



Discussion Guide for “Jesus will Return to Judge” *Believe* Week 8

'Apocalypse' is a scary word - it conjures images of death and destruction at the end of the world. But the Church has long anticipated Jesus' return as Good News. How can we understand Jesus' return such that it helps us understand how we can live today?

Scriptures for Further Reading

[Amos 5:18-24](#)

[Matthew 25:31-46](#)

[John 3:16-21](#)

[2 Peter 3:8-15a](#)

[Revelation 20:11-21:8](#)

Passage for Sacred Reading:

A sacred reading is a method of reading Scripture that invites God to speak to us through the text. If you have never done a sacred reading, here is [a simple step-by-step guide](#). This week's passage is [Revelation 20:11-21:8](#).

Questions for Discussion

1. When you think of the Second Coming, what emotions do you mainly experience? If it's not joy or anticipation, why not?
2. In both Amos 5 and Matthew 25, the main emotion people feel at God's coming is *surprise*. Why do you think that is?
3. Read John 3:16-21. The Greek word for 'to judge' means literally 'to divide'. In the final judgment, how is God dividing? How is God's judgment an act of love to those who don't choose light?
4. Read 2 Peter 3:8-15a. Peter says that knowledge of the Second Coming should affect how we live now. Explain Peter's thinking (and how we can keep from being surprised on the last day).
5. Reverse engineering is the process by which you start with the end product and break it down to figure out how it was made. Since we know the End of our story, what does it look like for us to 'reverse engineer' our lives? How can we be a people of the Second Coming right now? What does that look like for you this week?