

INTRO

- Why do you think the good vs evil narrative is still so popular in movies/stories? Do you have a favourite good vs evil movie/story?

We continue in our series, God's Story, as we look at how Scripture is telling one comprehensive and coherent story of God's redemptive purpose in His world.

"To be a Christian means gradually, to be subsumed into another story, a different account of where we have come from and where we are going, a story that is called 'gospel'." — William H. Willimon

READ

Revelation 20:1-15

REFLECT

Revelation can be a challenging book to read simply because it is written in a style and for a context very unfamiliar to us. Nonetheless, Rev 1:1 tells us it is ultimately about "the revelation of Jesus Christ".

3 Challenges in understanding the end times:

Complexity—but just like creation is complex, it remains a significant part of God's story we simply cannot ignore or neglect.

Disheartening—it can be disheartening to see the lack of unity around interpreting the end times or the weirdness that often comes with it. Whichever your view, the point is this: Jesus returns as king, brings final judgement on his enemies, vindicates his followers, and restores all creation.

Irrelevant—but what we believe about tomorrow shapes how we live today.

Qu: what's one of your challenges when it comes to the end times? How should thinking about eternity challenge the way we live today?

In today's passage, we see a vision of cosmic conflict, God's final judgement, and our neutrality in this life is impossible.

1. COSMIC CONFLICT

The vision prepares every generation of the church for a long era of the 'already-not yet' aspect of God's kingdom. We already live from Christ's victory over his enemies on the cross, but not yet do we see them fully destroyed.

Qu: How does remembering the 'already' aspects of God's kingdom & Christ's victory help us face the 'not yet' aspects of present life?

2. GOD'S FINAL JUDGEMENT

There will come a day when God will bring final judgement against all that has resisted his plans from the beginning. God will judge and destroy Satan, Sin and Death once and for all.

Qu: try imagine our world now with the absence of Satan, sin and all evil. What would be the biggest impact for you?

3. NEUTRALITY IS IMPOSSIBLE

Today's reading ends off with God judging all people. We cannot be neutral in this life or the next. Those that have placed their faith in and follow Jesus will have their names written in the book of life. Furthermore, in Rev 20:12,13 it says we will also be judged "according to what they had done". What you do in this life matters.

Qu: how can you be confident your name is written in the book of life? Does your life now (your actions, choices, motives) reflect your faith in Jesus?

RESPOND & PRAY

- In what way/s does this part of God's Story encourage & challenge you?
- Pray accordingly.