

Advent (3 of 4)

Small Group Discussion Questions

Join our congregation for worship in-person or online at 10:30 am each Sunday via our [Grantham Church YouTube Channel](#). If you ever miss a message, the sermons are always posted to the [recent sermons page](#) at our website and at the [Grantham Church Podcast](#) the following day, along with the small group discussion questions under Worship Resources. Thank you for staying connected with us!

Sunday, December 11, 2022



Sermon Series: The Anticipated Christ

Sermon Title: The Coming of the King

Scripture Reading: Hebrews 9:27-28; 2 Peter 3:3-13; Revelation 19:11-16; 21:1-5

Sermon Focus: We remember two comings in Advent. Jesus first came to reveal who God is, inaugurate the kingdom, show us how to live, and confront the powers of sin and death by dying and rising again. He then commissioned his disciples to share this good news until he returns to bring the fullness of God's kingdom. In the final message of our three-part series, Pastor David invites us to see the end of God's story so we can experience a living hope while we work and actively wait on the coming of the king.

Thank you for going deeper in conversation with your small group in person or by video call. Use the following questions to help *guide* your small group discussion:

1. Before reading Revelation 19:11-16 and 21:1-5, Pastor David shared a bit about the genre of apocalyptic literature. He later explained some of the symbols and imagery in the final battle between good and evil, and the world to come. What did you find most insightful about how Jesus is depicted in Revelation 19? How do these passages encourage you and give you hope for the future?
2. Pastor David talked about a Netflix documentary called, *A Trip to Infinity*. While the documentary is well done, he pointed out how the show and the participants present an exclusively naturalistic framework, i.e., the only thing we can know about the reality of the universe (including infinity) is through science. They have created an "artificial ceiling" between science and the transcendent. Therefore, they exclude metaphysics, theology, etc. How do the gospel and the Second Coming challenge the naturalist narrative, particularly the future of the cosmos?
3. It could be that the greatest argument for God in Western society today is "the necessity for God" in a world that believes he isn't needed to explain the origins of the universe, life, love, meaning, and where things are going. Pastor David said that without God, a naturalist worldview either leads to despair or a "happy nihilism" of sorts. Why do you think things unravel without God? Why do you see that it is necessary that we believe in God and his involvement in creation?
4. In his book, *Bright Hope for Tomorrow: How Anticipating Jesus' Return Gives Strength for Today*, Chris Davis writes this about the coming judgment of Christ: "If we think of judgment as a shining light, unveiling the reality of things, then anticipating the coming of the Judge can be a welcome hope rather than the stuff of nightmares. And indeed, Jesus' return as Judge is all about shining the light" (pg. 81). Does this help you to think about the coming judgment of Christ as light revealing all things and driving out the darkness from all of creation?
5. We can look at the headlines today and all that is wrong with our world and quickly become overwhelmed with anxiety. Be honest. How often do you think about the return of Jesus and how important it is to our faith *and* for our world? What would it look like if you lived with a greater anticipation of the Lord's return? What might you do differently? What would it change? How is the Spirit inviting you to live in light of the coming of the King?