



## **All Creation Joins in Giving Praise to God and the Lamb**

### *A study of Revelation with focus on Earthcare—Week 6*

As people are gathering, ask for 4 volunteers who would read for the final dialog

**Leader: We come to the end of evil and it's forces.**

**We read of the battle of Armageddon. We all have ideas of what this battle is all about. Perhaps rather than it being a specific place, maybe the mount of megiddo (ancient city in northern Israel) is the symbolic place where evil meets it's demise. Who comes? We read in Rev. 19:11-14. It is the rider called Faithful and True and the armies of heaven wearing fine linen. The only weapon is the word. Christ is the only one wielding a weapon. The heart of the battle is the triumph of the Word of God.**

**As we have seen, Revelation continues to move us along in an interesting path. Satan is bound for 1000 years. When we think of it, finding the place with the key doesn't fit into the realm of time and space. When we read Rev. 20:4-6, we focus on the resurrection with Christ (read the verses). The heart of the millennial kingdom is Christ, the hope of being with Christ.**

**As we read of the last judgment, we read of two books, the book of deeds and the book of life. What we read is that salvation is based on divine grace. The strong word is that Christ died for every tribe, tongue, folk and nation. In Revelation 21, God's promises reach fulfillment. We see the city. Read Revelation 21: 3-8. The way we enter heaven isn't listed as one door but twelve. St. Peter isn't waiting for us.**

**Revelation starts in the presence of Christ and ends in the presence of God and the lamb. Read Rev. 22:1-7.**

**We read, I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.**

**We have spend five weeks working through the book of Revelation. We have read that Revelation is the conquering word for the care of the earth. This conquering word is not a word that comes only at the end, but is living and present.**

**What are some concrete ways that way can live out creational wholeness? Expect answers as recycling, letters to legislators or wetland restoration.**

Be prepared to suggest: Worship and liturgy (prayers and liturgy that incorporates themes of the sacredness of creation; including care of creation in our Sunday school education; hosting events that get us out into creation; using environmentally friendly cleaning products; disposing of hazardous waste properly; taking care with lawn products, not mowing into the street or allowing leaves to accumulate on the street.

**If not offered, another way is by sustaining the diversity of the creation. Share this quote from “Seeds of Change,”**

**“Common food plants available today represent only 3% of those present on 1900. Since the time of Columbus, 75% of native crop varieties in the Western Hemisphere have disappeared. The main reason is that modern agribusiness hybridizes for commercial advantage. Cosmetic appearance and marketing convenience have replaced the evolutionary and traditional importance placed upon genetic diversity, viability, nutrition and flavor. Stewardship of the earth must include preservation of our botanical heritage.”**

**Share examples of open-pollinated seeds and rare native plant varieties (pass around examples that people can see up close). Note websites like [www.seedschange.com](http://www.seedschange.com) ; [www.seedsaver.org](http://www.seedsaver.org) .**

**End the time by gathering together outside and plant a tree. End the time together by reading Revelation 5:11-14 and return inside for a final dialog and song.**

Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, singing with full voice,

*“Worthy is the Lamb that was  
slaughtered  
to receive power and wealth and  
wisdom and might  
and honor and glory and  
blessing!”*

*Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing,*

*“To the one seated on the throne  
and the Lamb  
be blessing and honor and glory  
and might  
forever and ever!”*

*And the four living creatures said, “Amen!” And the elders fell down and worshiped.*

**Reader 1:** Then I saw heaven opened, and there was a white horse! Its rider is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood and his name is called the Word of God. From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron.

**Reader 2:** Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain. He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, and bound him for a thousand years.

**Reader 3:** And I saw thrones, and those seated on them were given authority to judge. I also saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their testimony to Jesus and for the word of God. They came to life and ruled with Christ for a thousand years.

**Reader 4:** When the thousand years were ended, Satan was released from his prison, but fire came down from heaven, and the devil was thrown into the lake of fire. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and the books were opened, and another book was opened, the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to what they had done.

**Reader 1:** Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was not more. And I saw the holy city, the New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

**Reader 2:** And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold the dwelling of God is among people. He will dwell with them and they will be his peoples. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the former things have passed away

**Reader 1:** Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and the Lamb, through the middle of the street of the city.

**Reader 2:** God's servants will worship him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.

**Reader 3:** And there will be no more night.

**Reader 4:** For the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever.

**Hymn: Shall we Gather at the River (WOV #690)**

**Leader: Prepare the group to answer together by saying, Amen, Come Lord Jesus!**

**Leader:** The Lord says, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.

Behold I am coming soon! (Let the people say, **Amen. Come Lord Jesus!**)

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The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. AMEN!