



The End of Time

The Story – Chapter 31; Revelation 1-5, 19-22

Personal Study Guide

May 17, 2009

Read the chapter from The Story in one sitting (each chapter is about 12 pages long). Consider doing the reflection questions on three separate days to put space between your learning and allow for better and deeper retention. If three separate reflection times aren't practical, you may choose to read and answer all three days' questions in one extended personal devotional time.

Day One

1. One of the themes of Revelation is the manifold glory of Jesus and his full identification with Almighty God. When the Lord God calls himself “the Alpha and the Omega” (page 380) it's a title taken from the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. Who else is called “the First and the Last” later on that page? A similar title is “the Beginning and the End” (pages 386 and 387). How many firsts and lasts can there be? What is John's inescapable conclusion about the identity of Jesus? Why do you think persecuted people needed to be reminded of this truth? Why do you need to live in light of it?
2. Falling down and worshipping is appropriate toward some (page 380), and not appropriate toward others (pages 384 and 387). In which category is John? Angels? God? Jesus (see also pages 288 and 319)?

Day Two

1. The church at Ephesus was commended for many things (page 381). Yet Jesus had a very serious charge against them. How would you put the commendable things about the church and Jesus' admonishment to them in your own words? In what ways could you fall—or have you fallen—like they did? How can you make that right?
2. What do you think the Laodicean church meant by boasting they were “rich” (page 381)? What is a way we can make a similar false claim in our day? Why do you think a church that claims it is “rich” will also likely be called “lukewarm” by Jesus?

Day Three

1. Notice that God recognizes our thirst (pages 386 and 388) but does not shame us for our need. Instead, he promises to quench it with his freely given water of life. What is your deepest “thirst” that you need God to quench? How can you go to him for that need, instead of the alternate sources listed (or others not listed) that lead only to “the fiery lake of burning sulfur” (page 386)?
2. Who is the light and who is on the throne in the New Jerusalem (pages 386–387)? What do you think “light” represents in that passage? What difference can that light make to you now?