

## STORY 7: REUNION

**T**his is the final chapter in the story of God and man. In the years after Jesus returned to heaven, the church (or those that believe in Jesus) grew exponentially. People found that they could have a relationship with God, and that through that relationship, their lives would be changed.

However, while they are able to experience the fullness of knowing God, those who believe in Jesus are not made perfect like Adam and Eve once were. So, people began to wonder how God would complete the restoration of his people. God sent his answer in the form of a vision.

During Jesus' time on earth, one of his followers was a man named John. John was a fisherman by trade, but when Jesus called him to be his follower, John left his work immediately. His life was never the same. He followed after Jesus, learning from the master.

After Jesus was taken up to heaven, John was a leader of Jesus' followers and also helped to spread the message of Jesus to other cities and places. In his old age, John was arrested for preaching about Jesus and he was put on an island prison in the Mediterranean called Patmos. While he was on Patmos, God came to him in a vision and told John about what the future would hold.

A door to heaven came open to John and he heard a voice say, "Come up here, and I will show you what will take place."

He saw flying creatures worshipping God, saying, "Holy, holy, holy is the all-powerful God, who was, and is, and is to be."

And then John saw Jesus, who they called the Lamb of God. The creatures fell down before Jesus and said, "You are worthy! With your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom to serve our God, and they will reign on earth." And then he sees a huge crowd of people- more than he could number, and they were singing, "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!"

John's vision continued as he saw a great battle in heaven between good and evil. In this battle, Jesus defeated evil for good, and finally, there is no more evil, no more disobedience.

Finally, John saw the end. He saw a new earth, where God is with men, living with them. God will wipe away every tear and there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, because the old order of things will be gone. In the end, God will restore all things, and all things will become new.

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- **review:** re-tell the story
- **dialogue:** discuss the story
  - What did you like or not like about the story?
  - What emotions do you think John felt as God revealed this vision to him?
  - What are the most significant things about John's vision? Why?
- **application:** live the story
  - Can you imagine a new earth with no crime or hate or war or sadness or loss? How do you picture the "new earth" in your head?
  - How does knowing the end of the story help us to understand earlier parts?
  - Do you believe that this story (all seven parts) are true? What is the appropriate response to the story of God and man?
- **notes:**