

Weekly Study Guide | 09/29/24

Revelation – Intro and Chapter 1

Read Revelation 1

1 The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, 2 Who testifies to everything he saw—that is, the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. 3 Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near. 19 Write, what you have seen, what is now, and what will take place later.

A Brief Outline:

- Verses 1-3: Introduction
- Verses 4-6: Audience
- Verses 7-8: Message
- Verses 9-11: Context
- Verses 12-18: Revelation
- Verse 19: Purpose
- Verse 20: Mystery

Questions:

1. What stands out to you in Revelation chapter 1? Is there anything that catches your attention? What is the main focus?
2. Who is the author? Who is the audience? What is the context?
3. What is meant by “must soon take place,” “the time is near,” and “what is now and what will take place later?” How does this relate to prophecy? Do you think we are living in the last days? Why or why not?
4. What is the purpose of the Book of Revelation? Why was it written? What meaning does it have for us today? Why should we read it?
5. Share a few takeaways from this lesson. What is a practical way you can apply this to your life? How can it help strengthen your relationship with God? What difference will this make to your outlook of the future?

Bible References: [Revelation 1:1-20](#); [Isaiah 33:6](#); [Daniel 11:32](#); [Matthew 24:3-14](#); [2 Timothy 3:1-6](#); [Galatians 4:4](#)

For later: What about you? Prayerfully consider how this lesson relates to you. What is a practical way you can apply this to your life? How can it help strengthen your relationship with God? Is there anything you need to change in light of this? What difference will this make to your outlook of the future?

Lesson Key:

The word 'Revelation' is the English equivalent for the original word 'Apocalypse' which means to uncover or unveil. As its name suggests, this book reveals things previously hidden or concealed. Revelation 1:1-3 is the prologue to the book. It establishes the authority for the entire writing by stating that this uncovering—this revelation—is from Jesus Christ. The author, John, testifies that what he saw and heard was a message from and about Jesus Christ. This message was given to John by God “to show his servants what must soon take place.” He promises that all who read and obey the words of this prophecy will be blessed.

Revelation, a prophetic masterpiece, seamlessly blends three literary genres: prophetic, epistolary, and apocalyptic. It unveils a tapestry of mysteries about the future; about events that “must soon take place” and “will take place later” for “the time is near.” It serves as a solemn warning of the world's impending end and the certainty of divine judgment. Yet, amidst the gloom, a beacon of hope shines brightly—heaven's eternal glories await the faithful.

This book leads us through the tumultuous Great Tribulation, the fiery judgment awaiting unbelievers, and the ultimate defeat of Satan and his demonic forces. It outlines the roles of heavenly beings, and the promises made to the saints. Like John, we may struggle to fully comprehend Revelation's depths. However, the promise of blessing for those who read and heed its message remains a source of comfort and encouragement.

Revelation is a last call to salvation. It is a call to repent and to put one's trust in Christ alone. The writings of the 'Apocalypse' blaze a testimony of God's goodness, power, and authority that brings hope and assurance, and is a source of comfort for all who follow Jesus, the Lamb upon the throne.