

# Life Group/Personal Study

Unleashing Truth in Revelation • Week of August 23

We all get to places in our lives where we need detailing. Like an old dirty car that needs a deep cleaning to make it shine – we have areas that need attention. We live in a fallen world, and yet, of all people, the Lord Jesus understands our plight. He knows first-hand our human limitations. Christ even knows the temptations we face: “This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses for He faced all of the same testings we do, yet He did not sin” (Hebrews 4:15). Thus, He is the One who makes us new today. And He is the One who will ultimately refine and polish every detail of our existence, making all things new and beautiful in the age to come.

## Read Revelation 21:1-7

John sees a new heaven and a new earth. While it is hard to imagine, we see glimpses of the new heaven and earth in the beauty of the sky, the clouds and how they shield and frame the sun’s light, the sound of the wind, the birds, even the power of lightning, and roar of thunder. The psalmist says: “The heavens proclaim the glory of God. The skies display His craftsmanship. Day after day they continue to speak; night after night they make Him known. They speak without a sound or word; their voice is never heard. Yet their message has gone throughout the earth, and their words to all the world. God has made a home in the heavens for the sun” (Psalm 19:1-4).

1. When we are at our lowest is the very time to strain to see the highest. In the middle of your struggle, try this: go outdoors and simply look up. Lift your eyes as long as you possibly can, gaze at God’s beauty, and when your neck gets tired, bow your head and give the Lord praise.

Remember that John saw ‘the holy city the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband’ when he was in exile – at his lowest, forgotten by the world, and near the end of his life’s mission.

2. What did John hear according to v3-4?

What was the declaration of the One sitting on the throne (v5)?

Listen to the words of the One on the throne: “It is finished! I am the Alpha and the Omega—the Beginning and the End. To all who are thirsty I will give freely from the springs of the water of life. All who are victorious will inherit all these blessings, and I will be their God, and they will be my children” (Revelation 21:6-7). Does this sound like a non-essential message? Of all the noise in our world today – the message of the One sitting on the throne to His church (His Bride) – is most essential. The essential love of Christ is offered to all people, and for those who accept His message, His covenant of love is what will sustain them throughout eternity.

Read of another time Jesus uttered these very words, “I am thirsty”... and then, “It is finished” in **John 19:28-30**. Jesus was thirsty and suffered greatly upon the completion of His mission. Humility and suffering precede glory. It is the same for us.

3. Read **Romans 8:17** (below)—

*“And since we are His children, we are His heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God’s glory. But if we are to share His glory, we must also share His suffering.”*

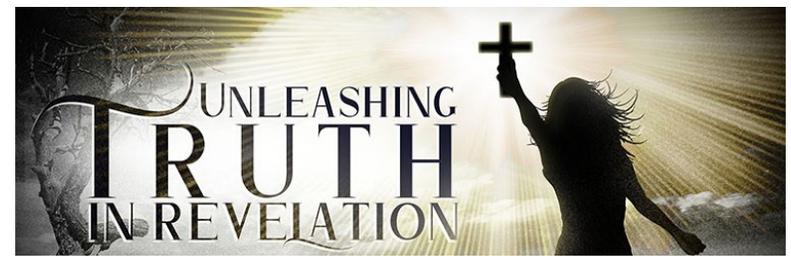
God has always desired to live with His people. That is the reason the LORD instructed Moses to build a Tabernacle (Exodus 25:8-9). The LORD God clearly tells us what is good and how to live. Read **Micah 6:8** and discuss honestly where you are on a scale of 1-10 regarding (1) doing what is right (2) loving mercy (3) walking humbly with your God.

Like two great mountain peaks, think about Christ’s mission at His first coming, and the ultimate mission at His second coming. What lies in the valley between? In the valley, is Christ’s death, resurrection and the birth of the church. Christ’s death paid for sin, completely satisfying God’s wrath against sin. God proved the sufficiency of His Son’s death by raising Him to life. The Resurrected Lord appeared to His disciples, giving further instruction about the future of His Kingdom. The Holy Spirit appeared like flames at Pentecost, igniting the indwelling power of Christ at work through people who believe on His Name. This is the Church.

4. Across the landscape of time, these key events are absolutely essential to our present and future existence. How is faith essential to you (for today and for your future)?

What one prayer for our nation, our world, and the Church would you pray today? Think about it. Ask the Lord to guide your thoughts and pray.

*“But there is an order to this resurrection: Christ was raised as the first of the harvest; then all who belong to Christ will be raised when He comes back. After that the end will come, when He will turn the Kingdom over to God the Father, having destroyed every ruler and authority and power. For Christ must reign until He humbles all His enemies beneath His feet. And the last enemy to be destroyed is death... So, my dear brothers and sister, be strong and immovable. Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless” (1 Corinthians 15:22-26, 58).*



**Text: Revelation 21:1-7  
I Corinthians 15:12-24**

## **Plain Truth:**

Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_ all things  
\_\_\_\_\_ that includes \_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_!

### **One Year Bible Readings**

August 23: Job 8:1-11:20, 1 Corinthians 15:1-28, Psalm 38:1-22, Proverbs 21:28-29  
August 24: Job 12:1-15:35, 1 Corinthians 15:29-58, Psalm 39:1-13, Proverbs 21:30-31  
August 25: Job 16:1-19:29, 1 Corinthians 16:1-24, Psalm 40:1-10, Proverbs 22:1  
August 26: Job 20:1-22:30, 2 Corinthians 1:1-11, Psalm 40:11-17, Proverbs 22:2-4  
August 27: Job 23:1-27:23, 2 Corinthians 1:12-2:11, Psalm 41:1-13, Proverbs 22:5-6  
August 28: Job 28:1-30:31, 2 Corinthians 2:12-17, Psalm 42:1-11, Proverbs 22:7  
August 29: Job 31:1-33:33, 2 Corinthians 3:1-18, Psalm 43:1-5, Proverbs 22:8-9

**August 22 & 23, 2020**