

Exploring the fullness of God

Week 6: The Missionary God

WELCOME

Spend time relaxing and sharing together.

Icebreaker. Ask each person to describe what they think their idea of what paradise looks like.

WORSHIP

Pick a hymn or a worship song, to listen to or sing, that gives glory to God for who he is.

WORD

Read Revelation 21

Revelation is often treated like a book written in a secret code, but it was written to bless, not bemuse. In his introduction, the apostle John tells us that he has been given a revelation of Jesus to help the church face what is about to happen. In the context of the early church, this was to be extreme persecution and God gave the church a majestic picture of himself to sustain them through times of trouble.

1. God made two people to live in the Garden of Eden. However, by the end of time, it is clear that he is catering for millions of people who will come from every nation (v26). Remembering week 4, how has this been achieved?

Growth Group Notes

Spring 2024



2. We have also considered God as a human and suffering God (week 1), who sympathises with us in our difficulties and who asks us to face persecution for his sake (week 4). What comfort can we find in vv1-7?

3. According to v8, what will happen to those who do not believe in God? Why is this such an unpopular doctrine in the church today? What should knowing this motivate us to do?

4. Read Exodus 33.12-16. Moses pleaded with God for his presence to go with them. When God showed his glory to Moses his face shone. How does Revelation 21 emphasise the presence of God with his people and his glory?

5. What does the 'glory and honour of the nations' (v26) mean? How does this affect the way we think about specific nations: Islamic majority countries, tiny nations and the current world superpower the USA?

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6. What does 'On no day will the gates [of the Holy City] ever be shut.' (v25) mean and how should we respond to this?

WHAT NEXT?

In this series we have heard that: God created all humanity (Genesis 1) and is present with his people wherever they go: be that in the dry desert or the Promised Land (and everywhere else as well at work, at home and in our communities). We have learned that the whole of creation was designed to praise God (Psalm 103). God sent Jesus as a missionary into the world to be the true light of revelation for everyone (John 1), and we too as the church are to take the gospel to all people without fear.

What can we do?

Which aspects of God's character have become more real to you in this sermon series? How has this changed the way you worship, pray and relate to God and other people?