



Part 1: “Why Study the Book of Revelation?”

Sunday, November 15th, 2020

Revelation 1 - 3

This Week’s Memory Verse:

“Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear the words of this prophecy and keep what is written in it, because the time is near.”

Revelation 1:3

The central person, theme and focus of the book of Revelation is _____!

Basic Outline of Revelation:

SCRIPTURE:	CHAPTER:	TIMING:
1:19a: “...write what you have seen...”	Chapter 1	The Past (John receiving the Revelation)
1:19b: “...[write] what is...”	Chapters 2-3	The Present Church Age
1:19c: “...[write] what will take place after this...”	Chapters 4-22	Future, end-time events

Similarities of Christ’s Letters to the Seven Churches (Rev. 2-3)

In each letter Jesus says...

1. “ _____ ” (Rev. 2:2, 9, 13, 19, 3:1, 8, 14)
2. “Let _____ who has ears to hear listen to what the Spirit says to the churches.” (Rev. 2:7,11,17, 29; 3:6,13,22)
3. “To the one who _____ ” (Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 26; 3:5, 12, 21) – I John 5:4-5

For Next Sunday:

Read Revelation chapters 4 thru 8:6 and use the study notes found in the *40 Days Through Revelation* book. Don’t have one? You can purchase one in Fellowship Café for a donation of \$10.

For Further Study – In the Tower at the Welcome Center

Understanding the Times Newsletter: The Top Ten Bible Prophecy Stories of 2020
Article: What is the Mark of the Beast?

Growth Groups Study Guide

“Getting Excited About Revelation”

Getting Started

Discussion: When do you first remember learning about or being interested in end times/prophetic events? How did that knowledge and interest impact your thinking? Your life?

Digging Deeper

Let's start by answering some basic questions about Revelation and the end times (Read Scriptures as time allows).

Are we living in the “end times”? Acts 2:17; 2 Tim. 3:1; Heb. 1:2; 2 Peter 3:3

The “last days” mentioned in the New Testament refers to the period of time between Christ's first coming and His second coming. The answer is YES!

What should we know in relation to end time events and their signs?

1. The next event on God's timetable is the Rapture - 1 Thess. 4:16-17

This “partial return” of Christ is distinct from His second return. Signs of Jesus' second coming are clearly outlined by Jesus himself in Matthew 24-25. These signs are descriptive of the events in Revelation chapters 6-16 during the Tribulation, NOT signs of the coming rapture of the church. There are no signs which indicate the immediacy of the rapture. It could occur at any moment. It is therefore imminent.

2. With the exception of the reestablishment of the modern state of Israel, the present church age is not a time in which Bible prophecy is being fulfilled.

This does not mean that God is not preparing the world for that future time during this present church age, He is. But “preparation” and “fulfillment” are two different things.

3. Not every “prophetic” event or speculation is legitimate.

Understanding the signs of the end times requires three steps:

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| Step #1: Facts | - These are clear statements of prophetic revelation. |
| Step #2: Assumptions | - If these are correct, they lead us to valid conclusions, but if not, they may lead to ridiculous conclusions. |
| Step #3: Speculations | - These are purely calculated guesses based on assumptions. In many cases, they have no basis in prophetic fact at all. |

4. The Bible gives very clear signs of what the last days of the church age will be like - 1 Timothy 4:1-3; 2 Timothy 3:1-5; 4:3-4; James 5:1-8; 2 Peter 2:1-22, 3:3-6; Jude 1-25

These New Testament passages emphasize that the great characteristic of the end of the church age will be *apostasy* which means: defection from true biblical doctrine. Apostates depart from the faith but not from the outward profession of it. They are only professors and not actual possessors of true salvation.

The word that best describes apostasy is denial.

Have group members look up the various passages beside each of the nine signs listed below. Then discuss examples that you can think of in our own society that pertain to these signs. Do you feel we are living in the last days of the church age? Why?

Signs of the last days of the church age include:

- 1.) A denial of God (2 Tim. 3:4-5).
- 2.) A denial of Christ (1 John 2:18; 4:3;)
- 3.) A denial of Christ's return (2 Peter 3:3-4)
- 4.) A denial of the faith (1 Tim. 4:1-2)
- 5.) A denial of sound doctrine (2 Tim. 4:3-4)
- 6.) A denial of the separated life (2 Tim. 3:1-7)
- 7.) A denial of Christian liberty (1 Tim. 4:3-4)
- 8.) A denial of morals (2 Tim. 3:1-8)
- 9.) A denial of authority (2 Tim. 3:4)

Why should we study the end times (Bible prophecy/Revelation)?

1. Because God considers it important!
One-third of the Bible is related to prophecy.
2. Because it reveals our Lord as He really is (Hebrews 2:9; Philippians 2:5-11; Rev. 1:7-8).
3. Because a proper understanding of prophecy arms us against cults and false prophets (Eph. 6:11; Matt. 24:36).
4. Because studying prophecy encourages us to reach out to those who need Jesus.
5. Because studying prophecy tends to purify believers (1 John 3:3; 1 Peter 4:7-11).

What are the blessings promised to those who heed the prophecy of Revelation?

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| Rev. 1:3 | _____ |
| Rev. 14:13 | _____ |
| Rev. 16:15 | _____ |
| Rev. 19:9 | _____ |
| Rev. 20:6 | _____ |
| Rev. 22:7 | _____ |
| Rev. 22:14 | _____ |

Wrapping Up

Close in prayer asking God to grow everyone in the group spiritually in the next few weeks as we study through the book of Revelation. Ask the Lord to lay on each of your hearts an unsaved person that you know that you can pray for, witness to, and invite to church so they will be saved.

