

Seeing Jesus in Every Story

**“You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life;
and these are they which testify of Me.”**

John 5:39

Act 12

Jesus: The Alpha and Omega

Revelation 21:1–6, 22:1–5

Prologue

We’ve been looking at some of the Old Testament stories with an eye to see Jesus. In twelve short lessons, we have barely scratched the surface of God’s unfolding drama of Redemption. But now it’s time to see where this crimson thread leads us.

History is HIS story.

How great is our God? Age to age He stands, and time is in His hands. Beginning and the end. From the opening scene of history, God has been telling His story. It has been thousands of years in the telling—and it isn’t over yet, but Jesus revealed the final scene to His disciple John.

The back story . . .

John was an old man, but he still preached the gospel with the same fire and tenderness he’d always been known for. Sure to draw a crowd any time he spoke, John posed a threat to a suspicious, half-crazed emperor who demanded to be called “Lord and god” by his subjects. John would not. So he was banished to Patmos, a dreary little island with nothing but stone quarries and endless ocean. It was here, in the solitude meant to silence him that John received the Revelation of Jesus Christ to His Church.

✧ Cast ✧

The Lamb, The Bride
Every Creature in Heaven and Earth
Myriads of Angels

Read Revelation 21:1–6 and 22:1–5. Briefly note what stands out to you at first reading. Be prepared to share one of your impressions with your discussion group.

Scene 1: All Things New – Revelation 21:1–6

1. John describes the holy city coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. The whole company—that is, the people of the city—will be as beautiful as a bride on her wedding day. Think of it...
 - Song of Solomon 4:7, 9. How does Jesus, our Bridegroom, see His bride?

 - Ephesians 5:25–27. How has she come to be so beautiful?

2. According to v. 3, where—and with whom—will the Lord’s dwelling place be?
 - Finally and at last we will live with God and nothing will separate or come between us. But v. 4 assures us that some things will definitely be gone! Briefly note each one and discuss how different that will be from life, as we now know it.

Later in the chapter (v. 9) an angel invites John to come see the Bride, the wife of the Lamb. John is transported to a high mountain where he sees, and describes, the city in intricate detail (21:11–27).

3. According to v. 22–23, what is missing from this city and why is it unnecessary?

Scene 2: A Perfect Ending – Revelation 22:1–5

Genesis began with a garden paradise that God created—a place where Adam and Eve could live an endlessly satisfying life surrounded in beauty and abundance. Best of all, the Lord would come, in the cool of the day, and walk with them. In Revelation, we see the perfect ending to God’s story and get a glimpse of the happily-ever-after our hearts yearn for.

1. Long before the revelation John was given, Ezekiel had a similar vision of the eternal city (Ezekiel 40–47). He was allowed to see the glory of the Lord fill the temple and to hear the Lord Himself say, “This is the place of my throne and the place of the soles of My feet, where I will dwell in the midst of the people of Israel forever” (43:7).
 - The River of the Water of Life - Ezekiel describes water flowing out of the temple around his ankles, rising knee-deep, then waist-deep and becoming a river deep enough to swim in. Everything the water touches becomes vibrant and alive. Similarly, what does John see and how does he describe it?
 - The Tree of Life - Compare what Ezekiel saw (Ezekiel 47:12) and John’s description in Revelation 22:2. Consider the practical and spiritual benefits that will come from being able to eat freely from the tree of life. Share your thoughts.
2. John describes a beautiful scene in vv. 3–5. Let it sink in for a few minutes. Guilt, strife, sickness, sorrow—anything that is part of the curse of sin—will be gone. That will be cause for worship! What else do you see in these verses that stirs you to worship?
 - In Revelation 5:11–14, John witnessed another worship scene. What did he see? What did he hear? Do your best to imagine what thousands upon thousands of voices raised in worship would sound like.
 - Do you love to sing praise to the Lord? What is one of your favorite worship songs?

Intermission: Pause – Ponder – Pray

**And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,
“Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man.
He will dwell with them, and they will be His people,
and God Himself will be with them as their God.”**

Revelation 21:3 (ESV)

As you memorize this passage, let it work into your heart and mind. Scripture meditation is like a good cup of tea . . . satisfying as it is savored. So give yourself time to savor God’s Word. Write the scripture in the space provided and meditate on what it says.

Ask the Lord to open your eyes and increase your understanding. Jot down what He points out to you; keep returning here and adding your thoughts throughout the week.

Ponder what this says about God. Consider His character, attributes, work, promises . . .

Think about what it actually means—in practical and personal ways—to *dwell* with God. . .

Write your response to Him in worship and praise . . .

Epilogue: Seeing Jesus in the Story

Search to See . . .

What will be the epilogue of God's unfolding drama of Redemption? It will be Jesus coming for His Bride! And He is coming soon!



You are Cordially Invited . . .

To: The one who is thirsty for the water of life

From: The Spirit and the Bride

“Come”

For anyone who says yes to Jesus
For anyone who believes what Jesus said
For anyone who will just reach out and take it
Then God will give them this wonderful gift:
To be born into a whole new Life*

Revelation 22:17

*Excerpt paraphrase from Jesus Storybook Bible, Sally Lloyd-Jones©2007 by Zondervan

Looking Back, Going Forward

As we finish this series, remember what the Emmaus road disciples said when they recognized Jesus: “Weren’t our hearts ablaze within us while He was talking with us on the road and explaining the Scriptures to us?” At first they didn’t recognize Him because they weren’t expecting Him—but we’ve been looking for Him! We have heard His voice and experienced His presence as we’ve walked this road together.

Would you like to re-trace your own path with Jesus through these stories? Look back through each lesson for your answer to the last question in the “make it personal” section. Jot it down in the space provided below. Choose one or two favorites to share with your group during discussion.

- › For you personally, what is the most significant insight you’ve gained from the story of . . .
How will you apply this insight in your life?

Act 1 – Creation and the Fall

Act 2 – Noah and the Flood

Act 3 – Abraham and Isaac: The Promised Son

Act 4 – Joseph: Suffering Servant

Act 5 – Moses: Israel’s Deliverer

Act 6 – Moses: Intercession and Atonement

Act 7 – Joshua: Yahweh is Salvation

Act 8 – Ruth and Her Redeemer

Act 9 – David and Goliath

Act 10 – Hosea and Gomer: Redeeming Love

Act 11 – Isaiah

Act 12 – Jesus: The Alpha and Omega

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.