

NMBC Small groups - week beginning 3rd November 2019

Revelation 8-11

Opening worship/meditation

Read two expressions of worship. The contrast points to the theme of these chapters.

First 7:10 & 12 with its emphasis on **salvation**;
then 11:17-18 with its emphasis on **judgement**

Starter

How do we feel when we think of God as a judging, punishing God?

We may like to acknowledge that we find it hard, especially in our contemporary world, to explain judgement, which goes against the permissive attitudes of today.

Read 8:1-13 The prayers of God's people and the judgements of God

- 1 Echoes of the Egyptian plagues indicate God's activity in judgement all through history. Can you think of other examples in the Bible?
e.g. Genesis 6:11-13; Daniel 4:28-32; Acts 5:3-11; Acts 12:21-24
- 2 Judgements in chapter 8 followed the prayers of God's people!
An answer to the prayer of: 6:10?
How long will it be until you judge the people on earth & punish them for killing us?
How do we in a comfortable society understand the cries of those who are tortured for their faithfulness to the Lord?

Read 9:20-21 The failure of mankind to respond to the judgements of God

- 3 How seriously do you feel we take the necessity for humility, reflection, & repentance in the face of *our* setbacks, *our* accidents, *our* problems, *our* tragedies?
Would this be a safeguard for our tendency to be anxious, or angry, or to doubt God?

Read 10:8-11 The responsibility to share the Word of God - its sweetness & its sourness

- 4 Share practical steps you can take to move beyond one's favourite parts of God's Word!
- 5 Share experiences of sharing the difficult parts of God's Word with others.

Read 11:3-12 The suffering & the reward of those who remain faithful to the Lord

- 6 When we see the example of those who have been faithful to the Lord in the face of prison, torture, & death in persecuted societies today, how much do you think we, and the church in our country, are ready for the cost of being faithful to the Lord?

Prayer

Worship the Lord our God for his holiness and his truth.

Pray for our society, especially at this time of choosing the shape of politics ahead, to be characterised by honesty and truth in public life.

Pray for our churches, in every country represented in our group, to accept the sacrifices needed to make Christ known.

Pray for Christians suffering loss, injustice, prison & worse in many nations across the world. Give thanks for the Alpha course and pray for hearts to be opened to the Lord.