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WITH THE EDGE

December 19 – Revelation 10

Re-read Revelation 10:11

John was told to do something very strange in this chapter. God told him to eat a scroll. (God also made Ezekiel do this in the Old Testament). Then he gives John a command to prophesy to many people again. What kind of commands have you been given that don't make sense at first? Why are these harder to obey?

December 20 – Revelation 11

Re-read Revelation 11:15-16

Jesus has come to earth once and then he left, but he promised to come again. When he comes, he will take total control on earth as the King. Why should we, like the 24 elders we read about, worship Jesus today? What has he done for you that is worthy of worship?

December 21 – Revelation 12

Re-read Revelation 12:11

In heaven, the voice is talking about Christians who were killed because of their faith in Jesus. This is a reminder about the things Jesus said to the churches in chapters 2 and 3 of this book. Jesus wants his people to overcome sin and ultimately Satan through what HE did on the cross. The key phrase here is, "for they loved not their lives even unto death." This is amazing for us to see. Any person who is a follower of Christ should be willing to do anything for him. Our lives also, should be full of sacrifice. What are some things you can sacrifice today for other people because of your love for God?

December 22 – Revelation 13

Re-read Revelation 13:9-10

Throughout the New Testament, the idea that real Christians will “endure” to the end (of their life or until the return of Christ) is something Bible scholars call “Perseverance of the Saints.” It basically means that if a person has repented and put their faith in Jesus, they will be a Christian for the rest of their life. This chapter also displays some intense hardships that Christians in the 7 year period called “the Tribulation” will have to endure. What are some hardships you have to go through as a Christian at school, on the sports team, or in your neighborhood? What does God want you to do when you are going through hard times? How will you remember to do that the next time you face a difficult situation?

December 23 – Revelation 14

Re-read Revelation 14:7

Even in the middle of the punishment of God on the people of the earth, there is a call to the people to glorify God. In this time of punishment, people can see that God is good, fair, and powerful. Is it hard for you give God glory in hard times? How can you be thankful to God and praise him when something goes wrong this week?

December 24 – Revelation 15

Re-read Revelation 15:3

There is again praise to God, given in a dark time. This time, it’s done by a group of Christians. These people have just witnessed the intense punishment from God on the earth. Their response is not anger, it is praise to God for his justice. To be “just” is to give people what they deserve. This is a difficult characteristic to praise God for because his justice can hurt us (if we sin). What are some other things about God that are hard to understand, but we still should thank him for?

December 25 – Revelation 16

Re-read Revelation 16:11

There are people on earth at this time who are being punished by God. The purpose is for them to see their sin and repent (to turn away from their sin and do what God wants). This verse, as well as verse 9, tell us that most of them don't respond correctly. What would happen to these people if they repented? Why is it important for you to repent of sin? Are you careful to confess your sins to God each day?

December 26 – Revelation 17

Re-read Revelation 17:14

The evil on the earth is fighting against God here in Revelation 17. The Lamb is Jesus. When they try to defeat the Jesus and the church, he responds with force and wins. He wins because he is the King of kings and Lord of lords. In other words, he has ultimate authority. Knowing that Jesus is ultimately in control, how can you thank him today? What should it do to your fears?

December 27 – Revelation 18

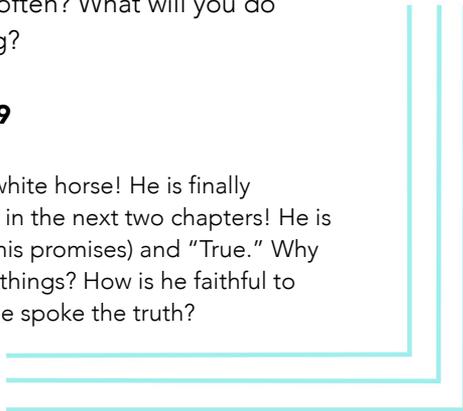
Re-read Revelation 18:10

In the Tribulation, there will be a city that is greater than any other ever created before it, but it is also the most evil. In Revelation 18, God destroys it. It is called "Babylon" in this chapter, (a reference back to the Babylon from the Old Testament.) The angels rejoice and the sinful people are very sad. God will not tolerate sin. When we read this chapter, we should be reminded of our own sin. What sins do you know you commit often? What will you do today to choose the right thing?

December 28 – Revelation 19

Re-read Revelation 19:11

Jesus is the one who rides in the white horse! He is finally establishing his kingdom on earth in the next two chapters! He is called "Faithful" (always keeping his promises) and "True." Why do you think Jesus is called these things? How is he faithful to you? And how do you know that he spoke the truth?



December 29 – Revelation 20

Revelation 20 is where the entire Bible comes to a climax. Jesus has just defeated the Anti-Christ and sentenced Satan to 1,000 years in a spiritual jail (verses 2-3). For the next 1,000 years, Jesus rules the earth. The Christians who survived the Tribulation will live on the earth with Jesus. These people will get married and have kids, populating the earth again (verse 4 & 6). After a 1,000 years, Satan will be released (verse 7) and will go out to make people follow him again (verse 8). Then, God will ultimately destroy all those who choose to follow Satan. After this, Satan is defeated forever! Next, all the people who died in their sin, without trusting in Jesus, will be brought before God and be judged for everything they did while they were alive (verse 12-14). If a person never trusted in Jesus, their name will not be written in the book of life, and they will be put in hell, apart from God forever (verse 15). This is how God ends life on earth for good. Have you thought about God's power like this? What should change in your life based on what you read today?

December 30 – Revelation 21

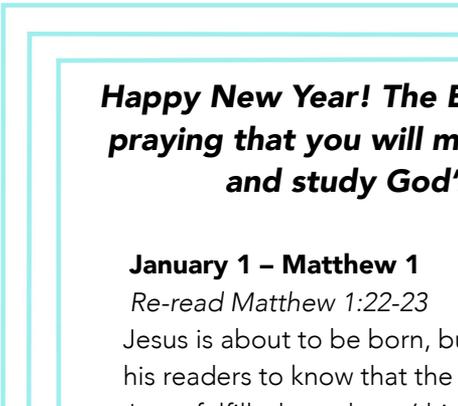
Re-read Revelation 21:3-4

God will make a new place called the New Jerusalem. This is where God and his people will live forever! The biggest difference is the way God is involved with the people. He made people to be with him, and this finally happens perfectly here. This new place is nothing like the old earth. There will be not pain, sickness, or death. How does this excite you now? What can you do today to get ready to go to this place forever?

December 31 – Revelation 22

Re-read Revelation 22:7

Knowing a lot the Bible and about God is awesome! But there is something else that God wants us to do. He wants us to obey him! After reading the book of Revelation (and maybe the whole New Testament! If you didn't this year, try to do it in 2016!) What is the most interesting thing you have learned about God and the Bible this year? How have you changed this year to be more like God? What do you want to do differently next year?



Happy New Year! The EDGE leadership team is praying that you will make it a priority to read and study God's word in 2016!

January 1 – Matthew 1

Re-read Matthew 1:22-23

Jesus is about to be born, but before he is, Matthew wants his readers to know that the birth of Jesus was not ordinary! Jesus fulfilled prophecy (things, God told the authors of the Bible, that would happen) in his birth. He is given a title, "Immanuel." Matthew goes on to explain what it means, "God with us." How was God with the people on the earth when Jesus was born? What does this say about how Jesus is?

January 2 – Matthew 2

Re-read Matthew 2:6

Again, Matthew makes sure his readers know that Jesus did everything to fulfill prophecy. Now it says that Jesus was born in a little city called Bethlehem. It also says that Jesus will be a "ruler" and "shepherd" to the people. Do you see Jesus as the ruler of your life? Do you live like he is in charge? What do you need to change to be more obedient to him going forward?

January 3 – Matthew 3

Re-read Matthew 3:11

John the Baptist is preaching to the people at this time. He was telling people to repent of their sins. He goes on to say that Jesus was far greater than him, so much greater that he is not worthy to even untie his sandals! John is the cousin of Jesus. This is quite a big statement to make about his cousin! How important do you really think Jesus is? Do you show him by obeying what he says to do in the bible? How can you do a better job of obeying him today?

January 4 – Matthew 4

Re-read Matthew 4:19-22

Jesus just spent forty days in the wilderness being tempted by Satan without sinning. Then he starts his preaching and miracles among the people. He gets together 12 men to come with him. We call these men the “Apostles.” When Jesus calls them, they join him “immediately” (verses 20,22). When God shows you the right thing to do, how quick are you to respond? When your parents ask you to do something, do you obey the first time?

January 5 – Matthew 5:1-26

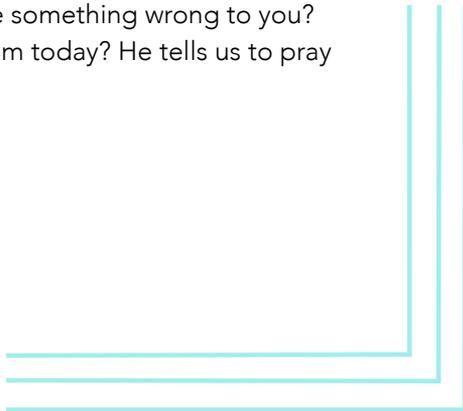
Re-read Matthew 5:6

In chapters 5, 6 and 7, Jesus preaches a sermon (we call it “The Sermon on the Mount”). Verses 3-12 are a section referred to as “the Beatitudes” because Jesus says “blessed” before every statement. The word “blessed” literally means “happy” (try substituting blessed with happy before every statement as you read through this passage). Verse 6 is what we are going to focus on. To “hunger and thirst” means to “really, really want.” Do you really want to do the right thing? If you do, Jesus promises you will be happy in the end. How can you choose to do the right thing today?

January 6 – Matthew 5:27-48

Re-read Matthew 5:43-44

Jesus challenges the people to do something that is very hard. He tells them they need to love the people who do bad things to them. Who done something wrong to you? How can you show love for them today? He tells us to pray for them as well!



January 7 – Matthew 6

Re-read Matthew 6:21

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” This means that what you value most is where you want spend the most time with your thoughts, money and energy etc. Jesus has just told the people to work hard to store up treasures in heaven. Do you want to have treasures in heaven? Why are they better than all the stuff we have on earth? You can store up treasures in heaven by obeying God. How can you store up treasures in heaven today?

January 8 – Matthew 7

Re-read Matthew 7:11

From verses 7 to 11, Jesus is telling the people about prayer. God is good and he wants to do good things for his obedient children, just like a parent on earth. Jesus tells the people, who he calls “evil” because they are not good like God, that they should trust God to give even better things if they ask! What are some things that you should ask for that would make God happy? Ask for them today in prayer!

