

The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place. He made it known to his servant John the son of man, who testified to his brethren concerning the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep the words of this prophecy, and shall do the things which are written in it. Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty. Blessed are those who do the commandments of him who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty. He who reads these things, let him add to these things, and he who hears, let him hear the words of the prophecy of this book. And the voice of many waters. And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one. Write therefore the things that you have seen, and the things which have happened to you, and the things which you have heard, and the things which you have seen, and the things which you have heard, and the things which you have seen, and the things which you have heard. Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near. He who is just, let him do justly, and he who is holy, let him be holy, and he who is righteous, let him be righteous. Behold, I am coming, and my reward is with me, to give to every man according to his work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. Blessed are those who do the commandments of these things, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and they may enter the city. Outside are the dogs, and the sorcerers, and the fornicators, and the murderers, and the idolaters, and every one who loves and does a lie. I Jesus have sent my angel to testify to you these things on the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright morning star. And to the angel of the church in Ephesus write: He who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands: He who hears my voice, and opens the door, and I will come in to him, and will eat with him, and he will walk with me, and he will be with me, and he will be with me. He who does not hear my voice, and does not open the door, shall be outside, and he will be outside. And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write: He who is the first and the last, who was dead, and is alive: He who hears my voice, and keeps my commandments, shall not die, but shall live, and he will be with me, and he will be with me. And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write: He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who conquers, he will eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God. And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write: He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who conquers, I will give to him some of the hidden manna, and I will give to him a white stone, with a new name written on it, which no one knows but he who receives it. And to the angel of the church in Sardis write: He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who is dead, and he who is alive: He who hears my voice, and opens the door, and I will come in to him, and will eat with him, and he will walk with me, and he will be with me, and he will be with me. He who does not hear my voice, and does not open the door, shall be outside, and he will be outside. And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who is rich, and he who is poor: He who hears my voice, and buys the white garment, shall not be ashamed, but shall stand before God, and he will be with me, and he will be with me. He who does not buy the white garment, shall be ashamed, and he will be ashamed. And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who is poor, and he who is rich: He who hears my voice, and opens the door, and I will come in to him, and will eat with him, and he will walk with me, and he will be with me, and he will be with me. He who does not hear my voice, and does not open the door, shall be outside, and he will be outside. And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who is rich, and he who is poor: He who hears my voice, and buys the white garment, shall not be ashamed, but shall stand before God, and he will be with me, and he will be with me. He who does not buy the white garment, shall be ashamed, and he will be ashamed.

*A Twelve Week Study
in the Book of Revelation*

REVELATION

Week One: Revelation 1

Day One | Revelation 1:1-3

What does it mean for this book to be the “revelation of Jesus Christ”?

According to these opening verses, what is the purpose or objective of this book?

Why is there a blessing in reading this aloud and also in hearing & keeping it?

Do you believe that we are living in the last days? Why?

Day Two | Revelation 1:4-8

Who is John writing this letter to & how does that impact the way that we should understand what is written? What do you learn about Jesus in this section? What do you learn about His followers? What does it mean that the Lord God is the “Alpha & the Omega”? What gives you the greatest encouragement from this section?

Day Three | Revelation 1:9-11

What does it mean for John to be a partner in the tribulation, the kingdom, and the patient endurance? Do you think of yourself as being a partner in those things as well? What do you know about the situation in which John was writing this letter?

Day Four | Revelation 1:12-16

Who is the person that John sees? What is the significance of Him being “like a son of man”? Which parts of the description do you find most interesting? What do you think they mean? When you picture Jesus, what is the image that comes to your mind?

Day Five | Revelation 1:17-20

How do you think you would react if you suddenly had a face to face encounter with Jesus? What is significant in the way that Jesus describes Himself in this passage? How might viewing Jesus in this way change the way that you pray to Him or think about Him?

Group Question:

We see in this opening chapter that this is a letter, a prophecy & an apocalyptic writing. How does that affect what you expect to learn from the study of this book?

Prayer: Reflection and Response

Did this week’s passage lead you to a sense of Praise? Worship? Gratitude? Did it lead to conviction? A need to confess & ask for forgiveness? A request for God’s help? Write down a prayer, speaking to God simply & honestly in light of those reflections.

REVELATION

Week Two: Revelation 2-3

Day One | Revelation 2:1-7

What qualities do you find to be admirable in the church of Ephesus? Do you see some of those same qualities in your own life? What is lacking in this church? If you are holding on to your love for Jesus, how do you continue to do that? If you have lost some of your first love for Jesus, what can you do to get it back?

Day Two | Revelation 2:8-17

If you have experienced tribulation & poverty for the name of Jesus, describe what that has been like. What encouragement or conviction do you take away from the letter to Smyrna? Are there certain places or cultures today where it is more difficult to remain faithful? What is necessary in those places to avoid compromise?

Day Three | Revelation 2:18-29

How do you find the balance between living faithfully for God in quiet humility and also speaking and standing against that which is contrary to God's will? Are there any false ideas or cultural practices which you need to repent and turn from? What is the next step that you need to take to do that? What is the reward that awaits?

Day Four | Revelation 3:1-13

What does it look like when a church or a person becomes spiritually dead. How do you evaluate the health of your own walk with Jesus? What is needed most in the American church right now? What is praiseworthy about the church in Philadelphia? What does patient endurance look like in your life?

Day Five | Revelation 3:14-22

What is the connection between being prosperous and being lukewarm? Why does Jesus threaten to spit them out? What have you learned about being dependent on God? How can God's discipline be a display of His love? How has Jesus knocked on the door of your heart? What has been your response to His pursuit of you?

Group Question:

If Jesus wrote a letter to Riverside Church today, what do you think He would say?

Prayer: Reflection and Response

Did this week's passage lead you to a sense of Praise? Worship? Gratitude? Did it lead to conviction? A need to confess & ask for forgiveness? A request for God's help? Write down a prayer, speaking to God simply & honestly in light of those reflections.

REVELATION

Week Three: Revelation 4-5

Day One | Revelation 4:1-8

What elements of God's character do you see displayed in this picture of the heavenly throne room? What qualities might be represented in the 4 beings with the faces of a lion, an ox, a man & an eagle? How does the imagery in this section impact your view of the holiness of God?

Day Two | Revelation 4:9-11

What are some of the most significant things that this passage reveals about the character and nature of God? Why is God worthy of our praise & our worship? Why do the 24 elders cast their crowns before throne of God? What would be the most difficult thing for you to lay down before the throne of God?

Day Three | Revelation 5:1-5

What do you think the scroll represents? Why do you think that no one was worthy to open the seals on the scroll? How are you personally impacted by the unworthiness of the world & your own unworthiness? Why is Jesus worthy to open the scroll? What do the titles "Lion of the Tribe of Judah & Root of David" communicate about Jesus?

Day Four | Revelation 5:6-10

Why is the lamb standing as though it had been slain? The prayers of the saints are depicted as incense held in golden bowls. How does this impact the way that you think about your prayers & your prayer life? How did the blood of Jesus ransom His people? Why is it significant that there are people from every tribe, language, people & nation?

Day Five | Revelation 5:11-14

How often do you think about the worthiness of Jesus to be praised? What are some of the reasons that He is deserving of such praise and worship from multitudes in heaven and on earth? What are some of the ways that you show Jesus honor and reverence in your life? Has this passage caused you to think differently about how you worship?

Group Question:

What makes Jesus unlike any other person and deserving of all of the praise and worship depicted in this section of the letter?

Prayer: Reflection and Response

Did this week's passage lead you to a sense of Praise? Worship? Gratitude? Did it lead to conviction? A need to confess & ask for forgiveness? A request for God's help? Write down a prayer, speaking to God simply & honestly in light of those reflections.

REVELATION

Week Four: Revelation 6-7

Day One | Revelation 6:1-6

The rider on the white horse takes power by force & conquest - where do you see this taking place in history & today? The rider on the red horse promoted violence and disruption of peace - where do you see this taking place? The rider on the black horse brings scarcity & economic loss - where do you see this happening historically & today?

Day Two | Revelation 6:7-11

The rider on the pale horse brings massive death by famine, sickness, and nature - where do you see elements of this historically & today? How does the opening of the 5th seal make you think about justice & judgement? How does the knowledge that God will ultimately bring justice impact the way that you face injustices here & now?

Day Three | Revelation 6:12-17

What are some of the most terrifying events related to the opening of the 6th scroll? What is the response of those who are in power? Describe a time when you were humbled before the face of something over which you had no control like a massive storm or an earthquake. What would it take for the world to recognize God's power?

Day Four | Revelation 7:1-8

Does it give you reassurance to know that God has a plan to seal & protect His servants? What is your understanding or expectation for the Jewish people in the end times? Read Romans 11. What insight does Paul give us into God's plans & purposes for the Jewish people in that passage?

Day Five | Revelation 7:9-17

What do you find most striking about the scene in this passage? What can we do to make the church look more like the scene before the throne, with multitudes from every tribe, people & language? What reward & consolation is there for those who remain faithful through the tribulation? Does this bring you comfort?

Group Question:

The events described here will have an ultimate fulfillment, but in many ways we are seeing this pattern at play throughout history & today. How should we respond?

Prayer: Reflection and Response

Did this week's passage lead you to a sense of Praise? Worship? Gratitude? Did it lead to conviction? A need to confess & ask for forgiveness? A request for God's help? Write down a prayer, speaking to God simply & honestly in light of those reflections.

REVELATION

Week Five: Revelation 8-9

Day One | Revelation 8:1-5

Why do you think there is a time of silence after the opening of the 7th seal? What role do the prayers of the saints play in this moment? How important do you think it is to pray as we draw closer to the end times? In what ways can we be praying as these things unfold? What do the thunder, rumblings & earthquake indicate?

Day Two | Revelation 8:6-13

What stands out to you from the destruction of the first 4 trumpets? Why do you think only $\frac{1}{3}$ of the earth is effected? What connections do you see between these judgements and the plagues that God sent upon Egypt in Exodus 7-12? What disasters & events are currently happening today that should cause people to turn to God?

Day Three | Revelation 9:1-11

In this passage, the Destroyer is allowed to send torture upon those not sealed by God. Why would God allow this to occur? Why is it significant that the time of torture is limited to 5 months? What does the appearance of the locusts indicate about how they might bring about torture to their victims?

Day Four | Revelation 9:12-19

In what ways do you see judgement escalating with this second woe? In what way is it still limited? This woe seems to show devastation caused by warfare and plague. In what ways are we seeing glimpses of this in our world today? Why do you think that the destruction is continuing to increase?

Day Five | Revelation 9:20-21

After everything that has happened, are you surprised at the response of the people who remain? Does this give some understanding about why the judgement was allowed to increase? Are the sins of these people happening in our world now? Is there any sin that you have allowed into your life that you need to repent of today?

Group Question:

The destruction in this section is horrifying - yet the people who remain refuse to repent and turn to God...why?

Prayer: Reflection and Response

Did this week's passage lead you to a sense of Praise? Worship? Gratitude? Did it lead to conviction? A need to confess & ask for forgiveness? A request for God's help? Write down a prayer, speaking to God simply & honestly in light of those reflections.

REVELATION

Week Six: Revelation 10-11

Day One | Revelation 10:1-7

What does the appearance and action of the Angel demonstrate about the power and authority of God? Why do you think John was told not to write down what the 7 thunders had said? Has this study of Revelation led you to feel frustrated about not knowing every detail with certainty? What role does faith play in all of this?

Day Two | Revelation 10:8-11

What might the Angel standing on sea & land represent? As you have taken in these words of Revelation, which parts have been sweet? Which parts have left you feeling bitter in the stomach? Do you think we are meant to celebrate the justice of God or grieve over the judgement of those who are lost? Why?

Day Three | Revelation 11:1-6

What does this section show us about God's continual preservation of His people? How has God preserved you through difficult seasons in your life? What two Biblical prophets are brought to mind with the declaring of drought and turning water into blood in verse 6?

Day Four | Revelation 11:7-14

What were Sodom and Egypt known for in the Old Testament? Why would the people celebrate at the death of the 2 prophets? Where do you see the world celebrating the demise of Christian witness or belief in our culture today? What is the result when the 2 prophets are brought back to life? Who are you praying for this week to turn to God?

Day Five | Revelation 11:15-19

What reasons are given for praise, worship & celebration after the blowing of the 7th trumpet? Despite all of the woes & destruction, what brings you joy as you read these prophecies? What reason for praise stands out to you from the words of the elders (v17-18)?

Group Question:

As a follower of Jesus, what brings you joy from this passage?

Prayer: Reflection and Response

Did this week's passage lead you to a sense of Praise? Worship? Gratitude? Did it lead to conviction? A need to confess & ask for forgiveness? A request for God's help? Write down a prayer, speaking to God simply & honestly in light of those reflections.

REVELATION

Week Seven: Revelation 12-13

Day One | Revelation 12:1-6

What are some historical Biblical events and figures that the woman, the child and the beast may represent? Despite the desire of the dragon to destroy the child, how do we see that God is still in control? Do you tend to overemphasize or underemphasize the significance of the devil working against God and against you?

Day Two | Revelation 12:7-12

How would you describe the victory that was won over the dragon? What does it mean that the beast was conquered by the blood of the lamb and the word of their testimony? How does the knowledge that the devil has been defeated impact the way that you live? How does it impact the way that you read this letter?

Day Three | Revelation 12:13-17

How have you seen God protect people in the Bible in their time in the wilderness? What lessons are typically learned in a wilderness time? How has God used wilderness seasons in your life to protect & teach you? What does it look like to keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus?

Day Four | Revelation 13:1-10

In what ways might this first beast represent the great political & national empires of the world? What characteristics would you expect given the description of the beast? How will those whose names are in the Lamb's book of life resist worshipping the beast? What might be the cost for those who resist? What cost are you willing to face?

Day Five | Revelation 13:11-18

In what ways might the second beast represent false religion or a great false prophet who calls people to worship the reigning power of the first beast? Read Deuteronomy 6:4-9. How might that passage relate to the mark on the forehead & the hand? What would you say to someone who asks what the number 666 means?

Group Question:

This section deals with the activity of the devil throughout history and up to the end, where his defeat is certain. How does this knowledge help you as you live today?

Prayer: Reflection and Response

Did this week's passage lead you to a sense of Praise? Worship? Gratitude? Did it lead to conviction? A need to confess & ask for forgiveness? A request for God's help? Write down a prayer, speaking to God simply & honestly in light of those reflections.

REVELATION

Week Eight: Revelation 14

Day One | Revelation 14:1-5

Why is it significant that, in the midst of the destruction, God has those that He has set apart for Himself & preserved? What might be the significance of them having the name of God & the Lamb on their forehead? The redeemed follow the Lamb and are like Him...in what ways do you see yourself following Jesus & becoming like Him?

Day Two | Revelation 14:6-8

Why would this message of the Gospel being proclaimed over all of the earth & Babylon falling have been an encouragement to the letter's original recipients? What was the context they were living in? How do you see the declarations of both angels becoming more fully fulfilled in our time?

Day Three | Revelation 14:9-13

What is the penalty for worshipping the beast and receiving it's mark? What keeps people from taking this warning seriously? What is the blessing that comes with enduring in the Lord? Why is it hard to remember these things when we are tempted towards sin & disobedience? Who do you know that needs to hear this warning?

Day Four | Revelation 14:14-16

Who is the one who is like a Son of Man? What do you think this harvest represents? Are you looking forward to this moment of reaping the harvest? Why or why not? What would you need to do to feel like you are prepared for the moment of harvest whenever it comes?

Day Five | Revelation 14:17-20

What do you think this second harvest represents? Who are those that will go into the winepress of God's wrath? Why is there such a significant amount of blood? In what are you placing your hope to avoid the righteous wrath of God?

Group Question:

What are the main distractions that keep people from fleeing judgement and running to Jesus? Which of those distractions impact & hinder you the most?

Prayer: Reflection and Response

Did this week's passage lead you to a sense of Praise? Worship? Gratitude? Did it lead to conviction? A need to confess & ask for forgiveness? A request for God's help? Write down a prayer, speaking to God simply & honestly in light of those reflections.

REVELATION

Week Nine: Revelation 15-16

Day One | Revelation 15:1-4

What is the cause of joy for those who sing in this passage? What qualities of God does their song highlight? In what way is this similar to the song that Moses sang when God brought the nation of Israel out of Egypt (Exodus 15:1-18)? What are some of the common themes that you see in both?

Day Two | Revelation 15:5-8

What is the symbolism & significance of what the angels are wearing? How does the wrath of God relate to His glory and His power? As the end of history draws near in this passage, is there any doubt about the final outcome? How can we approach God in a way that reflects a reverence for His power & glory as shown in this section?

Day Three | Revelation 16:1-7

In what ways are these first 3 bowls similar to the first 3 trumpets in Revelation 8? In what ways do they differ? What accusations does the angel make against those being judged? Do you believe that God is justified in bringing this final judgement as they continually failed to repent or turn from their ways?

Day Four | Revelation 16:8-16

How did the people respond as the 4th bowl of wrath was poured out? What was the response after the 5th bowl? What was the role of the demonic frog spirits? In a practical sense, what does it look like for you to stay awake & keep your garments on?

Day Five | Revelation 16:17-21

What stands out to you the most about this 7th bowl as it is poured out? How would this great earthquake & disaster compare to the most scary & destructive thing that you have personally experienced? What is the reaction of the people? Does this surprise you? Why or why not?

Group Question:

Why do so many of the people remain hard hearted and rebellious towards God to the very end? What can we do today to try to reach those who are willing to listen?

Prayer: Reflection and Response

Did this week's passage lead you to a sense of Praise? Worship? Gratitude? Did it lead to conviction? A need to confess & ask for forgiveness? A request for God's help? Write down a prayer, speaking to God simply & honestly in light of those reflections.

REVELATION

Week Ten: Revelation 17-18

Day One | Revelation 17:1-14

What do we learn about the great prostitute from the description given here? Why are we so easily tempted with sexual immorality? How do we fight back against that? Why is it significant that she is drunk on the blood of the saints & martyrs? Why do you think even John marvels at her? What does it mean to be chosen & faithful?

Day Two | Revelation 17:15-18

Ultimately, why do the 10 horns & the beast turn on the prostitute? If this is in one sense symbolic of political powers & economic powers turning on one another, can you think of any historical examples where this occurred & political powers destroyed the wealth & economy that they once celebrated? Who is ultimately in control?

Day Three | Revelation 18:1-8

What power does the temptation of sexual immorality & luxurious living have on your heart? What changes do you need to make to “Come out of her, lest you take part in her sins”? Where do you see this spirit of Babylon most prominently in our culture today? What will be the end result of the pursuit of her ways?

Day Four | Revelation 18:9-20

Why do so many of the people lament over her destruction? Which of the items in vs11-13 do you desire and pursue? Does this passage change your perspective on any of that? In what sense do you think this was fulfilled when the Roman Empire fell? What would it look like for this judgement to come to our world today?

Day Five | Revelation 18:21-24

How complete will the destruction of Babylon be? How do you reconcile the parts of Babylon which sound attractive with the violence, sorcery & death which are at its core? In what ways do you see this reflected in our culture today? How are we meant to live within this culture without getting ensnared by it?

Group Question:

As our culture celebrates wealth, luxury, sex & prosperity...how can we be sure that we are remaining faithful to God and not being drawn into the destruction of Babylon?

Prayer: Reflection and Response

Did this week's passage lead you to a sense of Praise? Worship? Gratitude? Did it lead to conviction? A need to confess & ask for forgiveness? A request for God's help? Write down a prayer, speaking to God simply & honestly in light of those reflections.

REVELATION

Week Eleven: Revelation 19-20

Day One | Revelation 19:1-10

Why is there such celebration over the judgment & fall of Babylon? Why is it significant that her smoke goes up forever & ever? What significance do your righteous deeds have in eternity? Are you invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb? Why was it wrong for John to worship the angel?

Day Two | Revelation 19:11-21

Who is the rider on the white horse? What names & titles are given to Him? What does the description given here communicate about who He is and what He will do? Despite all of the nations coming against Him in battle - is the result ever in doubt? Do you ever struggle to believe & trust that Jesus will be victorious? Why or why not?

Day Three | Revelation 20:1-6

If you are unfamiliar with them, look up “premillennial, postmillennial & amillennial” views on Revelation 20. Which view do you hold? How does that impact the way that you read this passage? How does it impact your daily life? What is the reward for those who refused to worship the beast?

Day Four | Revelation 20:7-10

Why do you think that, throughout the book, people continue to fall for the deceptions of Satan and align themselves with him? Who ultimately wins this battle? What happens to the devil? What is his eternal punishment? How does this contrast with the popular idea that the devil will be ruling in hell?

Day Five | Revelation 20:11-15

How does this description of future judgement make you feel? What sorts of things would be written in the book of your deeds? Is your name written in the book of life? How do you know? Death is the last enemy that will be thrown into the lake of fire. How does this passage make you feel about death?

Group Question:

Genuine Christians may disagree regarding the timeline of the millennium. How can you hold to your view while remaining gracious towards those who disagree?

Prayer: Reflection and Response

Did this week's passage lead you to a sense of Praise? Worship? Gratitude? Did it lead to conviction? A need to confess & ask for forgiveness? A request for God's help? Write down a prayer, speaking to God simply & honestly in light of those reflections.

REVELATION

Week Twelve: Revelation 21-22

Day One | Revelation 21:1-8

How would you describe the future home that awaits all who remain faithful to Jesus? What aspect of the description do you find most exciting? Why are we able to drink from the spring of the water of life without payment? What future awaits those who do not remain faithful & out their trust in Jesus?

Day Two | Revelation 21:9-27

Who is the Bride of the Lamb? What do you find most interesting about the description of the New Jerusalem? What is significant about the names that are on the 12 gates and the 12 foundations? Why is there no temple in the city? Why is there no need for sun or moon?

Day Three | Revelation 22:1-5

What is the significance of the fruit of the tree of life? What does the river of the water of life flowing from the throne signify? What is significant about seeing the face of God? How long will we reign with God? What things can you be doing now to prepare for these eternal realities? What things of this world is God calling you to release?

Day Four | Revelation 22:6-15

What does it mean when He says “I am coming soon”? What does it mean to “keep the words of the prophecy of this book”? What is the significance of the title of God “The Alpha & The Omega”? How do we wash our robes? What is the only thing that can cleanse them?

Day Five | Revelation 22:16-21

Are you thirsty for the water of life? Do you need to wait until eternity to drink of it? What is the overall heart posture that we should have regarding these things? Do you desire that Jesus would return today? Why or why not? Is there anything in your life that you would not want to be there when Jesus returns? What will you do about it?

Group Question:

What are you most looking forward to in the new heaven and new earth?

Prayer: Reflection and Response

Did this week’s passage lead you to a sense of Praise? Worship? Gratitude? Did it lead to conviction? A need to confess & ask for forgiveness? A request for God’s help? Write down a prayer, speaking to God simply & honestly in light of those reflections.
