

SWEET AND BITTER – REVELATION 8-11 / AUGUST 17

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

Read & Pray

The sermon passage spans Revelation 8–11. Read Exodus 9:20–10:11, which captures some key themes. After reading, pray for God to open our hearts to discuss and apply these truths.

Sermon Recap

Review the sermon with your group, highlighting the following:

- “The best way to see the Great Tribulation is as an intensification of what we’re already going through. What we’re experiencing now are the tremors.”
- “Your sins will either be judged in Jesus on the cross, who died in your place, or you’ll be judged for them.”
- “Every person you know will spend eternity in heaven or in hell. Do you care? Does that break your heart? Has it changed your life?”
- “Visions of judgment always end with a picture of a sovereign Jesus on the throne over it all, and that means he gets the last word.”

Group Discussion

1. The sermon showed that God’s judgments are both “sweet and bitter.” How do you reconcile God’s love with the difficult judgments described in Revelation?
2. Read Revelation 9:20–21. Why do you think people often harden their hearts instead of repenting, even when facing clear warnings or consequences?
3. Pastor J.D. said, “Sometimes, God has to put us flat on our backs so we’ll finally be looking the right direction.” How has God used difficult circumstances to get your attention?
4. How does the reality of future judgment challenge you to live with more urgency and share your faith with others? How can we, as a group, practically encourage one another to live with more awareness of the eternal destinies of those around us?

CHALLENGE

- ☐ This week, move from being a “functional universalist” to an active witness for Christ. Prayerfully identify one person in your life who needs to hear the gospel. Commit to praying for them by name every day and ask God for a specific opportunity to share your story or the hope of Jesus with them.

PRAYER

- ☐ Pray for the grace to accept all of God’s Word, not just the parts that feel comfortable.
- ☐ Ask God to soften your heart to his conviction, allowing you to repent quickly and completely.
- ☐ Pray for the boldness to witness, trusting God’s power to work through you in any circumstance.