



## “The Power of a Promise” - Week 4

### Opening

*As you have been for the past several weeks, start your group time with a little time of accountability based on the New Thru 30 reading plan.*

- ▶ How did everyone do with the daily reading this week?
- ▶ Did any parts of what you have read since our last group meeting deeply impact you?

*Encourage your group to hang in there and finish strong. This is our final week of scheduled reading!*

### Study/Discussion

- ▶ This week our main focus is the promise of Jesus’ eventual return to earth (*Ref. Acts 1:10-11*). In Sunday’s message, we looked at three truths about this event, which we’ll discuss together later. To get us started, let’s talk about...
  - How does the reality of Christ’s return play into your life right now?
  - What sort of emotions or feelings do you think most people have about the second coming of Christ?

**Read:** Revelation 19:11-16

- ▶ What emotions or feelings does this verse conjure up in you?

- ▶ Do you believe that the Biblical truth of Jesus’ return is different that the visualization that we often have in our minds? Why or Why not?
- ▶ The three points about Christ’s return presented in this week’s are as follows. Let’s take time to work through them together.

### 1.) Jesus’ return will bring judgment

- ▶ How does the thought of eventual and inevitable judgment sit with you?
- ▶ Last week we studied 1 Peter 1 together. In this text there is a familiar description of God as both father and judge. Let’s take a moment to read 1 Peter 1:13-17 together.
  - Other than the fact that both of these texts describe God the Father and God the Son as judges, what connections can you make between this text and our key text of Rev. 19:11-16 from this week?

### 2.) Jesus’ return will be swift and unexpected

- ▶ Review the passages of scripture together that were used on Sunday.

Matthew 24:36-37

1 Peter 3:10

Mark 13:32-33

1 Thessalonians 5:1-2



- ▶ Do these passages encourage you to a stronger faith and more action, or do they cripple you with anxiety? Why?

### **3.) Jesus' return will bring reward and punishment**

*Start by reading Revelation 20:11-21:8 together.*

- ▶ What is the most prominent part of the reward talked about in these verses? What about the punishment?
- ▶ If you were to be totally honest, how much of your faith has been based on a desire to not be punished? How do we make it more about a desire to please God and find blessing in his grace?

#### ***Accountability***

*Try out these new accountability questions to get things going for your group members.*

- ▶ Has your reading/study during New Thru 30 convicted you to make any changes in your life?
- ▶ How can your Life Group help to encourage you as you strive to put your newfound awareness into action?

#### ***Prayer***

*End your time together by giving everyone the opportunity to share specific prayer needs. Then, close your time in prayer.*