



***END OF THE PRESENT WORLD and the Mysteries of the Future
Life by Fr. Charles Arminjon***

Reading Group Discussion Guide

Use the following questions as guides to deeper individual understanding of the book or for group discussion.

1. What is the Carmelite Order?

2. Who was St Therese of Lisieux?

3. What are the Four Last Things according to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, (see Article 12 in the Catechism of the Catholic Church) and how are they intimately connected together?

4. How do we know that Time, or this world, will have an end, according to Fr Arminjon?

5. What does he say are the three main signs that will tell us the end of the world is very near (as opposed to those, like earthquakes and wars, that take place in every era of history)?

6. In what specific ways does the author think the Antichrist will be the "reverse of the Son of God"?

7. Which of the main arguments used by the author convinces you that your own body will rise again at the end of time?

8. Fr Arminjon (writing in the mid-19th century!) says that the Church is open to the possibility of life on a multitude of other planets. What is the reason he gives that God became incarnate on our planet, rather than another?

9. Fr Arminjon paints a very vivid picture of the sufferings both of purgatory and hell. What are the main differences between these two places?

10. Do you understand why the author says that "To abolish hell would be to abolish heaven"? Do you agree?

11. What does the Church teach about the resurrection of the body, the last (or final) Judgment, and the New Jerusalem? See the Catechism of the Catholic Church (Article 12) for further discussion material.

12. What does the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (para 1261) say about the salvation of children who die before baptism? Fr Arminjon tells us that they will not be admitted to the vision of God, though they will see him indirectly. Do you find his arguments convincing?

13. The "sacrifice" of the Mass is often downplayed in relation to the "community meal" aspect. Fr Arminjon presents the sacrifice very clearly. How does sacrifice create community?

14. St. Therese, while listening to Fr. Arminjon's lectures, was inspired to ask her father for permission to enter the Carmelite convent and begin her religious life in the cloister. Discuss how Fr. Arminjon's talks could have inspired her.

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