

REVELATION

THE HOPE OF JESUS REVEALED

Part 1: What Is This?

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Revelation was never intended to scare you,
but to show you a more complete picture of Jesus.

Revelation 1:1 – The revelation of Jesus Christ

The Book of Revelation

A series of prophetic visions given by God to John, his friend

Terms

Millennium: 1000-year period of God's reign (Pre/Post/A)

Tribulation: 7-year period of trial and pain (Pre/Mid/Post Rap)

Rapture: When God takes his church away from the earth

Bema Seat: A reward seat for the faithful

Views

Preterist: Revelation was all fulfilled in the first few centuries of Christianity

Futurist: Revelation is yet to be fulfilled and is still to come

Historical: Revelation was fulfilled over the course of Western Christian history

Idealist: Revelation is being fulfilled symbolically throughout the history of the church

What it all boils down to: When is this crazy stuff going to happen, and in where do I fit in that order?

Players

Jesus Christ: Son of God and God the Son

Anti-Christ: ?

Two Witnesses: ?

The 144,000: ?

The Lamb: Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God

The Woman and the Dragon: ?

The Beasts: ?

The Four Horsemen: ?

The Rider on the White Horse: Jesus the Returning King

Numbers

12 and its multiples: God's people

10 and its multiples: Complete amounts of time

7: Perfection and completion; bowls, letters, trumpets, seals, angels, churches, Holy Spirit (7 spirits)

4: Winds, corners of the earth, horsemen

4 and 7 used together: 28 times as the Lamb of God, etc...

Why was this book written?

To uncover deception in the church

To encourage holiness in a dark world

To increase urgency of mission

To bring hope through Jesus to struggling Christians

Revelation 1:12-18

¹² I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³ and among the lampstands was someone like a son of man, dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. ¹⁴ The hair on his head was white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. ¹⁵ His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. ¹⁶ In his right hand he held seven stars, and coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.

¹⁷ When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. ¹⁸ I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.

Jesus is sovereign over all history, supreme above everything, a conquering Savior who redeems, a cosmic ruler of the universe, a coming king who will reign forever; fully man, fully God, the complete fulfillment of prophecy, the ultimate high priest; all-knowing, all-present, all-powerful, infinitely wise, unlimited in knowledge, holy in every way; possesses complete authority, is the author of salvation, the presiding judge; is the beginning and end of creation, was dead for a short time, alive for all time; perpetually pure, filled with grace and mercy, controls all that is beneath him. Jesus is incomparable!

Where is the hope?

The Jesus of Revelation 1 has everything under control.

Next Steps: Read Revelation Chapter 2 for next week.

Small Group Questions

- 1) What emotion strikes you when you hear the words "the end is near?"
- 2) What do you think of when you hear the word revelation? Read Revelation 1:1-3. Does this change your thinking? How?
- 3) Read the description of Jesus in Revelation 1:12-18. Which traits strike you? Why?
- 4) Did you learn anything new this week about the Book of Revelation or its purpose? What did you learn?
- 5) Who is Jesus to you?
- 6) What do you need prayer for today?