

The Revelation | Apocalypse of Jesus Christ

27 February 2022
(part 1)

Questions for reflection & discussion

Summarize the message in your own words.

- What stood out for you?

Read Revelation 1:1-12

- How do you respond to these words?
- What resonates with you?
- Why is this such a powerful opening?

5 Key Ways to Read Revelation

- Honour the Title
 - Recognize that John is on Patmos
 - Keep the larger structure of the book in mind as you read
 - Put on prologue glasses
 - Adopt the posture of worship
- Why are each of these ways important?
 - In what way(s) to these ways of reading Revelation help us:
 - Live under pressure
 - Explain what's going on in the world
 - See Jesus more clearly
 - What does Apocalypse mean? How does this help you understand this Book better?
 - Pastor Mike said that we are to:
 - set the present moment in all of its uncertainty and anxiety in light of the unseen realities of the **future**
 - set the present moment in all of its uncertainty and anxiety in light of the unseen realities of the **present**
 - What does this mean, or look like in your life? How do you do this?
 - Bruce Metzger in *"Breaking The Code"* wrote: "The descriptions [of images in Revelation] are descriptions of the symbols not the reality conveyed by the symbols."
 - Why is this important to understand?
 - Michael Wilcock wrote: "The best question you ask when reading this book is not **what happens next** but **what did John see next** that's because what John sees next might not happen next"
 - Why is this important?
 - How is this different from the way may read Revelation?

Outline of Revelation

The image of a door opening is a helpful way of understanding the **Apocalypse** [the unveiling, unboxing, revealing] of **Jesus Christ**

4:1	a door open in heaven
11:19	the temple of God which is in heaven was opened
15:5	the temple of the tabernacle of testimony was opened
19:11	"I saw heaven opened "

1	1:9	Jesus is standing among the 7 churches giving messages
2	4:1	We see Jesus the lamb sitting in the center of the throne
3	11:19	This section is bracketed by " <i>I saw a sign</i> "
4	15:5	7 bowls of judgment leading up to John having a vision of the destruction of Babylon
5	19:11	Jesus emerges on a horse, his name is word of God, his robe is dipped in blood

We will unpack these over the next few weeks.

A key, but often overlooked, statement in the prologue (opening verses) is **1:5** "*To Him who loves us...*"

- Why is this such a vital verse?
- What other passages point to the fact that **Revelation** is a love letter?
- Pastor Mike said "If we end up anywhere else but at the feet of Jesus we've read the book wrongly."
- Why is this so different than how many view this Book?