

# The End of This Age

## 1 Tool: Summary Sheet

### The Revelation

Revelation is often viewed as one of the most challenging books of the Bible to understand. While other books are mostly describing past events, Revelation is describing a future very different from our current experience. And instead of focusing just on our physical world, Revelation takes us behind the scenes to the real world. Revealing the truth of a bigger spiritual battle between God, the source of all goodness and His evil enemy Satan (who masquerades as good). The book is written by the apostle John who was given this vision by Jesus and told to write it down. John is describing heavenly things with the best earthly images he has. There are many metaphors and symbolic images, the details of which may seem difficult to understand. But the overall point is clear: Jesus will defeat Satan and death. And He is coming back to earth to judge the world. This will happen at a time no one knows. When He returns every person who has ever lived will be resurrected to live forever in one of two places. It will be clear at the judgment that everyone has sinned and earned eternal separation from God. However, for those who are in Christ, the debt of their sin has been paid. They will go on to enjoy eternal life with Christ and the blessings He has earned for His kingdom. As we read, we should seek to understand more about who Jesus is and pray for God to show us which group we are in.

### 1 of 2 Futures for All People

#### Eternal life with God & Christ

#### Eternal separation from God

What will it be like?

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, ... And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. 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." Revelation 1:a,3-4

Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it....And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne,...And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done.... And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire. Revelation 19:11a,12a,12c,15

Who will receive it?

All those who have faith/believe in Jesus Christ (see John 3:16, 5:24)

Those who reject God and His only son Jesus (see John 3:18, 3:36)

How can I tell if I'm in this group?

Do you obey Jesus's commands? (John 14:15), Do you love Jesus and other Christians? (John 8:42; 1 John 4:20)

Do you keep doing something you know is a sin? (John 14:24, Romans 1:29-32), Do you hate honoring the God of the Bible? (Romans 1:21)

What should I do if I think I'm in this group?

Thank God for His mercy toward you. Live your life now, obeying God's commands knowing that Jesus is coming back.

Pray to God trusting in Jesus. Ask for forgiveness for your sins and stop doing them. You may want to ask a Christian you respect to pray with you and help you learn how to live with Christ.

### General Outline of Revelation

#### Chapters 1-3

Jesus's message to His churches

Look for how to apply His encouragements and rebukes to your life

#### Chapters 4-5

The Throne of God

As you read, worship our holy and merciful God- reflect on His character throughout the day

#### Chapters 6-20

God's righteous judgment

As you read, consider how your own sin deserves judgment and pray to God for forgiveness

#### Chapters 21-22

New Heaven & New Earth

Thank God for the gift of this wonderful future- ask how you should live now in light of your future?

On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not... do many mighty works in your name?' And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me...'

Matthew 7:22a,22c,23a