



Study + Discussion Sheets

[For the Week of August 30th - September 5th]

“Jesus + John the Revelator”

Dig deeper into Sunday's message with our study + discussion questions based on Revelation chapter 1 and the August 30, 2015 sermon, **Jesus + John the Revelator** which is Part 13 of our *Encountering Jesus* teaching series...

Understanding the context of the Book of Revelation:

Getting a handle on the principle message of the book will prevent us from sinking into the marsh of its elaborate visions. So what is the principle message of the Book of Revelation about? First, the great text of Romans 8:39 is appropriate: "I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." That comes close to summarizing everything that this great book! Some of the last things the Bible says are all about the complete security of God's suffering people. No matter what may come, or when it comes, the believer is safe.

But that, in the end, fails to capture the real message of Revelation, not because that message isn't true, but because it fails to ask the right question. We must always be careful to read the Bible from a God-centered perspective. That is, rather than ask, "What does this book have to say to me?" We ought instead to ask, "What does this Book teach me about my Lord and His agenda?" It's not the first question is inappropriate; it isn't. But, it is not the first question to be asked of the Bible. Calvin once wrote that all true and sound wisdom consists in knowing God and then knowing ourselves. The knowledge of self can be achieved as we know God. To suffering Christians in the first century, John has a profound message about God: that Jesus Christ (who is God!) rules and reigns and will ultimately triumph. The Book of Revelation is principally about the triumph of Jesus Christ over every force of evil, the eradication of sin and death, and the renewal of all things! That's the message of Revelation.

Revelation is composed of a prologue (1:1–8), a body (1:9–22:5), and an epilogue (22:6–21). The prologue and epilogue are linked by repeated themes: an angel sent to show God's servants what must soon take place (1:1; 22:6, 16), blessings on those who keep the prophecy (1:3; 22:7, 9), John's self-identification (1:1, 4; 22:8), and the designation of God as Alpha and Omega (1:8; 22:13).

The general movement of the book is from "the things that are"—the first-century churches' present situation (chs. 2–3)—to "the things that are to take place after this," climaxing with the destruction of the enemies of God and his church and the presentation of the church as the Lamb's bride in a new heaven and earth (1:19; 4:1)

As many have recognized, the basic structure of Revelation follows the form of recapitulation. That is, the book is constantly covering the same general ground, returning to survey it on several occasions, on each of which further insight is provided. Also, the recapitulation of Revelation means that the order in which John received visions does not necessarily indicate the order of the events they symbolize.

For more, read [REVELATION: Themes + Outline](#)

QUESTIONS ON REVELATION CHAPTER 1

1. According to vs.1, what is the book of Revelation about? What is being revealed and unveiled?
2. Consider vs. 3. How does the message of Revelation become a blessing to us?
3. Consider some repeated phrases in the bookends of Revelation — 1:8; 21:6; and 22:13. What do these repeated statements about Jesus (and from Jesus) reveal and unveil to us about Jesus?
4. Much of the message of Revelation is full of vivid illustrations which are not meant to be taken literally but meant to help create mental pictures which indicate spiritual realities. Consider John's vision of the cosmic Christ is vs. 12-18. What are the details of the picture meant to convey to us about Christ?

5. One rule in interpreting Scripture is "the Bible can never mean what it never meant." Which means we always need to consider the original audience and what the message meant to them in order to figure out what it can possibly mean for us. Vs. 11 indicates 7 churches to whom this letter was addressed. If this book was written near of during the close of the first century, what do we know of their circumstances?
6. This book was meant to bring blessing (vs. 3), along with grace and peace (vs. 4), to it's readers and listeners. Why do you think this book seems to bring other things into the modern day church, e.g., confusing, fright, and division? How can this book become for you the source of blessing it was meant to be?

ASSIGNMENT FOR THE WEEK:

Consider the people in your life who are most antagonistic to Christianity. How might God use you to bring them to Christ? Pray for the salvation of someone you consider an unlikely convert. Ask God to increase your faith for this person.

NOTES:



CONNECT WITH GRACE GROUP:

Grace Groups are the primary way we disciple one another, connect with one another, encourage one another (Hebrews 10:24), and live out the mission of Grace Church.

Want to join one of our Community Groups? Get all the info on our web site:

www.GraceChurchofDunedin.com/grace-groups