



“The End of the Story” Revelation 1:1-3; 21:1-5

COKER

Introduction

The end times are often looked at something to be feared and be anxious about. But what if that understanding wasn't exactly Biblically accurate? The end of time results in God's New Creation coming here to earth. We pray it in the Lord's prayer: "On earth as it is in Heaven". As Christians, we should live knowing the end of the story, but recognizing that we aren't there yet. We must partner with God's putting-right project by being agents for His Kingdom while we wait for it to come fully upon Jesus' return where He will usher in the New Creation.

Discussion

- When you hear the word "Revelation" or "the end times," what thoughts or emotions immediately come to mind? Why do you think so many Christians either fear or avoid this topic?
- Have you ever had a moment where learning "the rest of the story" completely changed how you understood a situation? How does knowing the end of God's story affect the way we view the present?

Going Deeper

- Clay argues that God's ultimate goal has always been to dwell with His people—from Eden, to the tabernacle, to the temple, to Jesus, and finally the New Creation. Why do you think God's presence with humanity is such a central theme throughout Scripture?
- How does understanding 1 Thessalonians 4 as describing believers welcoming Christ's return, rather than escaping the earth, change the way you think about the Christian hope? Does it reshape how you read other passages about the end times?
- Clay says that Jesus didn't simply die to forgive our individual sins but to redeem all of creation. What is the difference between those two ideas? Why does that broader picture of redemption matter?
- Revelation 21 describes a future with no death, mourning, crying, or pain. Which part of that promise gives you the greatest hope personally, and why?

Application

- Clay says that God's Kingdom has "already broken in," even though it has not yet fully arrived. Where have you recently seen glimpses of God's Kingdom at work—in your own life, your church, or your community?
- If God is "making all things new" and invites us to participate in that work today, what is one specific way you can help your home, workplace, school, or neighborhood look a little more like the New Creation this week?
- How can we be in prayer for you?