**Revelation 21 Study for Hope for Justice Church Partners and Abolition Groups**

**REVALATION 21:1-7**

**1** Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea.

**2** I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

**3** And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.

**4** ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

**5** He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

**6** He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life.

**7** Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

**CONVERSATION:**

As the group prepares to reflect on how God's ultimate goal for the world impacts our mission to end modern slavery, take a few minutes to pray as a group for your discussion.

In this passage, we see God revealing his plan for a new heaven and new earth. After you read the passage, ask your group:

* When you hear the phrase "new heaven and new earth" what do you picture? Describe to each other what you imagine a new heaven and new earth will be like.
* In this passage, we see that God's desire to dwell with his people. In fact, this desire to dwell is a running theme through out all of scripture. After the Exodus, God dwells among the Israelites in the tabernacle (and later in the Temple). John 1:14 describes Jesus as dwelling among his people, and this passage in Revelation declares that God will finally dwell with his people in the new heaven and new earth. What do you think it looks like for God to dwell among us? Why do you think this theme runs throughout scripture? Does God dwell with us now? As followers of Christ, how do we participate in this idea of dwelling?
* In verse 4, it says, "He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” This is a beautiful picture of God's care for his people. What does it mean for those trapped in modern-day slavery? Does it only provide hope for the future, or can it bring solace today?
* Ultimately, this passage reveals that God will win in the end. God will make all things new. He will defeat evil and establish his eternal kingdom. If we, as followers of Jesus, know that God will ultimately win, what does that mean for the way we live? How does it impact our mission to end modern slavery? How should it impact our lives today?

**PRAYER & SENDING:**

Close your time together by praying as group through the prayer requests listed in the Hope News email.