

## SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

**Message Title:** "In the End"  
**Speaker:** Pastor Kevin Myers  
**Date:** April 6, 2008

### Icebreaker:

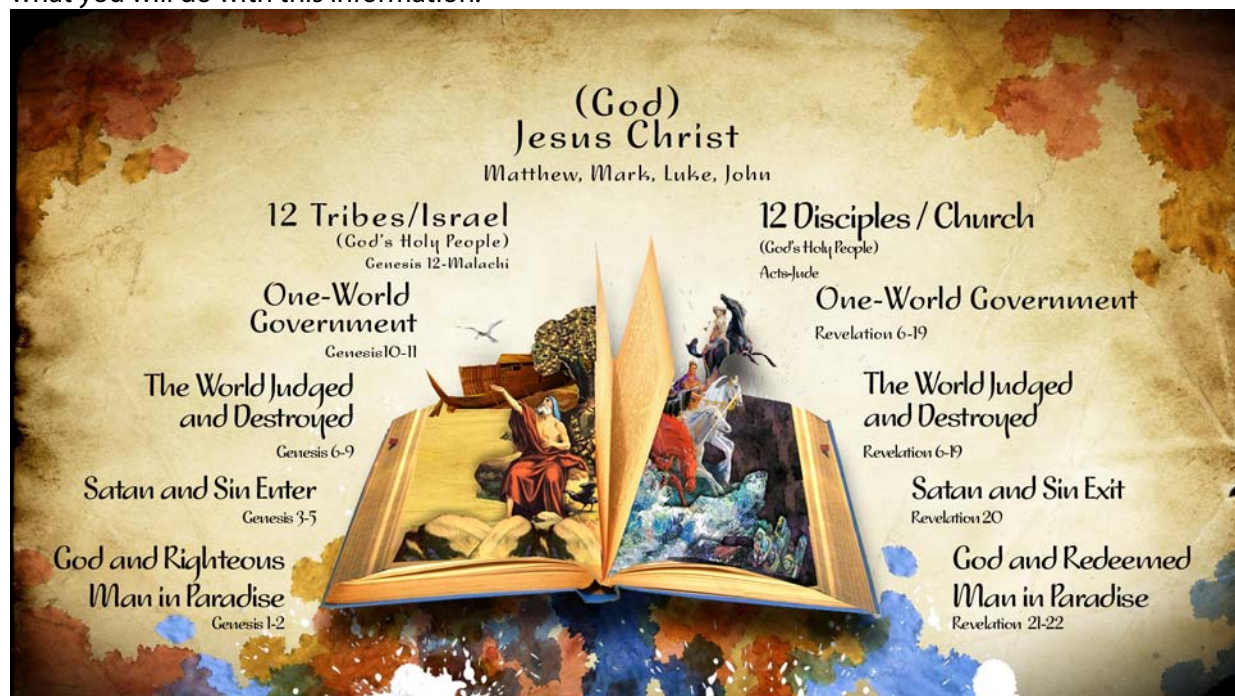
What is your favorite appetizer? How is our life here on earth like an appetizer?

### Message Overview:

This is the final message in the Genesis to Revelation series. Pastor Kevin Myers (PK) has spent the past ten weeks teaching that the Bible is a mirror image of itself from Genesis to Revelation; that the events in Genesis begin with God and righteous man in paradise, following the model below and end in Revelation with God and redeemed man in paradise.

Today's teaching focused on the end of the story, the count down to the end if you will. Revelation is the foretelling of these events beginning with the formation of the One World Government, how the World will be judged and destroyed, that Satan and sin will exit the world, and how God and redeemed man will live in paradise.

The most important question in this entire story is who/what do you trust? Do you trust God's version of this story written for you to understand in the Bible, or do you believe the world's or other people's opinion of how things will unfold? Because who you trust will determine how you will respond, and what you will do with this information.



### **Discussion:**

(Leaders: Do not try to cover every question provided in this study guide, but rather review the complete list, selecting a mix of questions that work best for your group, mixing scripture research/discussion as well as personal application of the teaching principles.)

### **Who / what do you trust?**

- We all know our lives will end one day, either when Jesus Christ returns to earth or by our own death. Does one of these options concern you more than the other? If so, why is that?
- In John 14:1-3, Jesus speaks to his disciples about trusting God and trusting Jesus. He tells them God has a large home and that Jesus will be going there to prepare a place for them. Why do you think Jesus was telling them this now? Do you think the disciples understood what He was talking about? Give reasons for your answer.
- What are some ways that we have bought into the lie that we can have heaven here on earth? Why will we never achieve that here?

### **One World Government System**

- Revelation 12:7 speaks of a war in heaven. How does this fulfill Daniel's prophecy in Daniel 12:1? Without dwelling on Satan, what are some things Scripture tells us about him? Why should these concern believers?
- In Revelation 13, a beast is described as coming up out of the sea. (The description of the beast is rich in symbolism, but for our purposes we will not go into that. For further study on this, see resources at the end of the Appendices.) Later in v.11, another beast is described as coming out of the earth and joining forces with the dragon (Satan) to form an unholy (counterfeit) trinity. Satan is unable to create; all he can do is duplicate what God has created. Can you think of other places in Scripture where Satan has duplicated/counterfeited what God created? (See Exodus 7:8-13; Gal.1:6-9; Rom.10:1-3; 2 Thes.2:1-12; 2 Pet. 2; and 2Cor.11:13-15)
- What happens to a nation when its ruler refuses to listen to God? Can you cite past and present situations of this?

### **The World Judged and Destroyed**

- God judged and destroyed the world for mankind's sinfulness in Genesis 6-9. How was the world judged the first time in Genesis? God is patient and long suffering, but eventually His patience will run out and the world will be judged again. How will God judge this time? (See 2 Peter 3; Rev. 20:1-6)
- Why do you think God has waited so long for Christ's return and His judgment of the unbelieving world? What does this tell you about God?

### **Satan and Sin Exit**

- In Revelation 20:7-10, Satan's demise is described. If Satan already knows the end of the story, why do you think he is working so hard now?
- Revelation 20:11-15 is described as the 'great white throne of judgment', but as believers it is important for us to understand that this judgment is for unbelievers, not those whose names are found in the lamb's book of life. Unbelievers will be judged for who they say Jesus is and if they have spent their lives looking God in the face saying "I don't know you, leave me alone", this is where He will grant that for all eternity. Knowing that life is a gift with an expiration date, how does this compel you to approach unbelievers in your life? If this is an area where you have been lax, what will you do differently?

### **God and Redeemed Man in Paradise**

- Revelation 22 describes a river flowing from the throne of God with the tree of life on either side of the river. Why will we have access to the tree of life in heaven but Adam was forbidden to eat this fruit in Eden?
- What sort of things will no longer exist in heaven from Revelation 22:1-6? How does this make you view any current hardships you are in?

### **Wrap-Up:**

The Genesis to Revelation series may have stirred a lot of questions in your group over these past few weeks. Encourage your group members to continue in daily Bible reading and focus on sections that were particularly challenging. It may inspire your group to begin a study of a book of the Bible or topic from the Bible. Before ending this series, ask your members what new thought or idea did this series bring them? How did this series challenge their current thinking about the Bible?

### **Throughout the Week: (Optional)**

#### **Memory Verse:**

*"Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End."*

*(Revelation 22:12-13, NIV)*

**Appendix 1:**

**Overview of the Book of Revelation**

- Revelation is a book about the future and about the present. It offers hope to all believers, especially those who have suffered for their faith, by proclaiming Christ's final victory over evil and the reality of eternal life with Him. It also gives present guidance as it teaches us about Jesus Christ and how we should live for Him now. Through graphic pictures we learn that: 1) Jesus Christ is coming again; 2) evil will be judged; and 3) the dead will be raised to judgment, resulting in eternal life or eternal destruction.
- According to tradition, John, the author, was the only one of Jesus' original twelve disciples who was not killed for the faith. He also wrote the Gospel of John and the letters of 1, 2, and 3 John. When he wrote Revelation, John was in exile on the island of Patmos in the Aegean Sea, sent there by the Romans for his witness about Jesus Christ.
- John wrote Revelation est. A.D. 95, during the reign of the Roman emperor Titus Flavius Domitian. The emperor had demanded that he be worshiped as "Lord and God", and the refusal of the Christians to obey his edict led to severe persecution. Tradition says that it was Domitian who sent John to the Isle of Patmos, a Roman penal colony off the coast of Asia Minor.
- The word translated "revelation" simply means "unveiling" and this verb means "to uncover, to reveal, to make manifest." In this book, the Holy Spirit pulls back the curtain and gives us the privilege of seeing the glorified Christ in heaven and the fulfillment of His sovereign purposes in the world.
- Revelation is an *open* book in which God reveals His plans and purposes to His church. When Daniel finished writing his prophecy, he was instructed to "shut up the words, and seal the book" (Dan.12:4); but John was given opposite instructions: "Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book" (Rev. 22:10). Why? Since Calvary, the Resurrection, and the coming of the Holy Spirit, God has ushered in the "last days" (Heb.1:1-2) and is fulfilling His hidden purposes in this world. "The time is at hand" (Rev.1:3; 22:10).
- This book is the revelation *of, concerning, and from* Jesus Christ. God gave the revelation of His plan to Jesus Christ, who, in turn, revealed it to John. The book of Revelation unveils Christ's full identity and God's plan for the end of the world, and it focuses on Jesus Christ, His second coming, His victory over evil, and the establishment of His Kingdom. As you read and study Revelation, don't focus so much on the timetable of the events or the details of John's imagery that you miss the main message- the infinite love, power, and justice of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- The book of Revelation reveals future events, but there is not the gloomy pessimism we might expect. The drama of these unfolding events is spectacular, but there is nothing to fear if you are on the winning side. When you think about the future, walk with confidence because Christ, the victor, walks with you.

**Appendix 2:**

**Mirror image of Genesis and Revelation:**

*Genesis*

*Revelation*

Heavens and earth created, 1:1

New heavens and earth, 21:1

Sun created, 1:16

No need of the sun, 21:23

The night established, 1:5

No night there, 22:5

The seas created, 1:10

No more seas, 21:1

The curse announced, 3:14-17

No more curse, 22:3

Death enters history, 3:19

No more death, 21:4

Man driven from paradise, 3:24

Redeemed man restored to paradise, 22:14

Sorrow and pain begins, 3:17

No more tears or pain, 21:4

**Resources:**

Life Application Study Bible, NIV; Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. and Zondervan Publishing House

The Bible Exposition Commentary/New Testament, Volume 2; Warren W. Wiersbe; Cook Communications Ministries, Co

The Use of the Old Testament in the Book of Revelation by Dr. Arnold Fruchtenbaum, Th.M, Ph.D.; Ariel Ministries

Email any questions or feedback about this Study Guide to [robin.ritchie@12stone.com](mailto:robin.ritchie@12stone.com).