will Come Group Leader's Guide* to guide your weekly meetings

About the Study

This study is designed to help you explore and apply the scriptures and ideas presented in *And Then the End Will Come*:

- Jesus promised he would return to gather his people and establish his eternal kingdom.
- Contrary to what many believe, the Bible teaches that it is possible to know that we are living in the season of the time of Jesus second coming. As Jesus says in Matthew 24:33, “Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it is near, right at the door.”
- The Great Commission is nearing completion. By whatever finish line you choose—believers in every people group, the Bible in every language, or a body of Christ (a church) in every place—the global church is nearing the end of the race.
- Jesus explicitly linked his return to the completion of that task, saying “this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come” (Matthew 24:14)
- There are other Biblical clues—the regathering of Israel, the prophecies of Daniel 12 and Hosea 5 and 6, the prophecy of Matthew 24:37 that “As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man,” and others—that confirm the promise of Matthew 24:14 that we are living in the days of the Lord’s return.
- If it’s true that Jesus is coming soon, his people want to prepare ourselves so that we can stand firm in these last days and be a holy Bride, “without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless,” at the time of his return.
- God has promised amazing things for his people in eternity—things so spectacular that the Bible says no one can even imagine what they will be like. Looking forward to these things should help us be more enthusiastic about Jesus’ return and the beginning of eternity.

And Then the End Will Come Study Guide

The Big Ideas

If it's true that Jesus' return is imminent, we should be joyful and excited, even in the midst of the growing craziness we see around us in the world, knowing that our "blessed hope" is close at hand. And we should be all the more serious about preparing ourselves for his return, because time is short. As you study, keep those two ideas in mind: prepared and joyful. If at the end of the study you're more excited about the things to come, and more committed to preparing yourself to meet Jesus, then your study will have accomplished its purpose.



Week One
He is Coming Back

Week One, Day One

The Promises of God

Chapter 1 of *And Then the End Will Come* considers the many promises of Jesus' return and establishes our confidence that he is coming back.

Today, we'll begin by considering God's promises, which are the most real thing we know. If God has promised something, it will certainly occur. There is more chance of the chair you're sitting on dissolving into thin air and dumping you on the floor than there is of even one of God's promises not coming true.

From beginning to end, the Bible promises that Jesus will return to rule over the earth from the throne of his ancestor David. So there is no doubt: Jesus is coming back.

Memory

Our scripture memory verse for this week is Revelation 22:20:

He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon!"

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Reading

For today, read the Introduction and pages 9 and 10, taking notes in the space below. Make a note of anything you learned that you didn't know before, anything you didn't understand, or any questions that came to your mind as you were reading.

Week One: He *Is* Coming Back

Questions

1. 2 Peter 1:3-4 says that God's promises are rooted in his glory and goodness. When you think of God's glory, what comes to mind? His goodness?
2. Peter describes God's promises as "very great" and "precious." What makes them very great? How are they precious to you?
3. How are prophecies and promises similar? Are they different in any way?
4. What is one promise of God that you are especially trusting in? How confident are you that God will keep that promise? Why?

Week One, Day Two

Prophecies of the First Coming

The Bible contains hundreds of promises of the coming Messiah. Some of these were fulfilled in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth, establishing beyond a doubt his identity as the promised Christ. But these promises of the first coming have another important value: seeing how these prophecies have been perfectly fulfilled increases our confidence that God will also fulfill the many prophecies of the second coming as well.

Memory

Write out this week's memory verse, Revelation 22:20:

Reading

For today, read pages 10 to 11, taking notes in the space below. Make a note of anything you learned that you didn't know before, anything you didn't understand, or any questions that came to your mind as you were reading.

Week One: He *Is* Coming Back

Questions

1. Micah 5:2 says the Messiah will come from Bethlehem; Hosea 11:1 says he will come out of Egypt; and Isaiah 9:1-2 says he'll be a Galilean. How were these three prophecies fulfilled in the life of Jesus? How difficult would it have been to understand these prophecies before he fulfilled them?
2. Consider the prophecies concerning the birth and death of the Messiah. Could any human being plan for these things to be fulfilled in his life—for instance, that he would be born in a certain place or be descended from a certain person? What does that tell you about Jesus? About God?
3. The book cites only a handful of the many prophecies of the first coming of the Messiah that were perfectly fulfilled in the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth. How does knowing these prophecies were perfectly fulfilled affect your confidence about the many prophecies of the second coming?

Week One, Day Three

What Did Jesus Say?

Importantly, Jesus himself promised over and over that he would return, which should fill us with confidence that he is, in fact, coming back. Today we'll consider just a few on those many promises.

Memory

Write out this week's memory verse, Revelation 22:20:

Reading

For today, read pages 12 to 14, taking notes in the space below. Make a note of anything you learned that you didn't know before, anything you didn't understand, or any questions that came to your mind as you were reading.

Questions

1. John 14:1-3,

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. 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? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

contains several specific promises. How many do you see?

2. Jesus promises in John 14:3 “where I am, there you may be also.” How do you feel about being with Jesus? What will that be like?
3. Jesus came the first time as a suffering servant to bear the sins of the world. According to Matthew 25:31, “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne,” how will his second coming be different from his first?
4. In Revelation 22, Jesus repeats the words “I am coming” three times; the words *come* or *coming* appear seven times; and the last words of Jesus in the Bible, in Revelation 22:20, are “Yes, I am coming soon.” Why? What’s the purpose of that repetition?

Week One, Day Four

New Testament Prophecies

Not only did Jesus promise repeatedly that he would return—His apostles and the other New Testament authors wrote frequently about the second coming and the events and circumstances that would surround it. In fact, the idea that the Lord is returning, and returning soon, is found in almost every book in the New Testament.

Can there be any doubt? If the Bible is true, Jesus is coming back.

Memory

Write out this week's memory verse, Revelation 22:20:

Reading

For today, read pages 16 to 18, taking notes in the space below. Make a note of anything you learned that you didn't know before, anything you didn't understand, or any questions that came to your mind as you were reading.

Week One: He *Is* Coming Back

Questions

1. Notice the words the New Testament authors use to describe his coming: *will come, is coming, until he comes*, and so on. What do those words convey? How confident were these writers that Jesus would come back?
2. James 5:8 says God's people should be "patient and firm" as we look forward to his coming? Why patient? Why firm? What might you be called to stand firm against in the time before Jesus returns?
3. Why is the promise of Jesus' return repeated so many times in the new Testament? What does that repetition communicate to you?

Week One, Day Five

Our Blessed Hope

No matter how awesome your life is—or how awesome you’re hoping it may become—it does not begin to compare to life in the kingdom of God. So if you’re a follower of Jesus, you should be eagerly anticipating Jesus’ return and the establishment of his eternal kingdom. It’s going to be awesome—according to 1 Corinthians 2:9, wonderful beyond even what you can imagine.

Memory

Write out this week’s memory verse, Revelation 22:20:

Reading

For today, read pages 18 to 20, taking notes in the space below. Make a note of anything you learned that you didn’t know before, anything you didn’t understand, or any questions that came to your mind as you were reading.

Week One: He *Is* Coming Back

Questions

1. Paul writes in Titus 2 that the return of Christ is the “blessed hope” for his followers. What do those words, *blessed hope*, mean to you? Why will his return be blessed? Why is it our hope?
2. Philippians 3:20 says “our citizenship is in heaven.” What does that mean to you? Do you think of yourself primarily as a citizen of heaven? If you did, how would it affect your feelings about Christ’s return?
3. Why do you think God wants us to be eager for the return of Christ?
4. Does the idea that Jesus may return in your lifetime excite you, or are you a little reluctant—or perhaps some of both? Can you explain why you feel the way you feel? What might increase your excitement about the return of Christ?

Week One, Day Six

Where Is He?

Today, many scorn the idea that Jesus is coming back, and truth be told many Christians even wonder if he will ever come. Interestingly the Apostle Peter predicted that this attitude would be common in the last days. Let's take a closer look at his prophecy.

Memory

Write out this week's memory verse, Revelation 22:20:

Reading

For today, read pages 20 and 21, taking notes in the space below. Make a note of anything you learned that you didn't know before, anything you didn't understand, or any questions that came to your mind as you were reading.

Week One: He *Is* Coming Back

Questions

1. According to 2 Peter 3:4, what is the scoffer's argument that Jesus is not coming again? How does Peter refute that argument?
2. According to 2 Peter 3:5, the scoffers "deliberately forget" the evidence that Jesus will return. Why do you think they do that? Can you think of another passage of scripture that speaks on this type of deliberate ignorance on the part of unbelievers?
3. How confident was Peter that Jesus was coming back? Why was he so confident? Do you share that same confidence?
4. Do you think the scornful attitude Peter describes is common today? Do you know anyone who would say the things Peter prophesies here? How would you answer them if they scoffed at you reading a book about the soon return of Christ?

And Then the End Will Come Personal Study Guide



Week Two
Can We Know?

Week Two, Day One

When Are You Coming Back?

This week we'll be taking a close look at the topics covered in Chapters 2 and 10 of *And Then the End Will Come*, exploring the question "Can we know?" and looking at the various passages on both sides of that question.

Many Christians think it's a waste of time to explore the timing of the return of Christ. They say, "Jesus said that even he didn't know when he was coming back. If he didn't know, what makes you think you can know?"

Or they'll cite one of the many passages that use the "thief in the night" metaphor, and say, "See? The Bible says we can't know when Jesus is coming back—he'll come unexpectedly, like a thief in the night."

But interestingly, at least once when Jesus's disciples asked him when he was coming back, He gave them a direct answer. This should increase our confidence that while we can't know exactly when Jesus will return, we can know the season of his coming with some certainty.

Memory

Our scripture memory verse for this week is Matthew 24:33:

"Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it is near, right at the door."

Reading

For today, read pages 23 to 25 and 26 to 27, taking notes in the space below. Make a note of anything you learned that you didn't know before, anything you didn't understand, or any questions that came to your mind as you were reading.

Week Two: Can We Know?

Questions

1. Paraphrase the question(s) Jesus' disciples asked in Matthew 24:3. In simple language, what were they asking him?
2. What specifically did Jesus tell his disciples would have to be accomplished before he returned?
3. If Jesus did not want his disciples (or us) to have any idea about the timing of his return, how might he have answered their question? What does it tell you that he gave them a clear answer?
4. Read through Matthew 24 and note some of the other events Jesus says will signal his return. What is the purpose of this list of signs and clues?

Week Two, Day Two

Only the Father

Perhaps the best-known verse in the Bible concerning the return of Christ is Matthew 24:36. People will quote this verse and say, “Jesus said that even he didn’t know when he was coming back. If he didn’t know, what makes you think you can know?” Let’s consider just what Jesus said in this verse, and look at it in context, and see if we can’t develop a more nuanced view about what it teaches.

Memory

Write out this week’s memory verse, Matthew 24:33:

Reading

For today, read pages 25 and 26 and Chapter 10, taking notes in the space below. Make a note of anything you learned that you didn’t know before, anything you didn’t understand, or any questions that came to your mind as you were reading.

Questions

1. When Jesus warns in Matthew 24:36 “But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father,” exactly what does he mean? Is he saying that we can’t know anything about the timing of his return?
2. Chapter 9 of the book explains how Jesus fulfilled five of the seven Feasts of Israel in his first coming and predicts that he will fulfill the remaining two—Trumpets and Atonement—when he comes again. How might the phrase “only the Father” relate to the Feast of Trumpets? Do you think it’s possible that Jesus’ caution in Matthew 24:36 was also a hint about the timing of his return?
3. How do you reconcile Jesus’ statement in Matthew 24:36, “But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father,” with what he says in verse 33, “Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it is near, right at the door”?
4. How would you answer a friend who said, “Even Jesus said that even he didn’t know when he was coming back, so we surely can’t know”?

Week Two, Day Three

Like A Thief

One metaphor used to describe the return of the Lord is it will be like the coming of “a thief in the night.” Many people cite that image to argue that the return of Jesus will happen at an unknown and unknowable time. But a more careful look at the use of this metaphor suggests that while his return may be surprising to some, for others it should not.

Memory

Write out this week’s memory verse, Matthew 24:33:

Reading

For today, read pages 27 to 30, taking notes in the space below. Make a note of anything you learned that you didn’t know before, anything you didn’t understand, or any questions that came to your mind as you were reading.

Week Two: Can We Know?

Questions

1. What is the meaning of the “thief in the night” metaphor? Why do thieves come at night?
2. Paul draws a contrast between two groups of people in 1 Thessalonians 5:1-5. Who are the two groups? What is different about them? To which group does the warning, “the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night” apply?
3. In Revelation 1:3, Jesus warns the church at Sardis, "if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you." What do you think he means that they should "wake up?"
4. In Revelation 16:15, Jesus warns, 15 “Look, I come like a thief! Blessed is the one who stays awake and remains clothed, so as not to go naked and be shamefully exposed.” What does it mean to stay awake? To remain clothed? What is the consequence of not being clothed? Do you feel like you are properly clothed for the return of the Lord?

Week Two, Day Four

The Thessalonians

Paul's second letter to the Thessalonians was written to comfort the church. They had been deceived by someone who had told them that the day of the Lord had already arrived, and they were living in the day of judgment. Paul writes to reassure them that it had not yet come and could not come until two specific things had occurred. His answer to them helps us understand what we can know about the timing of the return of the Lord.

Memory

Write out this week's memory verse, Matthew 24:33:

Reading

For today, read pages 30 to 31, taking notes in the space below. Make a note of anything you learned that you didn't know before, anything you didn't understand, or any questions that came to your mind as you were reading.

Week Two: Can We Know?

Questions

1. According to 2 Thessalonians 2:2, what had “unsettled” and “alarmed” the Thessalonians? Why would this have been unsettling to them? What were they expecting would take place before the day of the Lord arrived?
2. In 2 Thessalonians 2:3, Paul names two events that must take place before the coming of “that day.” What are they? Why could the Thessalonians be confident that they are not living in the day of the Lord?
3. What do you think Paul means by “the rebellion” in 2 Thessalonians 2:3? Who is “the man of lawlessness?”
4. If Paul did not want the Thessalonians to have any idea about the timing of his return, how might he have answered their question? What does it tell you that he named two things that had to happen before the “day of the Lord” would come?

Week Two, Day Five

The End from the Beginning

Isaiah 46:9–10 is a great affirmation of God’s preeminence and power. According to this passage, God doesn’t just know what is still to come; he also makes it known. In other words, God glorifies himself not only by accomplishing his purposes and doing all that he pleases, but even more by revealing beforehand what he is going to do.

Memory

Write out this week’s memory verse, Matthew 24:33:

Reading

For today, read pages 31 to 33, taking notes in the space below. Make a note of anything you learned that you didn’t know before, anything you didn’t understand, or any questions that came to your mind as you were reading.

Week Two: Can We Know?

Questions

1. Isaiah 46:9 begins, “Remember the former things, those of long ago,” before going on to speak of God’s holiness and omniscience. What does he want us to remember? Why does he begin that way?
2. According to Isaiah 46:9-10, God glorifies himself not only by accomplishing his purposes and doing all that he pleases, but even more by revealing beforehand what he is going to do. Can you think of an example in scripture where God has done exactly that?
3. Why does God reveal through prophecy things that are to come?
4. God says, “My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.” Is there anything that can hinder God down or prevent him from doing what he wants? How does thinking about that influence your thoughts about God’s promises in general, and about Jesus’ second coming in particular?

Week Two, Day Six

The Signs of the Times

In Matthew 16, Jesus rebuked those in his day who did not understand the signs of their times. The religious leaders came to Jesus demanding a sign, and he criticized them for not understanding the signs they had already been given.

The 10 clues presented in *And Then the End Will Come* indicate we are living in the day of Jesus' return. These are the signs of *our* times—the signs that reveal we're living in amazing days and that Jesus is coming soon.

Memory

Write out this week's memory verse, Matthew 24:33:

Reading

For today, read page 33, taking notes in the space below. Make a note of anything you learned that you didn't know before, anything you didn't understand, or any questions that came to your mind as you were reading.

Week Two: Can We Know?

Questions

1. What are some of the “signs of the times” that the Pharisees and other Jewish leaders missed regarding Jesus’ first coming?
2. Why do you think the Jewish leaders missed the signs of Jesus first coming? Is there any connection between the reason they missed the signs and the reason many people today are missing the signs of Jesus’s possible soon return?
3. Having completed this week’s lessons, what’s your opinion? How much can we know about the timing of Christ’s return?
4. Are you living as if you expect Jesus to come back? What would you be doing differently if you were convinced Jesus was coming back soon?

And Then the End Will Come Personal Study Guide

A dark gray circle is centered on the page. Inside the circle, the text "Week Three", "And Then the End", and "Will Come" is written in a white, serif font, stacked vertically.

Week Three
And Then the End
Will Come

Week Three, Day One

God's Heart for the Nations

From beginning to end—from Genesis to Revelation—God's Word proclaims his heart for the "nations." In the New Testament, the word translated "nations" is the Greek word *ethnos*. An *ethnos* is a group of people who share a common ethnicity, ancestry, heritage, culture, and/or language—an ethnolinguistic people group. According to *Finishing the Task* (www.finishingthetask.org) there are about twelve thousand of these biblical nations scattered around the world. And Jesus has commanded us to tell all of them his good news.

Memory

Our scripture memory verse for this week is Matthew 24:14:

"This gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world, as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come."

Reading

For today, read pages 37 to 40, taking notes in the space below. Make a note of anything you learned that you didn't know before, anything you didn't understand, or any questions that came to your mind as you were reading.

Week Three: And Then the End Will Come

Questions

1. What English words are derived from the Greek word, *ethnos*? Does thinking about those words help you understand what an *ethnos* is?
2. As you look through the verses in the reading, what words do you see repeated? What does that repetition suggest to you?
3. According to Revelation 7:9-10, how large will the crowd around God's throne be? Who will it include?
4. True or False: the kingdom of God is the most diverse assembly of people there will ever be. Why do you say that? How might you use that idea to start a gospel conversation with someone you know who has high regard for diversity?

Week Three, Day Two

The Origin of the Nations

According to the experts, there are over 12,000 Biblical “nations”—people groups—scatter across the earth. And we know from the Bible where they all came from.

Memory

Write out this week’s memory verse, Matthew 24:14:

Reading

For today, read pages 40 and 41, taking notes in the space below. Make a note of anything you learned that you didn’t know before, anything you didn’t understand, or any questions that came to your mind as you were reading.

Week Three: And Then the End Will Come

Questions

1. According to Genesis 11:1-9, why does God say he's going to separate the people into nations with different languages?
2. What does God accomplish by dividing the nations? In other words, what do they do after they are divided? Could that be one reason God acted as he did? (Hint: What had God commanded mankind to do in Genesis 9:11?)
3. At first glance, it may seem that God is acting defensively or petulantly by dividing the people into nations. But think deeper and see if you can come up with some good reasons that God needed to take this drastic action. What might he have been protecting humankind against by dividing them?
4. What are some of the consequences we see today of God's decision to divide the nations?

Week Three, Day Three

God's Plan for the Nations

Even though it was God who divided the nations, his plan has always been to unify them again under Jesus Christ through the gospel.

Think about how amazing that claim is—that through Jesus Christ God plans to unify twelve thousand people groups and “put to death” the hostility that divides them from one another.

Memory

Write out this week's memory verse, Matthew 24:14:

Reading

For today, read pages 41 to 43, taking notes in the space below. Make a note of anything you learned that you didn't know before, anything you didn't understand, or any questions that came to your mind as you were reading.

Week Three: And Then the End Will Come

Questions

1. When Paul speaks of “the two” in Ephesian 2:13-16, who specifically does he mean? Do you think Paul’s promise to the two groups in Ephesus applies to all of the world’s people groups? Why or why not?
2. What does God promise to do for “the two” in Ephesians 2:13-16? (Don’t stop at the first thing you see—there are several promises.)
3. Why does Paul say in Ephesians 3:2 that the unification of the gentiles and Jews in Gods kingdom is a mystery? In what way is it mysterious?
4. How will unifying the nations under Christ bring glory to God?
5. How well is your church living out God’s purpose of “making peace” between nations? What might you do to help it be better?

Week Three, Day Four

The Great Commission

In Matthew 28:19, Jesus commands his apostles to “go and make disciples of all nations.” Today we call this command the Great Commission.

For 2000 years the church has been working to fulfill this command, and today only a few hundred Biblical nations remain that have never heard the good news of Jesus Christ.

By God’s grace, the Great Commission finish line is close. Our generation may be privileged to be the one that sees it completed.

Memory

Write out this week’s memory verse, Matthew 24:14:

Reading

For today, read 43 to 47, taking notes in the space below. Make a note of anything you learned that you didn’t know before, anything you didn’t understand, or any questions that came to your mind as you were reading.

Questions

1. Circle the verbs in Matthew 28:19-20:

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

What four things did Jesus command his church to do? If you were to say which one is most important, which would it be? Why?

2. Why do you think Jesus framed the Great Commission in terms of nations? Why did Jesus command his church to reach “all nations” with the gospel? Why “all,” and not just “many” or “most?”
3. Why do you think most American Christians are unaware of the rapidly approaching completion of the Great Commission?
4. God could have accomplished the Great Commission better and faster if he had done the work himself, instead of assigning it to us. Why do you think he chose to involve us in that critical work?

Week Three, Day Five

And Then the End Will Come

In Matthew 24:14 Jesus tells his disciples, “And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.”

In other words, when the disciples asked Jesus, “When are you coming back?”, he answered, “Only after the gospel has been preached to all nations.”

By God’s grace, the global church is only a handful of years away from fulfilling Jesus’ command to “go and make disciples of all nations.” Once we’ve crossed that finish line—once there are disciples in every one of the earth’s people groups—the door will be open for the first time in two thousand years to the return of Christ.

Memory

Write out this week’s memory verse, Matthew 24:14:

Reading

For today, read pages 47 to 49, taking notes in the space below. Make a note of anything you learned that you didn’t know before, anything you didn’t understand, or any questions that came to your mind as you were reading.

Week Three: And Then the End Will Come

Questions

1. How well do you think the disciples understood Jesus' command to preach the gospel "in the whole world as a testimony to all nations"?
2. Jesus says that the "gospel of the kingdom" will be preached to all nations. The word "gospel" means "good news." How is the coming of God's kingdom good news?
3. Did you know how close the church is to the finish line of "disciples in every nation?" Did you know that Jesus had linked his return to the completion of that task?
4. How urgent do you feel personally about the need to finish the Great Commission task? What are you doing to speed the work along? What could you do?

Week Three, Day Six

Two Questions, Two Answers

The Olivet Discourse, recorded in Luke 21 and Matthew 24, can be difficult to understand, because in it Jesus answers two different questions about two different events. Some of the events he describes in these chapters apply to one event and some to the other. Because these answers are interwoven, it can be hard to draw out which parts of Jesus' answer apply to which question.

Memory

Write out this week's memory verse, Matthew 24:14:

Reading

For today, read Chapter Nine, taking notes in the space below. Make a note of anything you learned that you didn't know before, anything you didn't understand, or any questions that came to your mind as you were reading.

Week Three: And Then the End Will Come

Questions

1. How many questions do the disciples ask in Matthew 24:3? What are they? Why do you think they combined them as they did?
2. You may have heard that wars, earthquakes, famine and disease were signs of Jesus' imminent return. But is that what Jesus says in Luke 21:9? What is the purpose of listing these things if they are not prophecies of Jesus's soon return?
3. When were the "times of the Gentiles" (Luke 21:24) fulfilled? According to the following verses, what should we be expecting to happen next?
4. Jesus says, in Luke 21:28, "your redemption is drawing near." What does he mean by "your redemption"? Your redemption from what?

And Then the End Will Come Personal Study Guide



Week Four
Clues From Israel

Week Four, Day One

The Ancient Promises

The regathering of Israel is a miracle—an unequivocal fulfillment of ancient prophecies that God would regather his chosen people into their ancestral land. It is also an important sign that we are living in the last days and that the return of Jesus is near.

Scripture Memory

Our scripture memory verse for this week is Hosea 6:2:

After two days he will revive us;
on the third day he will restore us,
that we may live in his presence.

Reading

For today, read pages 51 to 61, taking notes in the space below. Make a note of anything you learned that you didn't know before, anything you didn't understand, or any questions that came to your mind as you were reading.

Week Four: Clues from Israel

Questions

1. According to Genesis 17, for how long has God given the Promised Land to the descendants of Abraham?
2. According to Deuteronomy 28, why did God expel the Jewish people from the Promised Land?
3. Deuteronomy 28 describes the condition of the Jewish people during their nearly 1900 years of diaspora. What are some of the things God promises they will experience during the diaspora? How well do those promises align with what actually happened to them?
4. Read Deuteronomy 30:3-5. How many times does God promise in those verses that he will reestablish the nation of Israel? What are the different ways he expresses that promise? Why is the promise repeated so many times?
5. The promises in Deuteronomy 28 and 30 of expulsion and of regathering have been perfectly fulfilled over thousands of years. What does that say about God's ability to "make known the end from the beginning" and to "do all that he pleases?" If God can keep those promises so perfectly, is there anything he has promised that he will not do?

Week Four, Day Two

The Fig Tree

Jesus told his disciples that the regathering of Israel would be an important sign about the imminence of his return. When Jesus says, in Matthew 24:32, “learn this lesson from the fig tree,” he’s speaking metaphorically of Israel. He’s saying that when you see Israel, the fig tree, beginning to green up, you’ll “know that it [his return and the end of the age] is near, right at the door.” In other words, God promised that when Israel began to regather, Jesus’ return would be near.

Memory

Write out this week’s memory verse, Hosea 6:2:

Reading

For today, read pages 61 to 63, taking notes in the space below. Make a note of anything you learned that you didn’t know before, anything you didn’t understand, or any questions that came to your mind as you were reading.

Week Four: Clues from Israel

Questions

1. Can you think of another example of a people group that was forcibly expelled from its native land, scattered around the world, and violently persecuted for centuries, yet that held together as a group? Likewise, can you think of a people group that has been able to reclaim its native land centuries after being expelled from it? What does that say to you?
2. When Jesus says, “Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it is near, right at the door” in Matthew 24:33, what does he mean by “all these things”?
3. What is the symbolism of “early fruit on the fig tree” in Hosea 9? What is the symbolism of the fig tree with no fruit in Luke 13:6?
4. What do you think Jesus meant by “this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened” (Matthew 24:34)? That at least one person who was alive when Israel was established would still be alive when he returned? Or that he would return within some period of time: “a generation”? If the later, how long do you think a generation might be?

Week Four, Day Three

The Seventy Weeks

Chapter 5 is no doubt the most difficult and complex chapter in the book. It covers two amazing prophecies from the book of Daniel: the prophecy of the “seventy sevens” from Daniel 9:24-26, which appears to predict precisely the time of the first coming of the Messiah; and the prophecy of the 1290 and 1335 days in Daniel 12:11-12, which may predict the timing of the second coming just as precisely.

Memory

Write out this week’s memory verse, Hosea 6:2:

Reading

For today, read pages 65 to 69, taking notes in the space below. Make a note of anything you learned that you didn’t know before, anything you didn’t understand, or any questions that came to your mind as you were reading.

Week Four: Clues from Israel

Questions

1. In Daniel 9:24-26, who is “the Anointed One, the ruler”?
2. To what event does the phrase, “the Anointed One will be put to death and will have nothing” (Daniel 9:26) refer?
3. To what event does the phrase “The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary” (Daniel 9:26) refer?
4. The Book of Daniel was written during the Babylonian exile, roughly 600 years before the fulfillment of the prophecies of Chapter 9. When you consider how perfectly the prophecy was fulfilled, does it increase your confidence that prophecies of Jesus’ second coming will also be fulfilled?

Week Four, Day Four

The Abomination

Daniel chapter 12 contains several amazing prophecies of the days of the end, including the mysterious prophecy of the 1290 and 1335 days in verses 11-12, which may predict the timing of the second coming just as precisely as Daniel 9 predicted the first.

Memory

Write out this week's memory verse, Hosea 6:2:

Reading

For today, read pages 69 to 79, taking notes in the space below. Make a note of anything you learned that you didn't know before, anything you didn't understand, or any questions that came to your mind as you were reading.

Week Four: Clues from Israel

Questions

1. How is the prophecy in Daniel 12:11-12 similar to the prophecy in Daniel 9:24-26?
How are they different?
2. In the book, we identify the “abomination that causes desolation” in Daniel 12 as the Dome of the Rock. How does the Dome fulfill the prophecy of an abomination?
How does it cause desolation?
3. The prophecies of Daniel 9 and 12 are cryptic and enigmatic and can only be understood through significant interpretation. Why do you think God often veils prophecy in that way? What does he accomplish by using obscure language and images?

Week Four, Day Five

A Pattern of Sevens

Have you ever noticed that in the Bible, things happen in sevens? The biblical significance of seven is rooted in the seven days of creation. Because God finished his work and rested on the seventh day, seven is considered to be the number of God and to represent perfection and completion.

Interestingly, there is a widely and long-held idea that biblical history is governed by this same pattern of sevens—that history will play out over a “week” of six thousand-year “days,” followed by a thousand-year Sabbath millennium.

Memory

Write out this week’s memory verse, Hosea 6:2:

Reading

For today, read Chapter 6, taking notes in the space below. Make a note of anything you learned that you didn’t know before, anything you didn’t understand, or any questions that came to your mind as you were reading.

Questions

1. God has mandated that the number 7 would echo through the calendars of his chosen people. How many examples of that echo can you think of? What is the purpose of this echo?
2. Why do you think God mandated a year of Sabbath rest for the land every seven years? What were practical benefits of the Sabbath year? The spiritual benefits? How would observing an every-seventh year Sabbath be a faith-building experience?
3. Likewise, why do you think God mandated that every 49 years Hebrew slaves and prisoners were to be freed, debts were to be forgiven, and land that had been sold returned to its family of original ownership? What are the practical and spiritual benefits of the Jubilee year? What problems in our modern culture would be addressed by the principal of the Jubilee year?
4. Do you personally observe a “day of rest” each week? If you do, what benefits do you see from doing so? If not, why not?

Week Four, Day Six

Hosea 5 and 6

In the beautiful book of Hosea, the prophet describes God’s coming judgment against Israel and Judah on account of their unfaithfulness to him, but also offers hopeful promises of regathering and restoration. In Chapters 5 and 6, there is a prophecy that may point to the return of Christ “2 days”—or two thousand years—after his ascension.

Memory

Write out this week’s memory verse, Hosea 6:2:

Reading

For today, read pages 85 to 87, taking notes in the space below. Make a note of anything you learned that you didn’t know before, anything you didn’t understand, or any questions that came to your mind as you were reading.

Week Four: Clues from Israel

Questions

1. In Hosea 5:14, God says “I will tear them to pieces and go away; I will carry them off, with no one to rescue them.” Who is “them” in that verse? Why would God “tear them to pieces?” (Hint: see Deuteronomy 28.) What does “go away” mean?
2. In Hosea 5:15, God says he will “return to [his] lair until” several things occur. What is “his lair”? What are those things? When do you think those things will happen?
3. Who is speaking in Hosea 6:1-2? Does what they say fulfill the requirements of Hosea 5:15?
4. In Hosea 6:2, the speakers look forward to living “in his presence” “on the third day.” To what period does that promise probably refer?
5. Based on these passages, do you think the 2000-year anniversary of the death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus is significant?

And Then the End Will Come Personal Study Guide



Week Five
Signs of Our Times

Week Five, Day One

The Days of Noah

In Luke 17, Jesus warns that the last days will be like “the days of Noah” and “the days of Lot.” At one level, these prophecies predict that for the lost, Jesus’ coming will be sudden and unexpected. But these verses also suggest something important about the moral condition of the world at the time of the end. The two examples Jesus cites—the world before the flood and the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, where Lot lived—were both characterized by extreme depravity, wickedness, and godlessness. And by pointing to those examples, Jesus warns that the time before his return will be a time of increasing wickedness and depravity.

Memory

Our scripture memory verse for this week is Luke 17:26:

“Just as it was in the days of Noah, so also will it be in the days of the Son of Man.”

Reading

For today, read pages 93 to 98, taking notes in the space below. Make a note of anything you learned that you didn’t know before, anything you didn’t understand, or any questions that came to your mind as you were reading.

Week Five: Signs of the Times

Questions

1. Genesis 18:20 says “The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great . . .” Who do you think was crying out about the sin of these cities? Do you think there is a similar outcry about our culture today?
2. What would you point to as the greatest moral evils of American culture? Do you see those things increasing or decreasing? Is the rate of change growing or slowing?
3. Does Jesus’ warning “Just as it was in the days of Noah, so also will it be in the days of the Son of Man” fit western culture today? What evidence would you cite for your opinion? Is the phrase more applicable than it would have been 25 years ago? 5 years ago? How applicable will it be 5 years from now if the present trends continue?
4. It’s easy to be discouraged by the declining condition of our culture. But does it encourage you to see how that decline is actually part of God’s plan? How might that understanding affect your response to the changing culture around you?

Week Five, Day Two

Peace and Safety

In 1 Thessalonians 5:1–3, Paul warns that the “day of the Lord” will come on the world suddenly, like a “thief in the night.” At the very time people are crying out for “peace and safety,” Paul says, the judgment will come.

Although the final fulfillment of this prophecy lies in the future, the cry for “peace and safety” is already characteristic of our culture today.

Memory

Write out this week’s memory verse, Luke 17:26:

Reading

For today, read pages 98 to 105, taking notes in the space below. Make a note of anything you learned that you didn’t know before, anything you didn’t understand, or any questions that came to your mind as you were reading.

Week Five: Signs of the Times

Questions

1. The book presents a number of examples of the increasing pursuit of safety in our culture. Can you think of others that you've seen?
2. Why do you think our culture has become increasingly safety-conscious in our lifetimes?
3. The word peace can mean serenity: the “freedom from disquieting or oppressive thoughts or emotions.” What are some of the disquieting or oppressive thoughts or emotions that people in our culture struggle against?
4. Where can true safety be found? True peace?
5. Jesus says in John 14:27 “Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.” How well are you obeying this command?

Week Five, Day Three

Travel and Knowledge

The prophet Daniel was one of the greatest men who has ever lived—a man described in the Bible as being “highly esteemed” by God. Because of Daniel’s faithfulness and righteousness, God was pleased to reveal some amazing prophecies through him. Daniel’s book is filled with astounding visions that reveal many future events, some of which have already occurred and some which are still to be fulfilled.

One of the prophecies God gave Daniel was that travel and human knowledge would be greatly increased at “the time of the end.”

Memory

Write out this week’s memory verse, Luke 17:26:

Reading

For today, read pages 105 to 111, taking notes in the space below. Make a note of anything you learned that you didn’t know before, anything you didn’t understand, or any questions that came to your mind as you were reading.

Week Five: Signs of the Times

Questions

1. Daniel 12:1 describes “a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time.” To what event do you think this prophecy points?
2. Daniel 12:2 says, “Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt.” To what event do you think this prophecy points?
3. Daniel 12:4b says, “many will go back and forth, and knowledge will increase.” In the context, to what period of time does that phrase apply? How do these descriptions—“many will go back and forth, and knowledge will increase”—describe our day?
4. Think about a couple of recent inventions or technologies (the fruits of increasing knowledge) you are particularly thankful for. When were those things invented? Imagine telling your great-grandparents about those inventions. What would they have thought about them?

Week Five, Day Four

Persecution

The Bible warns that in the days before Jesus' return, his people will face growing persecution. While Christians in the US still do not experience much real persecution, it is a daily reality for believers in many parts of the world. We should expect that over the next few years, as the rapture and the tribulation draw even nearer, persecution of the church—both in the West and around the world—will increase dramatically.

Memory

Write out this week's memory verse, Luke 17:26:

Reading

For today, read 113 to 117, taking notes in the space below. Make a note of anything you learned that you didn't know before, anything you didn't understand, or any questions that came to your mind as you were reading.

Week Five: Signs of the Times

Questions

1. When you think of persecution, what comes to mind? Have you ever experienced any of these things? Do you know someone who has?
2. Do you think persecution might increase in the US in the coming years? Why? What do you think the church may be persecuted for?
3. Jesus says, “you will be hated by all nations because of me” (Matthew 24:9). Why do the nations hate God’s people? Why will that hatred increase in the last days?
4. In the Psalms, God is called our strong tower, mighty fortress, stronghold, shield, rock, refuge, and hiding place. How has he fulfilled those promises in your life? How do these truths about God influence your thinking about coming persecution?
5. Jesus says, “the one who stands firm to the end will be saved” (Matthew 24:13). What comes to your mind when you think about standing strong in the face of persecution? What will you need to do to be able to stand strong to the end?

Week Five, Day Five

False Teachers

In Matthew 24, Jesus predicts that in the last days “many false prophets will appear and deceive many people.” We already see this prophecy fulfilled in our day, when many false teachers, both inside the church and outside of it, are leading many people away from the faith.

Memory

Write out this week’s memory verse, Luke 17:26:

Reading

For today, read pages 117 to 124, taking notes in the space below. Make a note of anything you learned that you didn’t know before, anything you didn’t understand, or any questions that came to your mind as you were reading.

Week Five: Signs of the Times

Questions

1. What is an example of a “destructive heresies” and “things taught by demons” (1 Timothy 4:1) that are deceiving people today?
2. Peter says that false teachers will even deny “the sovereign Lord who bought them” (2 Peter 2:1). Can you think of an example of this in our day?
3. What are some ways to guard against the danger of being deceived by false teaching? Are there any defenses you need to erect in your own life? How might you help others you love avoid deception?

Week Five, Day Six

Love Grown Cold

Sadly, the Bible repeatedly predicts that in the days before Jesus returns there will be a great falling away from the faith—an end-times apostasy—as a result of increasing persecution, false teaching, and the growing wickedness of culture.

Memory

Write out this week's memory verse, Luke 17:26:

Reading

For today, read pages 124 to 130, taking notes in the space below. Make a note of anything you learned that you didn't know before, anything you didn't understand, or any questions that came to your mind as you were reading.

Week Five: Signs of the Times

Questions

1. How does a person express love toward God? What would you expect from someone whose love toward God had grown cold?
2. In 2 Thessalonians 2, Paul speaks of something he calls “the rebellion.” What would a rebellion in the culture against God look like? A rebellion in the church? Do you see signs of those things happening today?
3. Do you personally know someone who has abandoned the faith? What happened to draw them away? Is there anything that might have prevented that from happening? Is there anything you might do to help draw them back?
4. Jesus warned that “the love of most will grow cold.” What are some things you might do to protect yourself from being in this large group whose love grows cold?

And Then the End Will Come Personal Study Guide



Week Six
What Kind of People?

Week Six, Day One

Holy and Godly

Chapter 11 of *And Then the End Will Come* tackles the “So What?” question: If it’s true that Jesus may be coming back soon, what does that mean to me? How should I be living? What kind of person ought I to be as I prepare to meet my Lord and Savior?

The apostle Peter asks and answers that very question in chapter 3 of his second epistle. Let’s take a close look at each part of his answer.

Memory

Our scripture memory verse for this week is 2 Peter 3:11b-12a:

What kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives, as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming.

Reading

For today, read pages 171 to 175, taking notes in the space below. Make a note of anything you learned that you didn’t know before, anything you didn’t understand, or any questions that came to your mind as you were reading.

Week Six: What Kind of People?

Questions

1. What does "holy" mean to you? "Godly"? What one thing could you do or change to make your life more holy and godly?
2. Galatians 5:22-23 says, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." As you consider this list of godly traits, where are you strong? Weak? Is there one in particular you feel called to work on?
3. What is "the day of God?" Are you "look(ing) forward" to that day? Why or why not? What might cause you to look forward to it more eagerly?
4. What do you think it means to "speed" the coming of the day of God? How is it even possible to do that? (Hint: what task has Jesus said we must complete before he returns?) What are you personally doing to speed the coming of that day?

Week Six, Day Two

Self-Controlled

The scriptures repeatedly call on God's people to be self-controlled. In his first epistle, Peter emphasizes self-control as a vital attribute for God's people when "the end of all things is at hand."

Memory

Write out this week's memory verse, 2 Peter 3:11b-12a:

Reading

For today, read pages 175 to 176, taking notes in the space below. Make a note of anything you learned that you didn't know before, anything you didn't understand, or any questions that came to your mind as you were reading.

Week Six: What Kind of People?

Questions

1. What does “self-controlled” mean to you? “Sober-minded”? How are self-control and sobriety related?
2. Peter connects self-control with effectiveness in prayer in 1 Peter 4:7. What’s the connection? How does lack of self-control hinder our prayers?
3. According to Titus 2, where does the power “to say ‘No’ to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age” come from? How does that work?
4. How is your self-control? Are there particular circumstances or events that overcome your self-control? Why? What might you do to improve your self-control?

Week Six, Day Three

Standing Firm

The Bible frequently instructs us to stand firm in our faith. In Matthew 24, Jesus warns that things will get tougher for believers and the church in the remaining days before he returns. Persecution will increase, and the wickedness of culture will increasingly infect the church, leading many to fall away from the faith. But, Jesus says, “The one who stands firm to the end will be saved” (Matt. 24:13). While the battle may be fierce, the good news is it won’t last much longer, because he is coming soon.

Memory

Write out this week’s memory verse, 2 Peter 3:11b-12a:

Reading

For today, read page 176, taking notes in the space below. Make a note of anything you learned that you didn’t know before, anything you didn’t understand, or any questions that came to your mind as you were reading.

Week Six: What Kind of People?

Questions

1. In 1 Corinthians 15:58, Paul says, “Stand firm. Let nothing move you.” What are some things that might move you? Move you from where to where?
2. According to Ephesians 6, who are the enemies we must stand firm against?
3. In Ephesians 6, Paul lists the armor of God that enables us to stand firm. What are the various items of armor he mentions? How does each one protect us and enable us to stand firm? How well armored are you? What item or items do you need to put on?
4. What are some of the things Jesus mentions in Matthew 24 that we will be required to stand firm against in the last days? What might you do to strengthen yourself to stand?
5. Jesus warns that many who claim to be Christians will “turn away from the faith” in the days before he returns. What steps could you take to protect yourself against that risk?

Week Six, Day Four

Together

It's not enough to be equipped with armor— we also need companions in the fight. This is why being in fellowship with God's people is so important. The Christian life is not meant to be lived in isolation, but in close fellowship with our brothers and sisters. And that's going to be all the more true as we get closer to the Lord's return.

Memory

Write out this week's memory verse, 2 Peter 3:11b-12a:

Reading

For today, read pages 177 to 179, taking notes in the space below. Make a note of anything you learned that you didn't know before, anything you didn't understand, or any questions that came to your mind as you were reading.

Week Six: What Kind of People?

Questions

1. Hebrews 10:23-25 contains two “one another” commands: “spur one another on toward love and good deeds” and “encourage one another.” From your memory, or using a search tool, list a few of the other “one another” commands in the New Testament. What is required to practice and perfect these virtues?
2. What are your spiritual gift(s)? How well are you using them for the benefit of other believers?
3. Think of the fruit of the spirit: love, patience, kindness, and gentleness, for example. Can these be developed and practiced in isolation? Are you exposing yourself to other believers who will help you grow in these traits? If not, why not? How could you correct that?
4. The writer of Hebrews urges God’s people to “not giving up meeting together” and adds, “all the more as you see the Day approaching” (Hebrews 10:24). Why will it be important for God’s people to be together in the days leading up to Jesus’ return?
5. How well connected do you feel to the body of Christ? Do you have close Christian friends with whom you regularly meet to support and encourage one another? People who would stand with you through persecution? If not, why not? Based on what the writer of Hebrews teaches, do you think you ought to be better connected?

Week Six, Day Five

Generous

If you were certain Jesus was coming back soon, how would it affect your giving? Most of us are saving and investing for retirement, but what if we were convinced that retirement would never come? Would we give more?

Memory

Write out this week's memory verse, 2 Peter 3:11b-12a:

Reading

For today, read pages 179 to 180, taking notes in the space below. Make a note of anything you learned that you didn't know before, anything you didn't understand, or any questions that came to your mind as you were reading.

Week Six: What Kind of People?

Questions

1. Which is better, treasure on earth or treasure in heaven? Why? In light of Jesus' soon return, do you think you have the balance between earthly and heavenly wealth right in your own life?
2. Romans 12:1 commands God's people, "Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." Are you conformed to the world's pattern with regard to money and wealth? Do you live as though you believe "life does not consist in an abundance of possessions?"
3. Are you rich? Does your answer depend on comparing yourself to others and if so, to whom do you compare yourself? Why do you think we tend to compare ourselves to those who have more, rather than those who have less? What is the consequence of comparing up instead of down?
4. What limits your generosity? Debt? Expenses? Insecurity about money? Lack of faith? What steps could you take to overcome those barriers and increase your generosity?
5. Does the parable of the Rich Fool teach that it is wrong to be rich? What *does* it condemn?

Week Six, Day Six

Abiding

How can we know that we're prepared for Jesus' return? First John 2:28 teaches that if we "continue in him," we will be "confident and unashamed before him at his coming." The word translated "continue" in this verse is the same Greek word—meno—translated "remain" or "abide" in John 15:5, when Jesus tells his disciples, "If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

Memory

Write out this week's memory verse, 2 Peter 3:11b-12a:

Reading

For today, read pages 182 to 187, taking notes in the space below. Make a note of anything you learned that you didn't know before, anything you didn't understand, or any questions that came to your mind as you were reading.

Week Six: What Kind of People?

Questions

1. Think about the words that are used to translate the Greek word *meno*: continue, remain, and abide. What do these words have in common? In your own words, describe what it means to “continue, remain, and abide” in Christ.
2. 2 John 2:28 says that if we continue in Christ, we will be “confident and unashamed at his coming.” What comes to mind when you think about being confident? Unashamed? How does “continuing” in Christ permit us to be us confident and unashamed?
3. According to John 5:4-17, “If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit.” What does “fruit” mean on this verse? Are you producing fruit for God’s kingdom? Much fruit? How might you increase your fruit?
4. According to 2 John 2:28 and John 5:4-17, where does the power for all the behaviors we’ve looked this week—for holy and godly living, for being self-controlled, for standing firm, and for generosity—come from? What’s the secret to more success with all of these things?

And Then the End Will Come Personal Study Guide

Week Seven: No Eye Has Seen



Week Seven
No Eye Has Seen

Week Seven, Day One

New Bodies

And Then the End Will Come ends with a look ahead at the amazing things God has prepared for his people. One of those is the promise of new, spiritual bodies; The Bible teaches that at the return of Christ his followers will be transformed. When that last trumpet blows, the dead in Christ will be raised, and the bodies of those who are alive will be instantly changed. We will not exist as spirits only for eternity but will have new, resurrection bodies that we'll enjoy forever.

Memory

Our scripture memory verse for this week is 1 Corinthians 2:9 (NLT):

“No eye has seen, no ear has heard,
and no mind has imagined
what God has prepared
for those who love him.”

Reading

For today, read pages 185 to 197, taking notes in the space below. Make a note of anything you learned that you didn't know before, anything you didn't understand, or any questions that came to your mind as you were reading.

Questions

1. 1 Corinthians 15:42–44 says,

So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body.

What do you think imperishable means? Glory? Power? What do you think Paul means by “a spiritual body?” Even if it hard to know what these things mean specifically, what is the overall message of what Paul says here?

2. How important was it to Paul that Jesus was raised? That believers (including himself) would be raised?
3. Many Christians believe that we will live forever as disembodied spirits, but that is not what the Bible teaches. Why do you think so many people misunderstand this?
4. Are you glad that God has promised to give you a new body? What are you most looking forward to in your new, eternal body? What weakness or pain are you looking forward to being rid of forever?

Week Seven, Day Two

Victory

When Paul says in 1 Corinthians 15 that our new bodies will be raised in glory, it may be his poetic way of saying that they will not have what the Bible calls a “sin nature.” The internal struggle that Paul describes in Romans 7 and Galatians 5 will be over. From that point on, we’ll do only “the good we want to do” without any opposition from that old nature, which will have been done away with once and for all.

What’s more, the scripture also promises that our old enemies Satan and death will also be gone.

Memory

Write out this week’s memory verse, 1 Corinthians 2:9:

Reading

For today, read pages 192 to 193, taking notes in the space below. Make a note of anything you learned that you didn’t know before, anything you didn’t understand, or any questions that came to your mind as you were reading.

Week Seven: No Eye Has Seen

Questions

1. Can you relate to the struggle described in Galatians 5:17 and Romans 7:21-25? Is there a particular part of your life where you feel that conflict most acutely—where you “want to do good, (but) evil is right there with” you?
2. What does Paul mean when he says, “Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death” (Romans 7:24)? Is that what God is going to do when he gives us new, glorified bodies?
3. How does it feel to know that the new bodies we will receive at the rapture will no longer have a sin nature—that the internal struggle Paul describes in Romans 7 and Galatians 5 will be over? Does that make you more eager for the return of Christ?
4. Revelation 20:7-10 teaches that Satan will be cast into the lake of fire and tormented there forever. What will life be like without the presence of Satan and his demons?

Week Seven, Day Three

Rewards

The Bible teaches that God will reward his people for the good work we do in his name. It's hard to say exactly what form these promised rewards will take, but the Scriptures speak of crowns (1 Corinthians 9), garments (Revelation 19), and treasure in heaven (1 Timothy 6). From the Parable of the Ten Minas in Luke 19, it seems that one form of reward will be increased authority and responsibility in the millennial kingdom and perhaps even into eternity.

Memory

Write out this week's memory verse, 1 Corinthians 2:9:

Reading

For today, read pages 197 to 201, taking notes in the space below. Make a note of anything you learned that you didn't know before, anything you didn't understand, or any questions that came to your mind as you were reading.

Questions

1. 1 Corinthians 3 teaches that all our works for Jesus will be tested with fire. Some will survive the test and will result in rewards. Others will burn up. What do you think the differences are between works that will survive the test of fire and those that will not? Can you think of an example of each in your life?
2. Does it make you uncomfortable to think that God will reward you for the good works you've done for him? Why? How do you reconcile your feelings with what God's word says about rewards?
3. According to 2 Corinthians 5:10, our works will be tested and our rewards received at the "judgment seat [*bema*] of Christ." In other words, Jesus himself will be our judge. How do you feel about that? Do you think he'll judge fairly? Graciously? Is there anyone you would rather have judge you?
4. Are you hopeful that there are rewards waiting for you at the *bema*, or do you wonder whether you've accomplished anything for Jesus that will survive the test? If the latter, what might you begin doing today to serve Jesus and earn his commendation on that day?

Week Seven, Day Four

With God Forever

Revelation 21 is one of the most joyful chapters in the scripture, because it describes what we are all looking forward to: our eternal existence with God.

Memory

Write out this week's memory verse, 1 Corinthians 2:9:

Reading

For today, read pages 201 to 206, taking notes in the space below. Make a note of anything you learned that you didn't know before, anything you didn't understand, or any questions that came to your mind as you were reading.

Week Seven: No Eye Has Seen

Questions

1. Read through Revelation 21 again, making a list of all the promises you see. They are all amazing, but are there any that really stand out to you? Why?
2. What do you think John means when he says, “They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God” (Revelation 21:3)? Isn’t that already true? How will it be truer in eternity?
3. Revelation 21:4 says that God “will wipe away every tear. Why might there be reasons for tears on that day? What will it be like for God to wipe your tears away? Once he’s done that, verse 4 promises, there will be “no more mourning or crying.”
4. What do you think this phrase in Revelation 21:4 means: “the old order of things has passed away?” John lists a few “old order” things that will be done away with. What are they? What else might be on that list?

Week Seven, Day Five

The New Jerusalem

In Revelation 21 and 22, John describes his vision of the New Jerusalem, the city that will be our eternal home. As amazing as his description is, though, the Bible promises that it will be even better than that—in fact, better than even what we can imagine.

Memory

Write out this week's memory verse, 1 Corinthians 2:9:

Reading

For today, read pages 206 and 207, taking notes in the space below. Make a note of anything you learned that you didn't know before, anything you didn't understand, or any questions that came to your mind as you were reading.

Week Seven: No Eye Has Seen

Questions

1. Make a list of the amazing things John mentions about the New Jerusalem in Revelation 21 and 22. Is there anything that stands out to you?
2. The New Jerusalem will be a place of abundant life: the river of life flows down the middle of its main street, with the tree of life growing on each bank. What comes to your mind when you think about “abundant life?”
3. The presence of the “tree of life” in the New Jerusalem links it to the Garden of Eden. Think about that connection for a minute. How are Eden and the New Jerusalem alike? How are they different?
4. When you think of heaven and eternity, what do you imagine it will be like? How does it make you feel to know that it will be even better than that? Does that increase your eagerness for Christ to come back and usher in eternity?

Week Seven, Day Six

He's Coming Soon

The last few paragraphs of the Bible affirm what we've been learning throughout this Bible Study: that Jesus is coming back, and he's coming soon. I hope this study has persuaded you to be eager for his return, overjoyed about what is soon to come, and serious about preparing yourself to meet him.

Maranatha! Come Lord Jesus!

Memory

Write out this week's memory verse, 1 Corinthians 2:9:

Reading

For today, read pages 207 to 208, taking notes in the space below. Make a note of anything you learned that you didn't know before, anything you didn't understand, or any questions that came to your mind as you were reading.

Week Seven: No Eye Has Seen

Questions

1. Who is speaking in Revelation 22:12-16? How do you know? What are the different names and titles that identify the speaker in these paragraphs?
2. What is the promise of Revelation 22:14? To whom does the promise apply? Who is excluded from it? How confident are you that it will be kept? Why are you so confident?
3. Circle each time the word “come” or “coming” appears in Revelation 22. Why do you think those words are repeated so many times in these few paragraphs?

And Then the End Will Come Personal Study Guide