

The Drama of Scripture: Restoration (Part 2)

Hope, rooted in promised future events, has a way of affecting how we live and work in the here and now. We need such hope! Life in this world is often hard. It can seem that the enemies of God are winning. But the reality is that we have hope because we know the future in broad strokes. God WILL restore all things! Today, we continue our look at the final act in the Drama of Scripture: Restoration. Last week we saw the hope of the restoration of redeemed humanity. Today, we are we are considering the restoration of the rest of creation.

Opening Question: How has this sermon series on the Drama of Scripture been helpful to you?

1. Throughout the Scriptures we find the hope of a future restoration of all things. What kinds of things are anticipated in this restoration of all things throughout the Scriptures?

- Genesis 12:3; Isaiah 2:2-3; Matthew 28:18-20

- Isaiah 11:6-9; Romans 8:18-22

- Genesis 3:15; Matthew 25:41-46; Romans 16:20

Steve said:

Revelation is written in a genre known as apocalyptic literature. It uses wild, bizarre imagery to enflame our imaginations. Even though apocalyptic imagery isn't meant to be taken in a literalistic way, ***it is describing events and beings that are very real.*** For example, in Revelation 19:15 Jesus is charging out of heaven on a white horse with a "sharp sword" "coming out of His mouth." That's not a physical description of what Jesus looks like; it's a statement that Jesus can slay His enemies with a word from His mouth. After all, He Himself said, "All authority has been given Me in heaven and on earth." So we read apocalyptic literature looking for the spiritual realities expressed by the imagery.

Read Revelation 12:7-12; 20:1-4; 7-10

2. What do we learn about the fate of the devil and his demons in the restoration?

3. How does knowing and contemplating this truth help us as we live our lives in a world where he is still present and active?

Read Revelation 5:1-10

4. What does this scene depict?
5. How does this connect to the promise made to Abraham (Gen. 12:3) and the Great Commission (Matt. 28:18-20)?

Read Revelation 21:1-4; 22:1-5

6. What picture does this paint of creation in the Restoration?
7. Steve said that Revelation is meant to “enflame our imaginations.” How do these passages from Revelation enflame your imagination? And how do they give you hope?
8. As you consider the full restoration of all things, to what do you most look forward?