

Sunday, May 28, 2023 - "The Return - Week 5 - It's All About The Reign" - Doug Kempton

Key Passages: Revelation 20, Isaiah 9:6-7, Zechariah 9:9, Revelation 2:25-26, Revelation 3:10-11, Revelation 3:21, James 2:8

- Feel free to read the passage(s) out loud as a group
- Allow the group to share freely about what stood out to them from the passage or from Sunday's message

Main Ideas

- Revelation 20 —> final adversary to be defeated...the dragon = satan
- v2: Best known portion of Revelation, one of most divisive passages in the Bible
- How we view the thousand year question doesn't change what we are called to today
- Isaiah 9:6-7, Zechariah 9:9
 - One would naturally envision an earthly reign...in the first century they thought the messiah would overthrow Rome
 - This would be a RIGID application of the prophecies (actually a stumbling block for Jewish people)
 - "When expectations and reality don't align, there is often crisis of faith" - Doug Kempton
 - What prosperity gospel is so dangerous
 - Jesus said, in this world you will have trouble
 - We can't necessarily paint a picture of how things will unfold
- What is clear in Revelation 20 - "It's all about the reign"
 - The Kingdom of Heaven merges with this world and Jesus reigns (Isaiah prophecy full fruition)
 - Reign = royal authority, sovereignty, dominion
 - Is Jesus your king?
 - Authority in your life
 - His way influences every decision you make
 - Fruit of the Spirit
 - Where are you standing when Jesus returns?
- Heaven comes to Earth and it is redeemed
 - Not "let me GO to the Kingdom" BUT "Your Kingdom come"
 - Ch 20 —> His Kingdom comes
 - Not working to escape...working alongside Jesus to redeem the world
- What do we do?
 - Stand with the King
 - Revelation is written to the church to persevere and hold fast to Jesus
- Promises for endurance (Revelation 2:25-26, Revelation 3:10-11, Revelation 3:21)
- You are royalty but do you live like it (James 2:8)

Questions (Feel free to use all of these, some of these, or none of these)

1. What does it look like to love the "royal" way?
2. What does it mean for you to attach yourself to God's kingdom instead of any other?
3. How do you know when your allegiance is to God before anything else?
4. What occupies the majority of your heart, time, and dedication?
5. How have you learned to endure in your faith?
6. What does it mean for you to live like royalty in God's kingdom?
7. What is God inviting you into as a result of this message or passage?

Songs from the weekend:

[In Jesus' Name - *Israel Houghton*] - [Promises - *Maverick City*] - [Here As In Heaven - *Elevation Worship*] - [Jesus at the Center - *Israel Houghton*]