

the  Venues
Go Deep

**“It’s the End of the World – Again!”
Where is God in the Coronavirus?**

5.3.2020

Has COVID-19 brought to you any “end of the world” thoughts?

What were you taught about the “end of the world”?

What kind of feelings do you have when you think about the “end of the world?”

Many people think of the book of Revelation when they think of “end times.” So, let’s think about it. There are two basic ways to read this letter - yes, it is a letter.

Which way were you taught to read it? Which way do you read it now?

1. As a roadmap to the future.
2. As a letter of comfort for the present.

The roadmap to the future approach, for many people, includes a “Rapture.”

What do you know about the Rapture?

Does knowing that the Rapture view was formulated in 1830 change your view of it? How?

The second way to read Revelation is as “Literature for the Oppressed.” In this genre, groups call out the oppressors, but do it in “code” so they won’t be caught and killed! Smart.

Maybe the letter was written not to predict a terrifying future but to empower people who were facing a terrifying present by telling them that God was for the oppressed and they would know peace and justice.

If #2 is the right way to read Revelation, what does the letter say to the oppressed and marginalized?

What does the letter say to and about the oppressors?

Read Matthew 8:1-3. *What does Jesus do for the marginalized?*

Read Luke 6:40. *What is the lesson of this verse? How then, should we treat the marginalized?*

Out of the two ways to read the letter called “Revelation” which one sounds to you more like Jesus?

Read Revelation 20:12. *What is the basis of judgment according to this verse?*

How does this fit with Matthew 25:31-46?

What will you do today to follow the instructions of Jesus?