**LIONS and DRAGONS and LAMBS, Oh My!: The Lion and the Lamb**

**September 1, 2019**

**Week 3 Reading Plan**

Day 1-

READ: [Revelation 4:1-11](https://biblehub.com/esv/revelation/4.htm)

REFLECT: As hard as it is to picture this scene, what is the purpose of these beings who are gathered around God’s throne? Repeat their worship to God- say it out loud. He is worthy!

PRAY/ PRACTICE: Write a chorus of praise to the Lord today. As you go about your day, how will your life (what you say, what you do, how you love) bring praise to Him?

TAKE IT FURTHER!

LISTEN: Use the “Through the Word” app to listen to an introduction to Revelation and each of its chapters.

Day 2-

READ: [Revelation 5:1-14](https://biblehub.com/esv/revelation/5.htm)

REFLECT: *Hear* the words of the elder in verse 5. Now *see* what John sees in verse 6. What is the difference? He who has conquered (Lion) is worthy because he was slain (Lamb). This is Jesus! Reflect on the descriptions of Him in this chapter.

PRAY/ PRACTICE: Praise Jesus as He is praised in this chapter- as both Lion and Lamb- for you are utterly unworthy without Him, but you are made worthy in Him.

Day 3-

READ: [Philippians 2:5-11](https://biblehub.com/esv/philippians/2.htm)

REFLECT: Jesus was and is fully God. And also fully man. The only man who did not sin. The only man who was not defeated by death. What does this beautiful passage in Philippians teach us about our Savior?

PRAY & PRAISE: Use [Psalm 33](https://biblehub.com/esv/psalms/33.htm) to lead you into a time of praise and thanksgiving for all the Lord has done, is doing, and will do; for all He was and is and will always be.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

WATCH: Understand Kingdom of God and who Jesus is through “[Gospel of the Kingdom](https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/Series/181470?episode=7),” from the Bible Project on RightNow Media. [Need a *free* RNM account? Sign up through Grace Church at [www.whoisgrace.com/rightnowmedia](http://www.whoisgrace.com/rightnowmedia).]

Day 4-

READ: [Matthew 24:14](https://biblehub.com/matthew/24-14.htm); [28:19-20](https://biblehub.com/esv/matthew/28.htm); [Revelation 5:9-10](https://biblehub.com/esv/revelation/5.htm)

REFLECT: “The greatest tragedy that exists in our world today is not the refugee crisis, or hunger, disease, war. The greatest tragedy that exists in our world today is that there are still people in this world who will be born, grow up, live and die in a place without having an opportunity to receive Jesus. The great commission is still the mission of every believer, and that mission’s purpose is global. It is a mission to every people group on earth.”

PRAY: Commit to awareness and prayer- check out the app and other resources from [Operation World](http://www.operationworld.org/). Spend time praying and asking God to fill your heart with a passion for all peoples and to lead you to a next step.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

PRACTICE: The Samaritan’s Purse ministry, [Operation Christmas Child](https://www.samaritanspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/), has been working to reach unreached children and their families around the world. Find more information about OCC and the local packing party event on September 14th by searching for “[2019 NWPA Shoebox Packing Party](https://www.facebook.com/events/480500799387673/)” on Facebook.

Day 5-

READ: [Revelation 5:9-14](https://biblehub.com/esv/revelation/5.htm)

REFLECT: For whom did Jesus die? For you? For your neighbor? For those on the other side of the border? For those who have not yet heard His Name? Start a long list of people and groups, and ask the Spirit to guide you as you write.

PRAY/ PRACTICE: Ask God to break your heart for every tribe and language and people and nation who are still far from Him. Pray for everyone on the list you made. What step will you take toward Him and toward them today?

TAKE IT FURTHER!

PRAY/ PRACTICE: Ask God- What is my part of your story for the world? Will I GO? Will I SEND? Will I SPONSOR?

BE INFORMED: Short-term teams are getting ready to go out from Grace. Find out more on our [Global Missions page](https://whoisgrace.com/missions/).

**LIONS and DRAGONS and LAMBS, Oh My!: The Final Fury**

**September 8, 2019**

**Week 4 Reading Plan**

Day 1-

READ: [Exodus 12:21-27](https://biblehub.com/esv/exodus/12.htm); [John 1:26-30](https://biblehub.com/esv/john/1.htm); [Revelation 5:11-6:2](https://biblehub.com/esv/revelation/5.htm)

REFLECT: In both his gospel and in Revelation John calls Jesus “the Lamb.” Why is this image of a meek lamb the symbol of our savior and conqueror?

PRAY/ PRACTICE: Listen to “[He Is Worthy](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OIahc83Kvp4)” by Andrew Peterson and praise this conquering Lamb!

TAKE IT FURTHER!

WATCH: Review the scope of the first part of the book of Revelation with “[Revelation Part 1](https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/Series/181310?episode=70)” of the Read Scriptures series on RightNow Media. [Get a *FREE* RNM account through Grace Church. Sign up [here](https://whoisgrace.com/rightnowmedia/).]

Day 2-

READ: [Revelation 6:12-17](https://biblehub.com/esv/revelation/6.htm); [John 3:36](https://biblehub.com/esv/john/3.htm); [Romans 5:8-10](https://biblehub.com/esv/romans/5.htm)

REFLECT: The wrath of God is what each of us deserves as sinners, BUT Jesus took the cup of God’s wrath for us. As you think about the chilling descriptions of God’s wrath, thank Jesus for taking that wrath for you.

PRAY/ PRACTICE: Pray for the 3 people you committed to pray for each day at 3:00 for 3 minutes. Ask God to give you the opportunity and the boldness to tell them what Jesus has done for you AND for them.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ: [Revelation 8:1-5](https://biblehub.com/esv/revelation/8.htm)

REFLECT: Do you ever wonder if your prayers really matter? Watch this short youtube video, “[Your Prayers Please God](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u-tG6xGlWIA)” by John Piper about the importance of every prayer…

PRACTICE: Your sincere prayer is a beautiful fragrance to God. Every time you smell something beautiful today (flowers, perfume, food, a baby’s head) let it remind you to take a moment to pray for those in your life who need to know Jesus.

Day 3-

READ: [Revelation 7:9-12](https://biblehub.com/esv/revelation/7.htm); [Matthew 28:18-20](https://biblehub.com/esv/matthew/28.htm)

REFLECT: These beautiful verses describe an amazing scene where some from every people group on earth will worship God together. This is the culmination of God’s great plan and He wants each of us to join Him in this mission. How can you be part of helping people around the world hear about Jesus?

PRAY/ PRACTICE: Visit the [Grace Church Global Missions](https://whoisgrace.com/missions/#category_missionary-partners) page to read about some of the missionary partners we support. Stop and pray for one or more of them. You can also learn more about people groups in the world who have yet to hear about Jesus by visiting the [Joshua Project website](https://joshuaproject.net/). Take a few minutes to pray for one of these unreached groups.

Day 4-

READ: [Revelation 12:7-12](https://biblehub.com/esv/revelation/12.htm)

REFLECT: What names are given to Satan in these verses? How has Satan been an accuser or deceiver in your life?

PRAY/ PRACTICE: Pray and thank God for defeating Satan and ask Him to help you remember that defeat the next time Satan whispers lies and accusations to you.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ: “[We Help Conquer Satan](https://www.cru.org/us/en/train-and-grow/spiritual-growth/devotionals/todays-promise/07/27.html)”, a short devotional from the founder of Cru, Bill Bright

REFLECT: Many Christians are being persecuted and martyred for their faith in our world today. Find out more through [The Voice of the Martyrs](http://www.persecution.com).

PRACTICE: How do you pray for our brothers and sisters facing persecution? This article, “[How to Pray for the Persecuted Church](https://www.cru.org/us/en/train-and-grow/spiritual-growth/prayer/pray-for-persecuted-church.html)” from Cru will help you get started.

Day 5-

READ: [2 Peter 3:8-10](https://biblehub.com/esv/2_peter/3.htm); [Acts 2:37-41](https://biblehub.com/esv/acts/2.htm)

REFLECT: Each day God allows our world to keep turning He is mercifully giving more people a chance to repent (turn from sin) and turn to Him. Derek said, “When we don’t want anything to do with God – He sometimes lets us go our own way in the hopes that we will discover that all our idols are empty. His goal is that you would turn to him.” Consider how you or someone you know may need to repent.

PRAY/ PRACTICE: Ask God to help you see each person you meet as a person who needs Jesus. Determine to pray each day this week for three people to repent and turn to Him. Set an alarm on your phone to remind you- 3 people at 3:00 for 3 minutes.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ: As a review, “[10 Lessons I Learned from Preaching Revelation](https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/10-lessons-learned-preaching-revelation/)” highlights the benefits of studying Revelation.

**LIONS and DRAGONS and LAMBS, Oh My!: Counterfeit Enemy**

**September 15, 2019**

**Week 5 Reading Plan**

Day 1-

READ: [Revelation 12:3, 13:1, 13:11-12](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation+12-13&version=ESV)

REFLECT: In the sermon, Pastor Derek explained that the dragon, beast and second beast were counterfeits of the Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit). What are the evidences that these are counterfeits of the true Trinity?

PRAY: Ask the Lord to give you eyes to see the lies/deceit of Satan and the truth about who God is.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ: Learn more about the Trinity by reading “[What is the Doctrine of the Trinity?](https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/what-is-the-doctrine-of-the-trinity)” from DesiringGod.org

Day 2-

READ: [John 8:44](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+8&version=ESV)

REFLECT: We all have “stories” in our head that are not truth. Take some time to reflect and write down lies that you have believed about God, about who you are in Christ, and about others.

PRAY: Use the list you just made to ask the Lord to help you combat those lies and replace it with the truth. Ask someone in your life to remind you of truth on a regular basis.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

PRACTICE: Look up verses that tell you the truth about each of the lies that you wrote down.

Day 3-

READ: [2 Corinthians 11:12-15](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Corinthians+11%3A12-15&version=ESV)

REFLECT: Based on these verses, why is it hard to identify the schemes of Satan and his false apostles? How will you be able to know the truth about them?

PRAY: Ask the Holy Spirit for eyes to see and ears to hear false teaching.

Day 4-

READ: [John 14:6](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+14%3A6&version=ESV)

REFLECT: Jesus clearly reveals himself throughout the gospels. What are some of the characteristics of Jesus as God that are in the gospels?

PRAY/ PRACTICE: Look for an opportunity to share the truth about who Jesus is with someone in your life. Perhaps start by asking them what they think about Jesus and understand where they got that view. Use John 14:6 to explain your view of Jesus.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ: Learn more about who God is in this “[Guide to the Attributes of God](https://zondervanacademic.com/blog/attributes-of-god)” from ZondervanAcadmeic.com.

Day 5-

READ: [Romans 12:2](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+12%3A2&version=ESV)

REFLECT: How do we know more about God’s will? What does it look like to transform your mind?

PRACTICE: Create a plan for learning more about who God is to combat the counterfeit schemes of Satan. Ask God to give you a hunger to know Him more. Ask Him to show you where to start (what time will you set aside each day? Will you read through a book of the Bible? Continue with the whoisgrace READ plans?) If you have questions or would like help getting started, contact [sarah@whoisgrace.com](mailto:sarah@whoisgrace.com)

**Lion and Dragons and Lambs, Oh My!: Split the Sky**

**September 22, 2019**

**Week 5 Reading Plan**

Day 1-

READ: [Revelation 19:1-3](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation+19%3A1-3&version=ESV)

REFLECT: What was the roar that John heard coming from heaven? Why were the inhabitants of heaven praising God? Who shouted and why did they shout?

PRAY/ PRACTICE: Praise God as you go through your day. You can praise him loudly without making a lot of physical noise. How can you live, serve, love today in a way that praises Jesus?

TAKE IT FURTHER!

WATCH: Session 10 of “[Revelation: The Hope of Glory](https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/Series/167453)” by David Platt on RightNow Media. The sermon is 54 minutes but worth it! (Don’t yet have a FREE RNM account? Visit [www.whoisgrace.com/rightnowmedia](http://www.whoisgrace.com/rightnowmedia) to sign up today!)

REFLECT: What did you learn? What stirred your emotions? What made you praise God? What change will this sermon have on you?

Day 2-

READ: [Revelation 19: 4-8](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation+19%3A4-8&version=ESV)

REFLECT: Meditate on the words of the two songs in this passage. Who is the bride of Christ? How has the bride been made ready? (see [Titus 2:11-14](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=titus+2&version=ESV))

PRAY: Pray aloud the song of praise given in the passage. Repeat the praise and do it louder each time!

TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ: “[Heading for the Wedding](https://odb.org/1997/07/12/heading-for-a-wedding/)” from Our Daily Bread.

REFLECT: How wonderful will the marriage of the Lamb be? Let yourself imagine…

Day 3-

READ: [Revelation 19:6-10](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation+19&version=ESV)

REFLECT: Who is called “blessed”? How did John respond to the angel? What was the angel’s instruction to John? What did John learn about worship? What did John learn about angels? What are some implications of the fact that Christ’s relationship with the church is described as a marriage? In what ways ought we to act as people engaged to Christ?

PRAY/ PRACTICE: Ask the Lord what it means for you to “hold to the testimony of Jesus” today- how will you praise Him, serve Him and serve others, share Him?

Day 4-

READ: [Revelation 19:11-16](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation+19%3A11-16&version=ESV)

REFLECT: Sketch an image (use pictures if you’re able, shapes with words if you’re not!) of the scene in this passage. What posture will you take today before the King of kings and Lord of lords?

PRAY: Find a posture of prayer as you approach your King and Lord and ask Him to examine you, to speak truth to you, to open your hands in surrender to Him, to open your life in submission to Him, to be bold as you follow Him.

Day 5-

READ: [Revelation 19:17-21](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation+19%3A17-21&version=ESV); [2 Peter 3:8-13](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+peter+3&version=ESV)

REFLECT: What is the result of this final battle in Revelation? What hope and encouragement are found in 2 Peter?

PRAY: Thank God that He is and will be victorious! Praise Him for His patience grace. Pray for those you love that are far from Him- ask Him to give you opportunities to share His good news.

PRACTICE: As you look forward to Christ’s return and eternity with Him, how will you actively seek His Kingdom on earth ([Matthew 6:10](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=matthew+6%3A9-13&version=ESV))?

* Seek justice, because you long for heaven where there is no injustice
* Love the unlovable, because you long for heaven where everyone is fully known and fully loved
* Partner with the poor, because you long for heaven where there is no wealth or poverty
* Celebrate diversity, because you long for heaven where you will worship with people from every tribe, every tongue, and every nation.
* Put your sin to death, because you long for heaven where sin has no power.
* Help people worship Jesus, because you long for heaven, the place where every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus is Lord!

**Lions and Dragons and Lambs, Oh My!: The End of the World as We Know It**

**September 29, 2019**

**Week 7 Reading Plan**

Pastor Derek has noted that The Book of Revelation, because of the apocalyptic images, and language used, is perhaps the most confusing, and even frightening book of the bible. In these closing chapters, consider that the message found here is consistent with the whole story arc of the Bible – Jesus Christ triumphs over evil!

Day 1-

READ: [Revelation 20-21](https://biblehub.com/esv/revelation/20.htm)

REFLECT: What does it feel like to read about the world’s end? Where do you find peace? How can you share your assurance that God will provide His followers a place of beauty and perfect peace? Why should you have a sense of urgency about the hearts of those in your circle?

PRAY: Seek God’s wisdom in how your life can reflect the peace that is found in Christ, and that you make it a priority to share that peace with those who do not know Christ as their personal savior.

PRACTICE: Read Revelation 21:1-7 again. Move towards living a life free of apprehension about what the future holds for you, and toward sharing the love of Christ with others.

TAKE IT FURTHER:

LISTEN: Old hymns of the Church often provide comfort in their messages. Listen to, “[When We All Get to Heaven](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MDL85-FoJWg)”, and “[I’ll Fly Away](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CQCk71sYxPs)”.

REFLECT: The Big Idea for this week focuses on the end of this world, the horrors that await those who have rejected Christ, and the blessings that will befall those who have remained faithful to God’s calling. What thoughts did you have as you listened to these songs? How do these lyrics give you a feeling of peace?

PRACTICE: How will you allow your life today to praise God for the gift of eternal life with Him?

Day 2-

READ: [Mark 13:23, 24-27, 35](https://biblehub.com/esv/mark/13.htm)

REFLECT: Make two lists describing; the things God is responsible for, and the things we as Believers are responsible for. Hint: Our list is very short! Our God is in control!

PRAY: Ask God to continue to increase in your heart a desire to share the good news with those who do not yet know Christ as their Lord and Savior.

PRACTICE: Practically, how can share the love of Christ? Consider the specific needs of friends, neighbors, co-workers, etc. How might God be calling you to love them by stepping into their need?

TAKE IT FURTHER:

WATCH: “Revelation Part 2” from the Read Scripture series on RightNow Media. [Sign up for a *FREE* RNM account through Grace Church [here](https://whoisgrace.com/rightnowmedia/).]

Day 3-

READ: [Luke 24:36-43](https://biblehub.com/esv/mark/13.htm), [John 20:24-29](https://biblehub.com/esv/john/20.htm), [1 Corinthians 15:35-54](https://biblehub.com/esv/1_corinthians/15.htm), [Philippians 3:20-21](https://biblehub.com/esv/philippians/3.htm)

REFLECT: In considering these verses that describe our new, resurrected body, in what ways will that body be a blessing to you? Consider the physical, mental, or spiritual needs that will be answered fully when we enter into the glory of God’s Presence for all eternity.

PRAY: Ask God to give us the faith to trust in His Word for all the blessings He has promised.

PRACTICE: Let us live out our faith as an example to those of this world, showing that we trust in the Lord to watch over us, both in this life, and the one yet to come.

Day 4-

READ: [Revelation 21:10-21](https://biblehub.com/esv/revelation/21.htm)

REFLECT: Consider the Apostle John’s use of such extravagant language in describing the newly restored heaven and earth. It is possible that John is trying to evoke a picture of its beauty in a manner familiar with the culture at the time of his writing. What images come to your mind as you envision this newly restored world free of sin, a home perfectly made for believers, with our new bodies, especially designed for us to live forever with God?

PRAY: Pray that we will share those promises of God of an eternity made for us, and we made for it with all those with which we have contact.

PRACTICE: Pray for 3 people at 3:00 for 3 minutes today. Ask the Lord for opportunity and boldness to share the hope of Jesus with one person today.

Day 5-

READ: [Revelation 21:10-17](https://biblehub.com/esv/revelation/21.htm); [1 Kings 6](https://biblehub.com/esv/1_kings/6.htm)

REFLECT: Sketch the description of the New Jerusalem (or look up a picture that someone else has created). This perfect cube followed the design of the Most Holy Place of both the tabernacle, and the temple where God resided. Remember- no one was allowed to enter the Most Holy Place because they were not worthy. But because of Jesus, we are the temple. The Spirit resides in us and one day we will stand in God’s presence!

PRAY: Ask our Heavenly Father for a heart of true concern for those we know, and love, as well as those we never may have contact with this side of heaven. Pray for new, and different ways to reach the lost.

PRACTICE: Become a “prayer warrior”, and a proclaimer of the “Good News”. Let us recommit our lives in service to our King and His Kingdom by sharing God’s love with all, mindful of the warning of eternal punishment for those that deny Jesus. Pray for your 3 at 3:00 today for 3 minutes.