

Tuesday Night Bible Study

REVELATION

SESSION ONE

Revelation 1:1 (CEB): *“The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place, and he made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, who testified to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw.”*

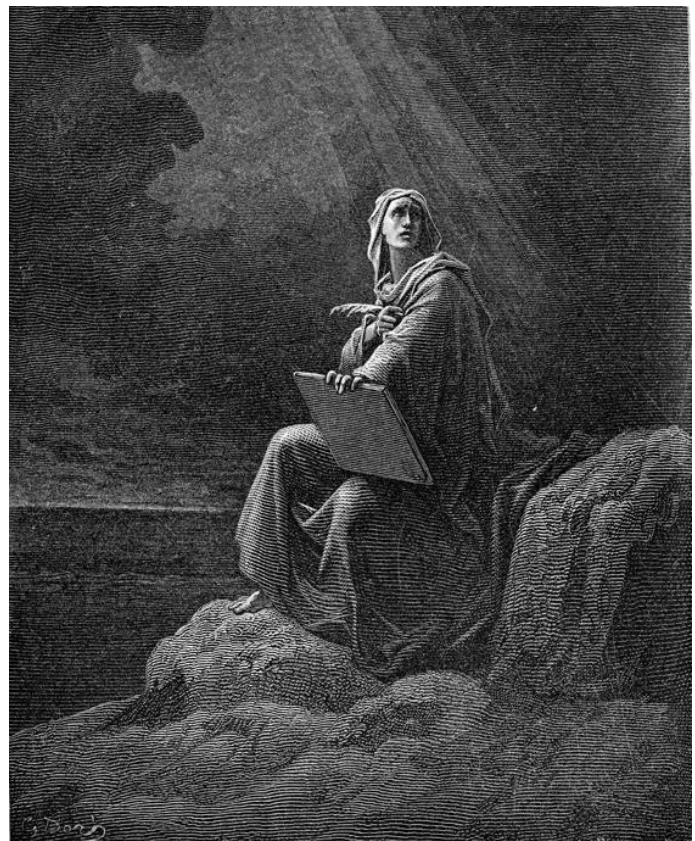
Apocalypse comes from the Greek *apokalypsis*, meaning "unveiling," "revelation," or "disclosure."

“John’s Revelation is not easy reading. Besides being a pastor, John is a poet, fond of metaphor and symbol, image and allusion, passionate in his desire to bring us into the presence of Jesus believing and adoring. But the demands he makes on our intelligence and imagination are well rewarded, for in keeping company with John, our worship of God will almost certainly deepen in urgency and joy.” — Eugene Peterson

The 7 Churches of Revelation



St. John at Patmos



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Seven Tips for Reading the Book of Revelation

1. **Have an open mind. Don't be scared or intimidated.**
Revelation was written to give the church encouragement and hope in the face of persecution. It was not written to scare us.
2. **Take it seriously, not literally.**
Symbols and images are used as metaphors to describe deeper truth. For example, Christ is portrayed as The Lamb representing love, sacrifice, and victory.
3. **Consider the genre: Apocalyptic Literature.**
The word *apocalypse* means "unveiling." Books like Daniel and Revelation use symbols and images to "unveil" a deeper truth.
4. **Remember the original audience.**
Revelation was first written to early Christians living under persecution, and it offers hope, guidance, and accountability in the midst of their suffering.
5. **Focus on the main message. Don't get stuck on the details.**
Ultimately, Revelation is about God's victory, Christ's faithfulness, and the promise that God will get God's way in the end.
6. **Look within the context of the greater biblical story.**
Revelation does not stand alone. It's important to read this book in context of the larger Biblical story.
7. **Don't attribute every symbol to today's headlines.**
This book was not written to be used as a codebook to predict modern events. Instead, it is a poetic letter that points to God's ultimate victory over sin and death.

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John's Vision of the Glorified Christ



Revelation 1:12b-16 (CEB): *I saw seven oil lamps burning on top of seven gold stands. ¹³ In the middle of the lampstands I saw someone who looked like the Human One. He wore a robe that stretched down to his feet, and he had a gold sash around his chest. ¹⁴ His head and hair were white as white wool—like snow—and his eyes were like a fiery flame. ¹⁵ His feet were like fine brass that has been purified in a furnace, and his voice sounded like rushing water. ¹⁶ He held seven stars in his right hand, and from his mouth came a sharp, two-edged sword. His appearance was like the sun shining with all its power.*

Daniel's Vision of the Heavenly Throne



Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 (CEB): *⁹ As I was watching, thrones were raised up. The ancient one took his seat. His clothes were white like snow; his hair was like a lamb's wool. His throne was made of flame; its wheels were blazing fire. ¹⁰ A river of fire flowed out from his presence; thousands upon thousands served him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood ready to serve him! The court sat in session; the scrolls were*

opened... ¹³ As I continued to watch this night vision of mine, I suddenly saw one like a human being coming with the heavenly clouds. He came to the ancient one and was presented before him. ¹⁴ Rule, glory, and kingship were given to him; all peoples, nations, and languages will serve him. His rule is an everlasting one— it will never pass away!— his kingship is indestructible.

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Discussion Questions

1. As we begin this study on the Book of Revelation, do you feel excited or anxious? When you hear the word *Revelation*, what comes to mind?
2. John uses symbols and images to reveal deeper truth. Can you think of a modern symbol, image, or story that communicates something true in a way plain facts cannot? How does that help you better understand why Revelation speaks the way it does?
3. Like an Impressionist's painting, John's vision isn't realistic, but it reveals something true. What truth about Jesus do you think John most wants us to see?
4. Chapter one of Revelation reminds us that Jesus is at the center of this revelation. How might we find ways to keep Jesus at the center of our lives?