

Revelation:
the rest of the story

Lesson 16

Ready For Revelation

- General belief is that the book of Revelation was written by John who also authored the fourth gospel.
 - Revelation is the only book that motivates its readers by promising a blessing in the beginning and end to those who read and obey it. ([Revelation 1:3](#), [22:7](#))
 - The next page lists the seven blessings for Christians found in Revelations.
 - The word blessed means “happy, blissful, joyous”
- John is recorded as living in exile on Patmos, a tiny penal island off the coast of present-day Turkey when he had this vision.
 - On 39 occasions, John mentions that he was recording things he saw
- Both Daniel and John were old men when they received their visions; both had proven themselves unflappable in long lives of faithful service.
- Most scholars date the writing of the book of Revelation around 95 AD.
- Scripture is a guide for conduct as well as the source of doctrine. Seven times in the book of Revelation we read this phrase: He who has an ear, let him hear ([2:7](#), [11](#), [17](#), [29](#); [3:6](#), [13](#), [22](#)).
- What we read in this book should govern our conduct.
 - Our conduct today is affected by what we know of tomorrow.
 - Revelation tells us of God’s plan for the future and assures us that we are on the winning side.
 - The devil has turned thousands of people away from this portion of God’s Word.
 - The devil does not want us to know that he himself is defeated.

Revelation Blessings

The Beatitudes of Revelation

1. Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it. ([Revelation 1:3](#))
2. Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on. ([Revelation 14:13](#))
3. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame. ([Revelation 16:15](#))
4. Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb. ([Revelation 19:9](#))
5. Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be the priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years. ([Revelation 20:6](#))
6. Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book ([Revelation 22:7](#))
7. Blessed are those who do his commandments that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. ([Revelation 22:14](#))

Remember That There Are Four Ways To Read End Times Texts

Four Views	How Revelation is viewed	More About This View
Futurist	Revelation is prophecy primarily about the future end of the world	In the futurist view, all or nearly all of Revelation is yet to occur. Revelation is a prophecy that describes the end of time and the years leading immediately to the end. Dispensational premillennialist as well as some historic premillennialists interpret Revelation in this way.
Historicist	Revelation is prophecy about church history from the time of John to the end of the world	Historicists view the events in Revelation as symbolic descriptions of historical events throughout church history. (Some futurists also understand the Seven Churches in a historic manner, treating each church as descriptive of a particular era of church history.
Idealist	Revelation is a non historical and non-prophetic drama about Spiritual realities	This perspective seems to have originated among ancient Alexandrian theologians, who frequently spiritualized and allegorized biblical texts, but this view also has contemporary followers
Preterist	Revelation is prophecy that was fulfilled primarily in the first century AD	“Partial Preterism” views most of Revelation as prophecy fulfilled in the first century AD, though final chapters of Revelation describe future events to occur at the end of time. “Full Preterists” contend that the return of Jesus described in Revelation 19 was spiritual and occurred in AD 70. Christians throughout church history have understood full preterism to be a heresy. Preterists are typically amillennialists or postmillennialists, though some historic premillennialists might fit in this category.

Behold The Son

- The first 5 chapters sets the stage for the judgments that will be poured out upon mankind during the 'great distress'
- These chapters only briefly studied in this series. Worthy of more in depth study.
- Read [Revelation 1:1-7](#)
 - The time is near
 - God gave this revelation to Jesus so that his followers would know what was soon to happen
 - It is important to God for us to know what lies ahead and to keep our focus on the finish line which is the glorious appearing of our great God and savior, Jesus Christ (Titus 2:13)
 - Blessings upon those who ...
 - Who reads the words of this prophecy
 - Who hear the prophecy and take the prophecy to heart

The Time Of Prophecy Is Near

- A kingdom and a priest
 - Jesus has made those he has freed from their sins by his blood to be a kingdom to serve His God and Father
 - Jesus has made each individual to be a priest to serve His God and Father.
- Read [Revelation 1:12-18](#)
 - The glorified Christ
 - Jesus reveals himself to John as the glorified “son of man” who having died, is alive forever and reigns as “the Living One” with power and authority over death and Hades.
 - John is overwhelmed and falls limp at Jesus feet.
 - Jesus revives John and tells him he has nothing to fear
 - As the eternal and exalted God, Jesus has all existence under his control

Seven Churches

- Read [Revelation 2-3](#)
- Some scholars believe the seven churches to represent successive periods of church history.
- Some scholars believe the seven churches to be first century churches located in present day Turkey
- The Seven Churches:
 - Ephesus
 - Smyrna
 - Thyatira
 - Pergamum
 - Sardis
 - Philadelphia
 - Laodicea

Vision Of The Throne

- Read [Revelation 4](#)
- John's vision of the glorified Christ in [Revelation 1:12-18](#) is followed by a view into heaven in Chapter 4
- "Come up here"
- Shown a majestic vision of God's throne surrounded by twenty-four elders and four living creatures.
 - Compare these passages to [Ezekiel 1:25-28](#) which offers a more detailed description of the four living creatures and the appearances of the likeness of the glory of God.
- The Lamb: It is worth noting the different names and phrases John applies to the Son of God in the book of Revelation.
 - Only occasionally called "Jesus", "Christ", or "The Christ"
 - Typically Jesus is called "the Lamb"
 - On occasion: Jesus identified by various aspects of His person or by messianic titles ("Lion of the tribe of Judah", "the bright Morning Star")

Revelation 5: The Lamb

- The Lion that had triumphed:
 - The only one found worthy to break the seals of the scroll held in the hand of the One sitting on the throne was Jesus
 - Jesus is the “Lion of the tribe of Judah” (Messianic title)
 - Jesus had triumphed (endured His passion, routed death, accomplished our redemption, and received the Kingdom)
- The Lamb that was slain
 - Jesus takes the scroll from the right hand of the One seated on the throne.
 - The scroll contains God’s righteous judgments on an evil unbelieving world ([Isaiah 13:11](#)).
 - The living creatures, elders holding golden bowls full of the prayers of the saints, fell prostrate before the Lamb praising Him as worthy
 - The Lamb had purchased men for God with his blood. By contrast, those who refused God’s grace receive the brunt of what the scroll contains
- Praise To The Lamb
 - Living creatures and elders sing a song to the Lamb whose blood has ...
 - Purchased men for God
 - Made men to be a kingdom and priests
 - Men who will reign on earth with Jesus for God (See Revelation 20)
 - The entire angel realm and all creation then join together in a praisefest to the Lamb