

REVELATION

REVELATION 1:1-8 DISCUSSION GUIDE

The Greek title of this book is *Apokalypsis* (that which is being uncovered), but readers may feel that not much is revealed. We regard this book as Scripture, but often fail to make use of it. Yet in this last book of the Bible, God permits us to see something of Christ and the church in heaven and on earth – and what we see is awesome indeed. The book of Revelation throughout directs attention to its primary composer, God. He is the divine artist, the chief architect. It is a divinely constructed volume in which God shows His plans and handiwork.

-Simon Kistemaker, NT Commentary on Revelation

KEY PRINCIPLES

- Revelation builds on the foundation laid in the Old Testament.
- Revelation ought to be approached with the mindset of “how does this make the reader feel?” rather than “what does every tiny detail mean?”

REVELATION 1:1-8

¹ The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must soon take place; and He sent and communicated it by His angel to His bond-servant John, ² who testified to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, everything that he saw. ³ Blessed is the one who reads, and those who hear the words of the prophecy and keep the things which are written in it; for the time is near.

⁴ John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from Him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before His throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood— ⁶ and He made us into a kingdom, priests to His God and Father—to Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen. ⁷ Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. So it is to be. Amen.

⁸ “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”

DIGGING IN

- What stood out to you from this week's message? Explain why certain parts stuck with you.
- Who wrote Revelation? Where was he writing from? Who was he writing to?
- What does it mean that this is the *revelation of Jesus Christ*?
- For what purpose was this book written?
- Who is considered *blessed* in verse 3? How does this help shape our understanding of this book?
- How is God described in this passage? How does this set the stage for the rest of the book?
- What does it mean that every tribe of the earth will mourn over Him (Jesus)?
- What is the significance of God describing himself as the Alpha and the Omega?

HOW DOES IT APPLY?

- How do you normally approach Revelation? What was your first interaction with this book like?
- What questions do you have regarding Revelation that you are hoping get answered during this series?
- Do you have any fears as we begin Revelation? If so, what are they?
- Revelation is about this present age passing away and a new age being ushered in. What hinders us from keeping an eternal mindset?
- How does this passage impact how you share the Gospel with someone who is yet-to-believe?

5 MARKS FOCUS: DAILY DEVOTION

Revelation is full of amazing imagery and powerful implications. Try reading the first chapter or two this week to help familiarize yourself with where we are heading.