

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION

SERIES INFO

Revelation Series Overview:

The Revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ drafted by the apostle John, to whom Jesus gave this message through an angel, is a “peeling back” of what is to take place at the end of the biblical story so that it might be a source of hope for Christians amid trouble and suffering. Apocalyptic literature draws much symbolism from the Old Testament narrative, such as the books of Daniel and Ezekiel. There is a great deal of figurative and symbolic language throughout. Correct interpretation is very important in understanding clearly who Jesus is and what is to take place. While some things are left to mystery, much of what is in the book of Revelation can adequately and carefully be understood with accurate interpretation. This is not a book of mysteries. While the text is complex, it is full of truths that every disciple of Jesus should learn and practice. Let’s take courage and find new hope in our faith in Christ as we face a world of trouble and suffering.

PERSONAL FUN FACTS

When you think of the “end times” and the book of Revelation, what is your first thought? (Fear? Anxiety? Joy? Celebration? Bring it on!?)

TAKEAWAYS

What were the greatest “takeaways” you had from the message this week related to Revelation 1?

DISCUSSION

1. What Is Revelation?

Scripture: Revelation 1:1-3

The word Revelation comes from the Greek word, *apokalypsis*, where we get our English word “apocalypse,” and it means an “unveiling,” or a “pulling back the curtain.” This Revelation is not a puzzle to decode or a telling of the future in a secret language, but a divine disclosure of truth from heaven’s perspective. The Revelation is very symbolic, using visionary language. It’s also prophetic ... God speaking to us in real-world situations. Finally, it is a letter ... to real churches ... a circular to seven churches who are at different places in their journey with Christ.

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DISCUSSION CONTINUED

1) Why do you think Revelation has been so misunderstood or even feared?

2) How does it change your perspective to see Revelation as primarily about Jesus, rather than about certain events?

2. Who is Jesus According to Revelation

Scripture: Revelation 1:4-8

You will notice right away the Trinitarian language. The Father is recognized as the One “who is, and who was, and who is to come.” The Spirit is referred to as “the seven spirits before His throne,” and of course the Son, Jesus, described as the faithful witness who reveals perfectly all the fullness of God, the firstborn from the dead (first to be resurrected into life), and the ruler of the kings of the earth. Notice too, that you are part of the story. In verse 5, we are told, “He loves us, He has freed us from sin by His blood and has made us a kingdom and priests.” Revelation doesn’t just tell you who Jesus is, but isn’t it an encouragement already to see that it tells you who you are because of Him?

1) Which title of Jesus speaks most to you right now and why?

3. Jesus is Coming Back

Scripture: Revelation 1:7-8

Right from the beginning, the author John tells us that Jesus is going to return. This is great hope for all believers. His return will be visible and be witnessed universally. This is our present anchor of hope.

1) How does the certainty of Jesus’ return affect how you live currently?

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DISCUSSION CONTINUED

4. A Vision of Jesus

Scripture: Revelation 1:12-16

This vision of Jesus we read about is the resurrected, glorious Jesus. It's the all-powerful, Sovereign, High-and-Lifted-Up Jesus. It's fascinating to think that this is the same Jesus who walked the paths of Galilee and Jerusalem and now we see Him as He stands Lord over all the earth.

1) It is said that we often create a version of Jesus "in our own image," or we make Him to be something or someone that agrees with us. Does this image of Jesus differ from how you normally think of Jesus? How?

- Does this image of Jesus help you to see Him more clearly?

5. John Hit the Deck!

Scripture: Revelation 1:17-20

It was noted in the sermon that the same Jesus who was powerful enough to drop you to your knees and cover your face is the same Jesus who is compassionate enough to lift you back up. John's response was to "fall at His feet as though he were dead." But Jesus said, "do not be afraid." From the very first chapter, Jesus ... who gives us this revelation ... says for us to not be afraid. That should give us real answer to how we are to read this apocalyptic Scripture. As believers, we read it with victory in mind. (If you want to get a glimpse of how the story ends in victory, read the last two chapters of Revelation and then come back to our study).

1) Why is fear a natural response to encountering the real Jesus?

2) What does it mean that Jesus holds the keys of death and Hades?

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APPLICATION

- Where have I reduced Jesus to something smaller than He really is?

- We live right now in the reign of Jesus ... and yet, we are still awaiting His return when His kingdom comes in all its fullness? What would change if I truly lived like Jesus is reigning right now, rather than thinking all of this is yet to come?

PRAYER

Lord God, who gives us this Revelation ... help us to see Jesus more clearly. Encourage this week to see Jesus for Whom He really is. Give us strength to endure and courage to live faithfully. To Him who is able to keep us from falling and to present us before His glorious presence without fault and with great joy—to the only God, our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! (Jude 24-25)

Amen.