

SINAI TO ZION



THE UNTOLD STORY *of the*
TRIUMPHANT RETURN *of* JESUS

A COMPANION DISCUSSION GUIDE
by JOEL RICHARDSON



WINEPRESS

PART 1: THE MARRIAGE COVENANT AT SINAI

CHAPTER 1: THE EXODUS ROMANCE

1. Someone in the group pray (Suggestions: for focus, for humility, for right application, and that the discussion would be God-glorifying and help us to long for the return of Jesus)
2. Have a new person in the group provide an overview of the chapter in their own words.
3. Part 1 of this book is devoted to the topic of the marriage covenant at Mount Sinai. The author states, “It is so critical for Christians to recognize the fact that the imagery of betrothal and marriage, the language of husband and wife, does not begin in the New Testament. It began with the Exodus at Mount Sinai.” Why might this be so critical to understand? What are some potential dangers of misunderstanding this?
4. Have you ever considered God’s ‘courtship’ before? How does God’s courtship and commitment either reveal something you didn’t know about God or affirm something you already knew to be true?
5. How do you see the gospel reflected in God’s original threefold promise to Moses in Ex 6?
6. Was there anything challenging about this chapter, either in the words of the author or from the scriptures mentioned?
7. If anyone in the group wants to go back and re-read something, or read the scriptures associated with one of the author’s points, take some time as a group to do that and discuss your findings.
8. How can we love God and others more in response to this chapter?

CHAPTER 2: YHVH FLEXES

1. Someone in the group pray (Suggestions: for focus, for humility, for right application, and that the discussion would be God-glorifying and help us to long for the return of Jesus).
2. Have a new person in the group provide an overview of the chapter in their own words.
3. What did the author say was the primary purpose of the plagues?
4. As we know and will continue to see, scripture has copious references back to this story, and the Jewish people still celebrate these feasts today. Why do you think God was so adamant that this story not be forgotten? What does this reveal about His heart as a husband? Why would we also be wise to continually reflect on this story?
5. How would this story look different if Pharaoh's heart would have been soft, and the Exodus easy? How would that have changed not only the story, but Israel's understanding of (and relationship with) God?
6. Why do you think God chose a 'pillar of cloud' as His means of displaying His presence, provision, and guidance?
7. Was there anything challenging about this chapter, either in the words of the author or from the scriptures mentioned?
8. If anyone in the group wants to go back and re-read something, or read the scriptures associated with one of the author's points, take some time as a group to do that and discuss your findings.
9. How can we love God and others more in response to this chapter?

CHAPTER 3: YHVH KILLS THE COMPETITION

1. Someone in the group pray (Suggestions: for focus, for humility, for right application, and that the discussion would be God-glorifying and help us to long for the return of Jesus).
2. Have a new person in the group provide an overview of the chapter in their own words.
3. The author suggests that Pharaoh's army would have been like the Navy SEALs or Green Berets of their day. What might another modern-day equivalent be? How would the world respond today if something like this unfolded in the war-torn battlegrounds of the Middle East, or even in our own 'backyard'?
4. Many of the glorious statements in this song can seem stale to us because of our familiarity with the Exodus story and familiarity with similar statements regarding God's character throughout scripture. However, remember that the generation of Israelites who sang this song only knew of this God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob through oral tradition. After growing up under slavery in Egypt, this season of 'courtship' has been their first time to see God display Himself in a way that was very personally significant to them. Consider that as you read the 'victory hymn' in Ex 15:1-21.
 - a. *As you read this song, ponder some of their grand conclusions about who God is, and which elements of the story might have led to those conclusions.*
 - b. *How does this song reveal the heart of the one whom God is 'courting' in the context of this blossoming relationship?*
5. How do you see the gospel reflected in the crossing of the sea?
6. Was there anything challenging about this chapter, either in the words of the author or from the scriptures mentioned?
7. If anyone in the group wants to go back and re-read something, or read the scriptures associated with one of the author's points, take some time as a group to do that and discuss your findings.
8. How can we love God and others more in response to this chapter?

CHAPTER 4: YHVH THE PROVIDER

1. Someone in the group pray (Suggestions: for focus, for humility, for right application, and that the discussion would be God-glorifying and help us to long for the return of Jesus).
2. Have a new person in the group provide an overview of the chapter in their own words.
3. Some people view God as being ‘different’ in the Old Testament. Namely, they tend to see the ‘Old Testament God’ as one of predominantly terrifying Wrath. While YHVH is a God of wrath, both in the Old Testament and the New Testament, which other aspects of His character do we see in this story that we might have overlooked before? In what ways do we see tremendous tenderness and patience? How does this contribute to the theme of continued ‘courtship?’
4. Why do you think God has thus far waited to give them what they need until they seem to be at the end of their rope? Why does He wait until the last minute to open the sea? Why does He wait until the people feel that they are on the edge of starvation and thirst when He provides food and water? What is the soon-to-be-bride learning about her Suitor through all of this?
5. What elements of this story point us to the gospel? Where else have we heard of a rock being struck and rivers of living water flowing from it? Where else do we know about bread that saves lives? What else might we miss at a ‘first glance?’
6. The author says that God is determined to prove to His future bride that He alone is worthy of her complete trust, unreserved devotion, and wholehearted love. Is He worthy of the same from us today? What are the things that compete against Him for our wholehearted love, devotion, and trust? What are the ‘gods of Egypt’ in your lives?
7. Was there anything challenging about this chapter, either in the words of the author or from the scriptures mentioned?
8. If anyone in the group wants to go back and re-read something, or read the scriptures associated with one of the author’s points, take some time as a group to do that and discuss your findings.
9. How can we love God and others more in response to this chapter?

CHAPTER 5: THE PROPOSAL

1. Many Christians, as students of the New Testament especially, understand this calling to be ambassadors, and to be set apart as holy by God (2 Cor 4-5, 1 Pt 1-2, John 15:16). We probably aren't surprised that this has been God's heart from the very beginning – the earth being full of people in relationship with Him (Gn 1:28, Gn 12:1-3). Even before the Fall, God desired humans to make more humans and fill the earth with more and more God-worshippers. One might even say that this 'multiplication' of life (whether physical or spiritual) is inherent to human nature as God intended human nature to be. How does this impact or enhance our understanding of the 'Great Commission,' and Jesus' numerous commands to 'make disciples of all nations?' (Mt 28:18-20, Acts 1:8, John 20:21, Lk 24:45-49, Mk 16:15)
2. Read Dt 5:28-29 again. What do you hear in God's voice? What is Israel continuing to glean regarding the character of her husband-to-be?
3. How does this proposal reflect the gospel? Why might we need to be slow to judge Israel's acceptance of the proposal in light of her future sin?
4. Was there anything challenging about this chapter, either in the words of the author or from the scriptures mentioned?
5. If anyone in the group wants to go back and re-read something, or read the scriptures associated with one of the author's points, take some time as a group to do that and discuss your findings.
6. The author states in the book's introduction that the purpose of this book is to recover some of the wonder and the majesty of the story of [Jesus'] "glorious appearing" (Titus 2:13 NKJV). The author has begun to reveal a more complete backstory of His coming, which has likely gone back farther in history than some of us expected. In reference to this idea of 'recovering the maranatha cry,' how might this story so far already begin to cultivate our longing for the return of Jesus? How might it motivate us to pursue purity and holiness in anticipation of His coming? (1 John 3:2-3)

CHAPTER 6: THE MARRIAGE COVENANT AT SINAI

1. Someone in the group pray (Suggestions: for focus, for humility, for right application, and that the discussion would be God-glorifying and help us to long for the return of Jesus).
2. Have a new person in the group provide an overview of the chapter in their own words.
3. What's the most novel/new or otherwise interesting thing you took away from this chapter?
4. How does the picture of marriage shed new light on, or bring new depth to, the significance of the Mount Sinai story for you?
5. Knowing that this was the original betrothal ceremony between God and Israel, and that betrothal means absolute commitment, how does this shed light on the future marriage feast that we as Christians look forward to?
6. Do you have any Jewish friends that you can learn from as you dig deeper into some of these things?
7. Was there anything challenging about this chapter, either in the words of the author or from the scriptures mentioned?
8. If anyone in the group wants to go back and re-read something, or read the scriptures associated with one of the author's points, take some time as a group to do that and discuss your findings.
9. How can we love God and others more in response to this chapter?
10. In reference to this idea of 'recovering the maranatha cry' from the book's introduction, how might this chapter continue to cultivate our longing for the return of Jesus? How might it motivate us to pursue purity and holiness in anticipation of His coming? (1 John 3:2-3)

CHAPTER 7: TILL DEATH DO US PART

1. Someone in the group pray (Suggestions: for focus, for humility, for right application, and that the discussion would be God-glorifying and help us to long for the return of Jesus).
2. Have a new person in the group provide an overview of the chapter in their own words.
3. What's the most novel/new or otherwise interesting thing you took away from this chapter?
4. As a Gentile, does this bring new depth, understanding, and humility to the fact that you have been made the 'offspring of Abraham?' (Gal 3)
5. How does this shed light on the 'commandvitation' to Sabbath? What does this reveal about God's heart?
6. Have you ever thought of the Ten Commandments as a marriage certificate? How does this bring new life and meaning to what we tend to view as mere 'rules?'
7. How do you see the gospel reflected in all of this?
8. Was there anything challenging about this chapter, either in the words of the author or from the scriptures mentioned?
9. If anyone in the group wants to go back and re-read something, or read the scriptures associated with one of the author's points, take some time as a group to do that and discuss your findings.
10. How can we love God and others more in response to this chapter? How often have you recited the Shema, practiced the Sabbath, or reflected upon the Ten Commandments?
11. In reference to this idea of 'recovering the maranatha cry' from the book's introduction, how might this chapter continue to cultivate our longing for the return of Jesus? How might it motivate us to⁷pursue purity and holiness in anticipation of His coming? (1 John 3:2-3)

CHAPTER 8: THE ADULTEROUS BRIDE

1. Someone in the group pray. Have a new person in the group provide an overview of the chapter in their own words.
2. You have likely heard this story before. Did the context of the ‘marriage ceremony’ shed new light on this part of the story for you? Was there anything new that you learned?
3. God describes five attributes of His character to Moses (p.54-55).
 - a. *How have you seen each of them on display in the story so far?*
 - b. *Which one has most gripped your heart throughout this story?*
 - c. *How have you experienced each of these attributes of God in your life?*
4. The author says, “If we are honest, we will admit that Israel’s story is the same as all of our stories...Israel’s story as a repeat offender...is no different than that of anyone who has sought to live wholly for the Lord.”
 - a. *How have you seen this ‘cycle of adultery’ repeat in your life?*
 - b. *What forms does our own idolatry take? Which things are we most inclined to point at and say, “this is what has/will save me!”*
5. What can we learn (and practically apply) in light of Moses’s example and intercession for the people ?
6. Was there anything challenging about this chapter, either in the words of the author or from the scriptures mentioned?
7. If anyone in the group wants to go back and re-read something, or read the scriptures associated with one of the author’s points, take some time as a group to do that and discuss your findings.
8. How can we love God and others more in response to this chapter? How often have you recited the Shema, practiced the Sabbath, or reflected upon the Ten Commandments?
9. In reference to this idea of ‘recovering the maranatha cry’ from the book’s introduction, how might this chapter continue to cultivate our longing for the return of Jesus? How might it motivate us to pursue purity and holiness in anticipation of His coming? (1 John 3:2-3)

CHAPTER 9: SUMMARY OF MARRIAGE MOTIFS IN THE EXODUS

1. Someone in the group pray (Suggestions: for focus, for humility, for right application, and that the discussion would be God-glorifying and help us to long for the return of Jesus).
2. Have a new person in the group provide an overview of the chapter in their own words.
3. If anyone in the group wants to go back and re-read something from Part 1 of this book, or read the scriptures associated with one of the author's points, take some time as a group to do that and discuss your findings.
4. Now that we've finished Part 1 of the book, let's go back to the beginning. The author states in the book's introduction that the purpose of this book is to recover some of the wonder and the majesty of the story of [Jesus'] "glorious appearing" (Titus 2:13 NKJV). The author has begun to reveal a more complete backstory of His coming, which has likely gone back farther in history than some of us expected. In reference to this idea of 'recovering the maranatha cry,' how might this story so far already begin to cultivate our longing for the return of Jesus? How might it motivate us to pursue purity and holiness in anticipation of His coming? (1 John 3:2-3)
5. Jesus, a Jewish rabbi, and His [Jewish] apostles talk a lot about a marriage and a bride in the New Testament (John 3, Rev 18, Rev 19, Rev 21, Rev 22, Mt 9/Mk 2/Lk 5, Mt 22/Mk 12/Lk 20, Mt 25, 2 Cor 11, Eph 5). How has Part 1 of this book impacted your understanding of how the early church [primarily Jewish] would have understood and received these teachings?
6. Read Romans 11. How has Part 1 of this book shed more light on what Paul says here to the Gentiles in Rome? How has a close look at the beginnings of God's commitment to Israel shed light on the steadfast and eternal nature of His commitment to her?
7. Part 2 and especially Part 3 of this book will start to look at some of the things that we can practically expect as we look eagerly to Jesus' return. Before we get too far into some of those things, discuss as a group what you believe the return of Jesus will look like. What have you typically anticipated Jesus' return to be like, practically, physically, and logistically? What are some passages of scripture that come to mind?

PART 2: ISRAEL'S RESTORATION

INTRO: RESTORATION OF THE MARRIAGE COVENANT

CHAPTER 10: THE CURSES OF THE COVENANT

1. Someone in the group pray (Suggestions: for focus, for humility, for right application, and that the discussion would be God-glorifying and help us to long for the return of Jesus).
2. Have a new person in the group provide an overview of the chapter in their own words.
3. What's the most novel/new or otherwise interesting thing you took away from this chapter?
4. What are the 6 parts of the 'cycle' of covenant chastisement?
5. What were the 3 historical invasions and when did they happen?
6. What has been true of all 3 of those invasions?
7. What do the passages about God's punishments always end up pointing back to?
8. Why do you think the author says this regarding the 3 historical exiles: "while these three examples certainly validate the divine origin of the covenant, as we will see, they do not complete the full cycle." Why don't they complete the full cycle?
9. The author says, "In an age when irrational hatred of the Jewish people is once more rising across the globe, it is so essential that Christians understand this," referring to the fact that the passages about punishment always end in mercy and restoration. Why do you think this is so essential?
10. How has this impacted your view of God and/or your view of His heart in (and sovereignty over) the tragedies which befall us in life?

11. How will this understanding of the cycles help us understand Israel's present and future?
12. Was there anything challenging about this chapter, either in the words of the author or from the scriptures mentioned?
13. If anyone in the group wants to go back and re-read something, or read the scriptures associated with one of the author's points, take some time as a group to do that and discuss your findings.
14. How can we love God and others more in response to this chapter?
15. In reference to this idea of 'recovering the maranatha cry' from the book's introduction, how might this chapter continue to cultivate our longing for the return of Jesus? How might it motivate us to pursue purity and holiness in anticipation of His coming? (1 John 3:2-3)

CHAPTER 11: THE TIME OF JACOB'S TROUBLE

1. Someone in the group pray (Suggestions: for focus, for humility, for right application, and that the discussion would be God-glorifying and help us to long for the return of Jesus).
2. Have a new person in the group provide an overview of the chapter in their own words.
3. What's the most novel/new or otherwise interesting thing you took away from this chapter?
4. When we put all of these passages together, it is clear that all of them are pointing to the same time period, and that all of these things are happening in relatively rapid succession (namely: national calamity, exile and enslavement at the hands of a coalition of Gentile nations, the triumphant return of Messiah, the resurrection of the dead, and the restoration of all things). Is it difficult or easy to imagine these things happening soon? What geopolitical events or dynamics might play into these things?
5. Read the Song of Moses (Dt 32:1-43) and then read Romans 11. What is Paul's concern for the Roman Gentile believers? What might God speak to you directly in these passages?
6. In the introductory paragraph, the author calls this chapter the most 'dangerous' chapter. What is the danger (or dangers) that he is talking about? What might be some of the

more major misapplications of reading this chapter?

7. When we think of times of hardship for the Jewish people, the Holocaust invariably comes to mind. Decades later, we have the advantage of hindsight and reflection as we consider what we might have done and/or felt at the time. The Lord in His word has warned us that a season far worse is coming, so these historical musings might in fact become very practical for us some time soon.
 - a. *What do we want to be true of our hearts when that time comes?*
 - b. *How can we love the Jewish people both in word and talk and in deed and truth (1 John 3:18)?*
 - i. *What are some of the most practical - street level - suggestions that Paul might make to the:*
 1. *Gentile believers in the first century?*
 2. *Gentile believers during this final period of trouble and tribulation?*
 - c. *What might be some significant barriers (social, political, cultural, etc.) that could create difficulty for us in carrying out these applications? (For example, if our government is either actively or passively against the Jewish people during this time)*
8. When we think of the ‘last days’ or the ‘end times’ or the ‘end of the age,’ we often think of the book of Revelation. The author says in the introduction of the book that “we will, of course, examine what the New Testament has to say about the return of Jesus, [but] the vast majority of our attention will be directed to the Old Testament. As we will see, from Moses to Malachi, the Old Testament is brimming with vision of the coming of Jesus.” How does this chapter shed light on, and lay a foundation for, what you see in Revelation?
9. Was there anything challenging about this chapter, either in the words of the author or from the scriptures mentioned?
10. If anyone in the group wants to go back and re-read something, or read the scriptures associated with one of the author’s points, take some time as a group to do that and discuss your findings.
11. How can we love God and others more in response to this chapter?
12. In reference to this idea of ‘recovering the maranatha cry’ from the book’s introduction,

how might this chapter continue to cultivate our longing for the return of Jesus? How might it motivate us to pursue purity and holiness in anticipation of His coming? (1 John 3:2-3)

CHAPTER 12: ISRAEL'S NATIONAL SALVATION

1. Someone in the group pray (Suggestions: for focus, for humility, for right application, and that the discussion would be God-glorifying and help us to long for the return of Jesus).
2. Have a new person in the group provide an overview of the chapter in their own words.
3. What's the most novel/new or otherwise interesting thing you took away from this chapter?
4. When we put this in context with Part 1 of the book (the marriage betrothal at Sinai), we are far less surprised by this than we otherwise might have been. It is far from shocking that God is utterly committed to His people and does not renege on his covenant, despite the unfaithfulness of His bride. That said, how has your understanding of God's faithfulness and commitment changed or deepened after reading this chapter?
5. Take some time to read as much of Jer 30-31 as you have time for. Here, we find constant 'ups and downs' which might have otherwise been confusing. In light of the last couple chapters in the book, point out places where you see things like blessings, curses, things that point specifically to the last days, and especially take note of passages concerning God's heart for His people (Jer 31:15-20, 31:35-37).
6. Does this chapter (12) shed light on any of your applications from the previous chapter (11)? Do some of the last chapter's discussion questions need to be reviewed or revisited in light of a deeper understanding of God's heart for the Jewish people?
7. Was there anything challenging about this chapter, either in the words of the author or from the scriptures mentioned?
8. If anyone in the group wants to go back and re-read something, or read the scriptures associated with one of the author's points, take some time as a group to do that and discuss your findings.
9. How can we love God and others more in response to this chapter?

10. In reference to this idea of ‘recovering the maranatha cry’ from the book’s introduction, how might this chapter continue to cultivate our longing for the return of Jesus? How might it motivate us to pursue purity and holiness in anticipation of His coming? (1 John 3:2-3)

CHAPTER 13: ISRAEL'S FINAL REGATHERING TO THE LAND

1. Someone in the group pray (Suggestions: for focus, for humility, for right application, and that the discussion would be God-glorifying and help us to long for the return of Jesus).
2. Have a new person in the group provide an overview of the chapter in their own words.
3. What’s the most novel/new or otherwise interesting thing you took away from this chapter?
4. In the first section, the author explains how difficult it is to accept that Israel will face yet another great chastisement (discussed in chapter 11), and he says that many don’t accept this fact. With great love for the Jewish people, it’s probably not hard to imagine how we might read our desires into the passages to make them say what they don’t really say (which is known as ‘eisegesis’). Now that you’ve come to understand God’s marriage covenant, His purposes in chastisement, and His last-days promises to Israel, discuss as a group how God’s plan and actions toward Israel are actually loving, and nothing less.
5. What other scriptures or things came to mind as you pondered this ‘second Exodus’ revelation, perhaps for the first time? You might have studied parallels between Jesus and Moses, or Jesus and Joshua; how does this begin to illuminate the Person and role of Jesus in the last days?
6. We’ve heard songs and sermons about Ezekiel 37, but it is rare that this passage is (at least firstly) placed in its proper context; it is first Israel-centric. Take some time to pray as a group over this passage, and that God would hasten this day.
7. Was there anything challenging about this chapter, either in the words of the author or from the scriptures mentioned?
8. If anyone in the group wants to go back and re-read something, or read the scriptures associated with one of the author’s points, take some time as a group to do that and discuss

your findings.

9. How can we love God and others more in response to this chapter?
10. In reference to this idea of ‘recovering the maranatha cry’ from the book’s introduction, how might this chapter continue to cultivate our longing for the return of Jesus? How might it motivate us to pursue purity and holiness in anticipation of His coming? (1 John 3:2-3)

CHAPTER 14: MODERN ISRAEL’S REBIRTH IN PROPHECY

1. Someone in the group pray (Suggestions: for focus, for humility, for right application, and that the discussion would be God-glorifying and help us to long for the return of Jesus).
2. Have a new person in the group provide an overview of the chapter in their own words.
3. At the outset of this chapter, the author makes clear that the modern state of Israel is indeed prophesied and very much a part of God’s plan for the nation. Why is this important for us to consider?
4. The author explains that the modern state of Israel is not the ultimate fulfillment of everything that will happen before Jesus returns. Is this encouraging to you or discouraging or both? Why or why not?
5. In the conclusion of this chapter, the author says this idea (future Jewish suffering) is seen by some as anti-Semitic. How does the author propose we grapple with this hard teaching and how we should respond in our relationship with the Jewish people?
6. In Chapter 11 (Jacob’s Trouble) we discussed this future suffering of Israel, and the author pointed us to Isaiah’s word picture of childbirth (Is. 26), and referenced Jesus’ reiteration of this idea in Mt 24:8. As a group, discuss the imagery of a pregnancy. If you or your wife have given birth, how does this illustration resonate with your experience? After you have discussed this, read the author’s final paragraph in Chapter 14 aloud together and share any thoughts you have.
7. Was there anything challenging¹⁵ about this chapter, either in the words of the author or from the scriptures mentioned?

8. If anyone in the group wants to go back and re-read something, or read the scriptures associated with one of the author's points, take some time as a group to do that and discuss your findings.
9. How can we love God and others more in response to this chapter?
10. In reference to this idea of 'recovering the maranatha cry' from the book's introduction, how might this chapter continue to cultivate our longing for the return of Jesus? How might it motivate us to pursue purity and holiness in anticipation of His coming? (1 John 3:2-3)

CHAPTER 15: GRACE IN THE WILDERNESS

1. Someone in the group pray (Suggestions: for focus, for humility, for right application, and that the discussion would be God-glorifying and help us to long for the return of Jesus).
2. Have a new person in the group provide an overview of the chapter in their own words.
3. At the beginning of Part 2 of the book, the author says that the Exodus story lays the foundation and is the 'key' to unlocking the rest of scripture. How do you see this being true so far? What were some of the author's parallels between these End Times and the initial Exodus story?
4. The author makes a compelling case for the 'goodness' of a desert wasteland. It would seem that God has historically used the 'wilderness' for His loving purposes for His people. Review this section on 'The Desert Wilderness' and all of these purposes the author mentions. Discuss as a group your own past (or current) 'deserts' and how God has used them in your lives. How does this shed new light on passages like James 1:2-4 or Rom 5:3-5?
5. Read Zec 12:10 again. Take some time individually and as a group to reflect on when you first 'recognized' Jesus, looked upon Him whom you had pierced, mourned in repentance, and received grace. Take some time as a group to pray for those closest to you and also for the Jewish people – that the Lord would continue to draw many into saving relationship with Him and 'graft' many into this marriage covenant (Rom 1₁₆, Gal 3, 1 Tim 2:3-4, 2 Pt 3).
6. The first time Jesus Messiah came to earth, He came in human form. It was very real, very

physical, very ‘earthy,’ complete with animals, dirt, and fellow humans. When you have pondered the return of Jesus, have you considered that it might be equally as physical and ‘earthy?’ Have you ever pictured Jesus literally walking with exiled Israel back into the land? What kinds of thoughts and feelings does this evoke in your heart and mind?

7. Was there anything challenging about this chapter, either in the words of the author or from the scriptures mentioned?
8. If anyone in the group wants to go back and re-read something, or read the scriptures associated with one of the author’s points, take some time as a group to do that and discuss your findings.
9. How can we love God and others more in response to this chapter?
10. In reference to this idea of ‘recovering the maranatha cry’ from the book’s introduction, how might this chapter continue to cultivate our longing for the return of Jesus? How might it motivate us to pursue purity and holiness in anticipation of His coming? (1 John 3:2-3)

CHAPTER 16: ISRAEL’S MARRIAGE RENEWAL

1. Someone in the group pray (Suggestions: for focus, for humility, for right application, and that the discussion would be God-glorifying and help us to long for the return of Jesus).
2. Have a new person in the group provide an overview of the chapter in their own words.
3. What’s the most novel/new or otherwise interesting thing you took away from this chapter?
4. When the author says that this ‘restoration’ is both a renewal and a new covenant altogether, what does he mean? How do those two things reconcile?
5. When we put this in context with Part 1 of the book (the marriage betrothal at Sinai), we are far less surprised by this than we otherwise might have been. It is far from shocking that God is utterly committed to His people and does not renege on his covenant, despite the unfaithfulness of His bride. That said, how has your understanding of God’s faithfulness and commitment changed or deepened after reading this chapter?

6. If God didn't remain faithful to the marriage covenant at Sinai, what would that say about His character? Some people might liken this to the hypothetical middle-aged husband who gets frustrated, divorces his wife, and marries a younger 'better' bride instead. Do you agree? Disagree?
7. If you are married (or not), how does Hosea's story sit with you? What do even the bare bones of Hosea's calling and life story tell us about the character of God?
8. Take some time as a group to read through some of these passages (Jeremiah 31, Ezekiel 16, Isaiah 54, 62, etc.) through this lens. Discuss any key takeaways or scriptures that stand out.
9. Was there anything challenging about this chapter, either in the words of the author or from the scriptures mentioned?
10. If anyone in the group wants to go back and re-read something, or read the scriptures associated with one of the author's points, take some time as a group to do that and discuss your findings.
11. How can we love God and others more in response to this chapter?
12. In reference to this idea of 'recovering the maranatha cry' from the book's introduction, how might this chapter continue to cultivate our longing for the return of Jesus? How might it motivate us to pursue purity and holiness in anticipation of His coming? (1 John 3:2-3)

CHAPTER 17: THE WEDDING FEAST

1. Someone in the group pray (Suggestions: for focus, for humility, for right application, and that the discussion would be God-glorifying and help us to long for the return of Jesus).
2. Have a new person in the group provide an overview of the chapter in their own words.
3. What's the most novel/new or otherwise interesting thing you took away from this chapter?
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4. At the beginning of Part 2 of the book, the author says that the Exodus story lays the

foundation and is the 'key' to unlocking the rest of scripture. How do you see this being true so far? What were some of the author's parallels between these End Times and the initial Exodus story?

5. The author points out that the first century Jews would have understood what Jesus was talking about in different ways than we typically understand Him today. Did anything stand out to you in this regard?
6. In the section called, "The Marriage Supper Of The Lamb," the author explains that Paul tells us about three general groupings of people which make up 'God's people.' What were these groupings? Does this feast with these people look different than you've always imagined it or not?
7. The author highlights several places where Jesus tells us to 'be ready.' Discuss as a group what this 'readiness' looks like, both on a heart level and practically. Also discuss what other events related to the return of Jesus we can 'be ready' for (Ch. 11-12). Are we ready?
8. The author mentions the millennial reign of the Messiah beginning in Isaiah 2. Read at least the first 5 verses together as a group (if not the whole chapter) and discuss what implications Jesus' eventual physical reign from Jerusalem has on the current political situation in your country.
9. Was there anything challenging about this chapter, either in the words of the author or from the scriptures mentioned?
10. If anyone in the group wants to go back and re-read something, or read the scriptures associated with one of the author's points, take some time as a group to do that and discuss your findings.
11. How can we love God and others more in response to this chapter?
12. In reference to this idea of 'recovering the maranatha cry' from the book's introduction, how might this chapter continue to cultivate our longing for the return of Jesus? How might it motivate us to pursue purity and holiness in anticipation of His coming? (1 John 3:2-3)
13. Have someone in the group sum up all of Parts 1 and 2 of the book so far as we head into Part 3.

PART 3: THE TRIUMPHANT RETURN OF JESUS

CHAPTER 18: THE BLESSING OF MOSES

1. Someone in the group pray (Suggestions: for focus, for humility, for right application, and that the discussion would be God-glorifying and help us to long for the return of Jesus).
2. Have a new person in the group provide an overview of the chapter in their own words.
3. What's the most novel/new or otherwise interesting thing you took away from this chapter?
4. The author takes the majority of this chapter to explain why we can be confident that Dt 33 describes the return of Jesus. Which element of his explanation did you find most convincing?
5. The section titled, "The Blessing Of Moses And The Return Of Jesus" listed over 50 verses concerning the return of Jesus in the New Testament. Break out for several minutes as individuals or smaller groups and assign readers for each of these verses. In each group, take some time to compare these New Testament passages to Dt 33 and then discuss your findings as a large group.
6. The author showed us how Israel will be persecuted (Ch. 11) and so will take refuge in the desert (Ch. 15). In chapter 15, he says that "the Lord Himself will personally appear to those in the desert" and they will be "personally brought back by the Messiah." It makes sense therefore that Jesus will "come from Sinai" (Dt 33) and bring His people back into the land once and for all. Like Jesus' first coming, this will be a very physical, 'earthy' experience. What types of thoughts or emotions does this evoke for you? What aspects of this are most exciting to you?
7. Was there anything challenging about this chapter, either in the words of the author or from the scriptures mentioned?

8. If anyone in the group wants to go back and re-read something, or read the scriptures associated with one of the author's points, take some time as a group to do that and discuss your findings.
9. How can we love God and others more in response to this chapter?
10. In reference to this idea of 'recovering the maranatha cry' from the book's introduction, how might this chapter continue to cultivate our longing for the return of Jesus? How might it motivate us to pursue purity and holiness in anticipation of His coming? (1 John 3:2-3)

CHAPTER 19: THE SONG OF DEBORAH

1. Someone in the group pray (Suggestions: for focus, for humility, for right application, and that the discussion would be God-glorifying and help us to long for the return of Jesus).
2. Have a new person in the group provide an overview of the chapter in their own words. What were the seven themes that the author highlighted?
3. What's the most novel/new or otherwise interesting thing you took away from this chapter? What were some new details that Deborah gave us that we didn't already have?
4. The author points out that God's people, in the context of war, will enthusiastically volunteer in joyful sacrifice to the Lord's cause in the last days (Ps 110). Would the people who know you best claim that your life is marked by this kind of zeal and passion? What does 'joyful voluntary sacrifice to the Lord's cause' look like in your immediate context?
5. Was there anything challenging about this chapter, either in the words of the author or from the scriptures mentioned?
6. If anyone in the group wants to go back and re-read something, or read the scriptures associated with one of the author's points, take some time as a group to do that and discuss your findings.
7. How can we love God and others more in response to this chapter?
8. In reference to this idea of 'recovering the maranatha cry' from the book's introduction, how might this chapter continue to cultivate our longing for the return of Jesus? How might it motivate us to pursue purity and holiness in anticipation of His coming?

CHAPTER 20: THE PROCESSION OF GOD

1. Someone in the group pray (Suggestions: for focus, for humility, for right application, and that the discussion would be God-glorifying and help us to long for the return of Jesus).
2. Have a new person in the group provide an overview of the chapter in their own words.
3. What's the most novel/new or otherwise interesting thing you took away from this chapter? What were some new details that David gave us that we didn't already have?
4. In the section, "Let The Wicked Perish," the author says that our ultimate hope is in this day of justice – the day of Lord Jesus. What are some negative things you experience in life which will not be fully restored, redeemed, or resolved until this day comes? These could be things that you experience as individuals, as a group, as a church, or as a country.
5. At the beginning of Part 2 of the book, the author says that the Exodus story lays the foundation and is the 'key' to unlocking the rest of scripture. How do you see this being true so far? What were some of the author's parallels between these End Times and the initial Exodus story?
6. In the section, "When God Is King In Zion," the author states: "These verses are also a devastating blow to those Christian theologians who claim that God no longer has any future special plans for the literal Mount Zion or the Jewish people. As this passage makes clear, Mount Zion will be the Lord's perpetual dwelling place. This is the mountain where Jesus will sit upon the throne of His father David, ruling over the nations." Similarly in the section called, "The Procession Of God: Reprise," the author states: "This verse also refutes the view, so common among Christians, that God has no future special plans for national Israel. Here we see that the whole house of Israel will be restored and present when Jesus returns. There is nothing that conveys the notion of national Israel more clearly than referring to her twelve tribes."
 - a. *Discuss as a group any thoughts you had on these comments. How has your perspective on God's heart for the Jewish people changed so far as a result of reading this book? Why is this an important concept for us to grasp as Gentiles? (Consider taking some time to review discussions and applications from Chapter 11).*
7. In his discussion on Ps 68:24-26, the author says, "Unlike any mighty and victorious army, David described the most glorious victory procession that ever has or ever will be.

The Radiant One whose coming was like the sunrise from Mount Sinai is shining still, with myriads of angels and saints, riding in chariots, along with a multitude of freed prisoners, all rejoicing, singing, and worshipping their God and King. For those who love Jesus and yearn for His coming, there might not be anything more perfect to meditate upon.” Take some time as a group to meditate upon this individually, and then come together to share the things that most excite you.

8. Was there anything challenging about this chapter, either in the words of the author or from the scriptures mentioned?
9. If anyone in the group wants to go back and re-read something, or read the scriptures associated with one of the author’s points, take some time as a group to do that and discuss your findings.
10. How can we love God and others more in response to this chapter?
11. In reference to this idea of ‘recovering the maranatha cry’ from the book’s introduction, how might this chapter continue to cultivate our longing for the return of Jesus? How might it motivate us to pursue purity and holiness in anticipation of His coming? (1 John 3:2-3)
12. Have someone read Ps 68 aloud and close in prayer over these things.

CHAPTER 21: A HIGHWAY IN THE DESERT

1. Someone in the group pray (Suggestions: for focus, for humility, for right application, and that the discussion would be God-glorifying and help us to long for the return of Jesus).
2. Have a new person in the group provide an overview of the chapter in their own words.
3. What’s the most novel/new or otherwise interesting thing you took away from this chapter? What were some new details that Isaiah gave us that we didn’t already have?
4. At the beginning of Part 2 of the book, the author says that the Exodus story lays the foundation and is the ‘key’ to unlocking the rest of scripture. How do you see this being true so far? What were²³ some of the author’s parallels between these End Times and the initial Exodus story?

5. Under “Treading The Winepress” and some of the subsequent sections, the author reveals that the familiar blood-soaked robes of Rev 19 are not soaked with the blood of Jesus, but the blood of His enemies. Was this a new idea? How does this sit with you? Why is this part of the good news of His coming kingdom?
6. In the section called, “For The Recompense Of Zion,” the author states that “I often like to remind modern, comfortable, Western Christians that today there are more slaves in the earth than at any time in human history. The vast majority are young girls, some of them literally kept in cages, used by those who feel no remorse exploiting another human for their own perverse and momentary pleasure. The numbers are in the millions. When we imagine the cries that rise to God’s ears every moment of every day for the torment to end, for a redeemer to come, then we may begin to understand the reason for the day of the Lord.” What might be some practical applications for us today in terms of prayer and active work towards justice as we actively wait for this final day of the Lord?
7. In the discussion of “Poetry Or Reality?” the author says that as much as many things in Scripture are figurative and point to higher spiritual realities, we also must interpret them literally and geographically. Discuss other examples in Scripture that point to figurative/spiritual realities, but were also fulfilled in history literally either once or multiple times.
8. The author begins this chapter by explaining that the Israelites would have seen these themes building throughout the story of Scripture and that the years of the prophets would have cemented these expectations in their minds and hearts. Are these things also beginning to cement in your mind and heart as you continue to see them in Scripture yourself? Why do you think this story is largely ‘untold’ like the subheading of the book implies?
9. Was there anything challenging about this chapter, either in the words of the author or from the scriptures mentioned?
10. If anyone in the group wants to go back and re-read something, or read the scriptures associated with one of the author’s points, take some time as a group to do that and discuss your findings.
11. How can we love God and others more in response to this chapter?
12. In reference to this idea of ‘recovering the maranatha cry’ from the book’s introduction, how might this chapter continue to cultivate our longing for the return of Jesus? How might it motivate us to pursue purity and holiness in anticipation of His coming?

CHAPTER 22: THE PRAYER OF HABAKKUK

1. Someone in the group pray. Have a new person in the group provide an overview of the chapter in their own words.
2. What's the most novel/new or otherwise interesting thing you took away from this chapter? What were some new details that Habakkuk gave us that we didn't already have?
3. At the beginning of Part 2 of the book, the author says that the Exodus story lays the foundation and is the 'key' to unlocking the rest of scripture. How did you see this being true in this chapter? What were some of the author's parallels between these End Times and the initial Exodus story?
4. The author says that the Israelites would have seen these themes building throughout the story of Scripture and that the years of the prophets would have cemented these expectations in their minds and hearts. Are these things also beginning to cement in your mind and heart as you continue to see them in Scripture yourself? Why do you think this story is largely 'untold' like the subheading of the book implies?
5. In the sections, "Awaiting His Coming," and "The Prayer Of Habakkuk As A Congregational Psalm," the author explains the clear longing of Habakkuk's heart, the purposeful musical nature of his writing, and the practical application of this 'song' during the years of exile. As you picture Daniel and the other Hebrew boys singing this song and longing for Messiah, take some time to compare and contrast us to them. What is different about our circumstances and theirs? What is the same? What about our hearts vs theirs?
6. Was there anything challenging about this chapter, either in the words of the author or from the scriptures mentioned?
7. If anyone in the group wants to go back and re-read something, or read the scriptures associated with one of the author's points, take some time as a group to do that and discuss your findings.
8. In reference to this idea of 'recovering the maranatha cry' from the book's introduction, how might this chapter²⁵ continue to cultivate our longing for the return of Jesus? How might it motivate us to pursue purity and holiness in anticipation of His coming? (1 John 3:2-3)

CHAPTER 23: THE PROPHECY OF ZECHARIAH

1. Someone in the group pray (Suggestions: for focus, for humility, for right application, and that the discussion would be God-glorifying and help us to long for the return of Jesus)
2. Have a new person in the group provide an overview of the chapter in their own words.
3. What's the most novel/new or otherwise interesting thing you took away from this chapter? Did Zechariah give us any new details that we didn't already have?
4. In the section, "The One They Have Pierced," we see the grace of God finally revealing Himself to His people and their subsequent mourning and repentance. We already did this once in the Chapter 15 discussion, but take some time individually and as a group once again to reflect on when you first 'recognized' Jesus, looked upon Him whom you had pierced, mourned in repentance, and received grace. How has your life changed since then? In what ways has His sacrifice and Lordship in your life affected both big and small decisions? After discussing these things, take some time as a group to pray for those closest to you and also for the Jewish people – that the Lord would continue to draw many into saving relationship with Him and 'graft' many into this marriage covenant. Consider the following summation of the section, "The One They Have Pierced," as you do all of this:
 - a. *In one of the single most pivotal and momentous events in the Bible, Messiah will be fully revealed to His people. God Himself is identified as 'the pierced One,' and deep pain, weeping, and repentance will come from the realization of God's own people that they killed Him who was crushed for their sins. The Lord will then pour out His Holy Spirit upon the whole nation as the consummation of the new covenant, and Israel will forever turn away from their rebellion against the Lord.*
5. As we close the Old Testament 'Desert Prophecies,' what concluding thoughts do you have as a group?
6. How have these ideas and themes changed the way that you've been reading Scripture in your other groups, personal devotional time, or disciple-making relationships? Have these ideas and themes excited and enriched your relationship with God? If so, how?
7. The author says that the Israelites would have seen these themes building throughout the

story of Scripture and that the years of the prophets would have cemented these expectations in their minds and hearts. Are these things also beginning to cement in your mind and heart as you continue to see them in Scripture yourself? Why do you think this story is largely 'untold' like the subheading of the book implies?

8. Was there anything challenging about this chapter, either in the words of the author or from the scriptures mentioned?
9. If anyone in the group wants to go back and re-read something, or read the scriptures associated with one of the author's points, take some time as a group to do that and discuss your findings.
10. How can we love God and others more in response to this chapter?
11. In reference to this idea of 'recovering the maranatha cry' from the book's introduction, how might this chapter continue to cultivate our longing for the return of Jesus? How might it motivate us to pursue purity and holiness in anticipation of His coming? (1 John 3:2-3)

CHAPTER 24: THE PROPHECY OF ENOCH

1. Someone in the group pray (Suggestions: for focus, for humility, for right application, and that the discussion would be God-glorifying and help us to long for the return of Jesus).
2. Have a new person in the group provide an overview of the chapter in their own words.
3. Reading something like 1 Enoch might make some people uncomfortable. Why can we feel comfortable and confident as we prayerfully read extra-biblical or historical writings such as Enoch or Josephus?
4. As a group, make a list of some reasons why reading more ancient literature would add value to our New Testament Bible studies. Think about writings from brothers like Enoch, historians like Josephus, and even literature from people outside of the church like Homer. Do these things help or hurt our understanding of Scripture? What kind of authoritative weight can (and can't) we put on these writings?
5. Did we learn anything new from Enoch that we didn't already know from everything else that we've read so far? Does Enoch clarify anything that we'd learned previously or add more weight?
6. Was there anything challenging about this chapter, either in the words of the author or from the scriptures mentioned?
7. If anyone in the group wants to go back and re-read something, or read the scriptures associated with one of the author's points, take some time as a group to do that and discuss your findings.
8. How can we love God and others more in response to this chapter?
9. In reference to this idea of 'recovering the maranatha cry' from the book's introduction, how might this chapter continue to cultivate our longing for the return of Jesus? How might it motivate us to pursue purity and holiness in anticipation of His coming? (1 John 3:2-3)

CHAPTER 25: THE RETURN OF JESUS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

1. Someone in the group pray (Suggestions: for focus, for humility, for right application, and that the discussion would be God-glorifying and help us to long for the return of Jesus).
2. Have a new person in the group provide an overview of the chapter in their own words.
3. At the beginning of the chapter, the author says that the authors of the New Testament rarely elaborated on the story of Messiah's return in great detail, because their Bibles already did that, with one exception. What was that exception?
4. We were likely already familiar with the concept of Jesus' robes soaked in blood, even before reading this book. However, who remembers from chapter 21 what we learned about this blood?
5. The author has already told us a number of times that the first century Jews would have already had this picture in their minds before Jesus and His disciples came onto the scene. He now makes a convincing case from the writings of those disciples that they were clearly knowledgeable of these Old Testament themes, and that Jesus Himself affirmed them. If any of us have found ourselves skeptical or uneasy about any portion of this teaching so far, how has this chapter on our more familiar New Testament passages helped to comfort us and affirm what the author has been saying?
6. As we imagine the return of Jesus, did we learn anything new from these New Testament passages that we didn't already know from everything else that we've read so far? Does the New Testament clarify anything that we'd learned previously or add more weight, more description, more majesty?
7. Was there anything challenging about this chapter, either in the words of the author or from the scriptures mentioned?
8. If anyone in the group wants to go back and re-read something, or read the scriptures associated with one of the author's points, take some time as a group to do that and discuss your findings.
9. How can we love God and others more in response to this chapter?

10. In our discussions through Part 1 of this book, and also in Chapters 16 & 17, we talked a lot about the marriage covenant and its implications for Jews and Gentiles. Now, with the added emphasis of the New Testament, we return to this theme and look forward to this day. Of course, from Jesus' words, we know there is a task for us associated with this wedding feast. Read Luke 14:15-24 together. There are multiple points made in this story, but for the sake of our discussion, what has our King and Bridegroom tasked us with and entrusted to us as His ambassadors? What does this look like in practice?

11. In reference to this idea of 'recovering the maranatha cry' from the book's introduction, how might this chapter continue to cultivate our longing for the return of Jesus? How might it motivate us to pursue purity and holiness in anticipation of His coming? (1 John 3:2-3)

CHAPTER 26: WHERE DOES JESUS RETURN?

1. Someone in the group pray (Suggestions: for focus, for humility, for right application, and that the discussion would be God-glorifying and help us to long for the return of Jesus).
2. Based on the title of this book, this chapter's conclusion may have surprised you. Discuss as a group the various viewpoints presented in the chapter and have various people in the group provide an overview of each section in their own words.
3. In light of the author's note about not being overly dogmatic or argumentative about this issue, why does (and doesn't) this matter in the grand scheme of things?
4. Throughout the book, the author has stated that "the Exodus story lays the foundation and is the 'key' to unlocking the rest of scripture (beginning of Part 2)," and has referred multiple times to a "second Exodus (Chapters 13 and 24)." This has all finally come full circle. Discuss anything that comes to mind. How does this make you feel? What passages and Old Testament stories come to mind? Why is this significant? What does this reveal to us about God and what He means to tell us through Scripture?
5. Was there anything challenging about this chapter, either in the words of the author or from the scriptures mentioned?
6. If anyone in the group wants to go back and re-read something, or read the scriptures associated with one of the author's points, take some time as a group to do that and discuss your findings.
7. How can we love God and others more in response to this chapter?
8. In reference to this idea of 'recovering the maranatha cry' from the book's introduction, how might this chapter continue to cultivate our longing for the return of Jesus? How might it motivate us to pursue purity and holiness in anticipation of His coming? (1 John 3:2-3)

CHAPTER 27: THE TRIUMPHANT RETURN OF JESUS

1. Someone in the group pray (Suggestions: for focus, for humility, for right application, and that the discussion would be God-glorifying and help us to long for the return of Jesus).
2. This chapter attempted to give an overview of everything we've discussed in a loose chronology, not to be dogmatic, but to help us to begin mentally visualizing and looking forward to these glorious realities. In what ways did this help you piece everything together? Did you have gaps or questions that were resolved in this chapter?
3. This is the first time the author has discussed the new heavens and the new earth and the millennial reign of Jesus. Was the chronology of these things new to you or surprising in any way? The large majority of us have likely avoided the topic of eschatology (study of the end times) and found it altogether confusing and somewhat unimportant. Even if you hold differing eschatological opinions from one another, has this book helped to make this topic not so daunting or foggy? Discuss together why studying these things helps us to 'eagerly' wait for Jesus and to 'recover the maranatha cry.'
4. Was there anything challenging about this chapter, either in the words of the author or from the scriptures mentioned?
5. If anyone in the group wants to go back and re-read something, or read the scriptures associated with one of the author's points, take some time as a group to do that and discuss your findings.
6. In the great procession to Jerusalem, and the ultimate triumphal entry of Jesus, the author reveals a vivid biblical picture of singing and great celebration amongst both King Jesus and His people. How can/should our lives be characterized by this type of joy even today?
7. The author briefly mentions Jesus stooping to serve His bride at the wedding feast in Luke 12:35-37, but it is worthy of greater discussion. What types of emotions does this evoke for you?
8. Think of the weddings you've attended or played a role in, and consider your own wedding, if applicable. What are your favorite elements of a wedding?³² What elements of this wedding do you most look forward to?

9. How can we love God and others more in response to this chapter?
10. In reference to this idea of 'recovering the maranatha cry' from the book's introduction, how might this chapter continue to cultivate our longing for the return of Jesus? How might it motivate us to pursue purity and holiness in anticipation of His coming? (1 John 3:2-3)

APPENDICES:

APPENDIX A: THE DEFEAT OF LEVIATHAN

1. Someone in the group pray (Suggestions: for focus, for humility, for right application, and that the discussion would be God-glorifying and help us to long for the return of Jesus).
2. Have a new person in the group provide an overview of the appendix in their own words.
3. Does anyone in the group have their own significant ocean/sea stories to tell?
4. This idea of Leviathan, or the sea-dragon, was likely somewhat new to most readers. What was something new that you learned or something the author said that you hadn't considered before?
5. The author talks about the Hebrew mind generally associating the sea/ocean with chaos and evil. How might this add more weight to some of the Old Testament stories we are familiar with? (Noah, Jonah, etc.) How might this idea add weight to some of the things that happened in the New Testament? (Think about instances where Jesus or the apostles are on boats)
6. Was there anything challenging about this appendix, either in the words of the author or from the scriptures mentioned?
7. If anyone in the group wants to go back and re-read something, or read the scriptures associated with one of the author's points, take some time as a group to do that and discuss your findings.
8. How can we love God and others more in response to this appendix?
9. In reference to this idea of 'recovering the maranatha cry' from the book's introduction, how might this appendix continue to cultivate our longing for the return of Jesus? How might it motivate us to pursue purity and holiness in anticipation of His coming? (1 John 3:2-3)

APPENDIX B: THE SIGN OF THE COMING OF THE SON OF MAN

1. Someone in the group pray. Have a new person in the group provide an overview of the appendix in their own words.
2. The author shares that Acts 1 is typically where we get the idea of Jesus coming back on a white cloud in the midst of blue skies. Read Acts 1:6-11 again as a group, this time imagining the scenario in light of this appendix. Does the text demand that we interpret white clouds and blue skies?
3. The author says in the concluding section that there is a critical point that we cannot miss. What was it? Why is it significant that the sign of His coming will be recognized by the Jewish people?
4. In the section concerning Jesus' own description of His return, the author talks about the Israel-centric nature of these things. He cites Romans 11 which we have discussed in the past (mentioned by the author in chapters 11, 12, 15, and 17; also discussed in post-chapter discussions for chapters 9 and 11). Does this all make more sense in light of the entirety of this story and especially thinking back to Part 1 of the book? Instead of taking offense at the idea of God's everlasting love toward Israel, how can we express humility and gratitude in light of passages like Romans 9-11 or Galatians 2? How can we better pray for, and serve, the Jewish people as these times approach?
5. Was there anything challenging about this appendix, either in the words of the author or from the scriptures mentioned?
6. If anyone in the group wants to go back and re-read something, or read the scriptures associated with one of the author's points, take some time as a group to do that and discuss your findings.
7. How can we love God and others more in response to this appendix and this book as a whole?
8. In reference to this idea of 'recovering the maranatha cry' from the book's introduction, how might this appendix continue to cultivate our longing for the return of Jesus? How might it motivate us to pursue purity and holiness in anticipation of His coming?