



God's Grand Story, Pt. 12: Return of the King

Eschatology (es·cha·tol·o·gy) is a Christian term that references the biblical teachings about the study of the “last things,” including the second coming of Jesus. While Christians hold to a wide variety of beliefs about the details surrounding the second coming of Christ, there is one central truth on which there is broad agreement: Jesus is coming again, and he will come in a literal and visible manner. The return of Jesus is necessary to bring redemptive history to its ultimate conclusion where God sets all things right and restores his created order.

Bottom Line: Jesus is coming again, be ready.

Discussion Questions:

1. Many movies have been made which focus on the theme of the “end of the world.” Why do you think those kinds movies are so popular?
2. What world events and/or life experiences have contributed to your view of the future of the human race and the future of planet earth? Are you optimistic or pessimistic? Why?
3. When it comes to the end of the world and the return of Jesus, scripture says that no one but the Father knows that date (see **Matthew 24:36** and **1 Thessalonians 5:1-2**). Would you prefer to know the day/time of Jesus’ return? Explain. What are the benefits of no one knowing the day/time of the return of Jesus? What are the drawbacks?
4. Some Christians talk about the return of Jesus frequently, while others avoid the topic nearly entirely. Why do you think some focus more on it while others avoid it?
5. **Read 2 Peter 3:3-9.** Peter wrote these words about thirty years after the resurrection of Jesus and nearly 2,000 years have passed since. How do you maintain expectancy of the fulfillment of the promise of Jesus to return? What is the purpose of Jesus’ delay to return? How should the truth of verse 9 motivate followers of Jesus?
6. **Read 2 Thessalonians 1:3-12, Titus 2:11-14, and 2 Peter 3:10-14.** What troubles you most in these passages? What encourages you most? Based on these passages, how should the reality of the return of Jesus affect your life?
7. What was the most challenging idea/thought to you from the message?
8. What was the most helpful/encouraging thought or idea from the message this week? How did it help you?
9. How can the group encourage you this week?

For resources that will help you better understand God's Grand Story, please visit this link:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1PaziqJT1TQlpNQTL14EH2UUvzcao0vM0OAdPs2DketA/edit?usp=sharing>

*If time doesn't allow for you to discuss all of these questions, use only the ones you feel would be most helpful for your group.