

# READING THE REVELATION

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## INTRODUCTION TO THE REVELATION

### Overview

“John’s apocalypse is a magnificent message of the salvation that is available in Jesus Christ. The book blesses all who ponder it and sternly warns those who oppose Christ and the Good News. The unfolding drama of the book stretches the imagination while bearing witness to God’s supreme power. Its visions describe the plight of Christians, God’s judgments on their persecutors, and eternal hope and promise for God’s faithful people” (NLT Illustrated Study Bible).

### Big Idea

The devil is at war with God, God’s Son, and God’s people in a battle for dominion. But the world is the Kingdom of our God and of his Christ who reigns forever (Revelation 11:15). Therefore, Christians must stand firm in the faith in order to live and reign with him.

### Takeaway

We boldly profess King Jesus as God and Savior.

### REVELATION 1:1-8

These verses introduce us to the book. They give us three insights: 1) The Revelation is a revelation from God, 2) it is a letter from John, 3) it is addressed to seven churches in the Roman province of Asia.

### REVELATION 1:9-20

These verses are a vision of the exalted Jesus Christ, who is Lord of the church.

## **REVELATION 2**

This chapter, contains letters from Jesus Christ to four churches. Listen for three things: 1) how Jesus introduces himself to each church, 2) his evaluation of each church, 3) the repeated phrase, “to the one who conquers,” and 4) the promises Jesus makes.

## **REVELATION 3**

This chapter, contains letters from Jesus Christ to three churches. Listen for the same four things.

## **REVELATION 4**

This chapter describes a vision of the throne room of heaven. At the center of it all is holy, holy, holy God - the everlasting Lord God Almighty.

## **REVELATION 5**

This chapter reveals the ascended Jesus Christ receiving a scroll - the ownership deed of the world, which he purchased with his blood. Along with the deed, he receives praise and honor from the heavenly host.

## **REVELATION 6**

This chapter introduces the seven seals on the scroll. As each seal is opened, a fresh judgment is unleashed. This vision helps Christians to understand what’s happening in the world.

## **REVELATION 7**

This chapter envisions God's people sealed by God as a sign of his ownership and protection. No matter what happens in the world, God looks after his people.

## **REVELATION 8**

This chapter continues the visions of judgment on earth. The symbolism of seals gives way to trumpets, but the message is the same: the world is the way it is because it is under judgment.

## **REVELATION 9**

The vision of judgments continues.

## **REVELATION 10**

This chapter reveals Jesus as Lord over the earth and sea. John is re-commissioned as a prophet to the world. This is intended to give his readers confidence in the message of the book.

## **REVELATION 11**

The purpose of this chapter, is to assure God's people that, in spite of suffering, God protects his people and advances his plans because he is the ruler of the world. Even if we are martyred, God will raise us up to heaven.

# REVELATION 12

This chapter draws back the curtain on the unseen war between God and Satan, and between Satan and the church. The message: God wins!

## CORNERSTONE GROUPS - TALK IT OVER

Pick one or more of these questions to discuss this week.

**Start Thinking.** Review Sunday's teaching.

- Review Sunday's study guide.
- Reading twelve chapters instead of preaching a sermon may be unusual, but what was the spiritual impact in your life as you listened to the Word of God?
- What main message, idea, principle, or insight did you receive from hearing the Revelation?
- Read Revelation 11:15-29. What difference does it make to the worldwide church that God rules the world - in spite of appearances?

**Start Sharing.** Apply Sunday's teaching.

- How does the vision of the risen and ruling Jesus affect your commitment to follow him in spite of difficulty and opposition?
- Do the visions of unbelievers refusing to repent and turn to the Savior fill you with empathy or frustration or what?
- How do you plan to boldly profess King Jesus as God and Savior?

**Start Praying.** Be bold.

*Father, we praise and magnify your great Name. You are the ruler of all things. Yes, Satan and his allies continue to oppose you and the unbelieving people of the world will not repent and call on you to save them. Our hearts break for them. Please give us more grace to stand firm in the faith and to boldly proclaim King Jesus as God and Savior. In Jesus' Name. Amen!*

**Keep Reading.** In preparation for next Sunday.

1) Blessed: Intro and Chapter 1. 2) Watch Steve Gregg's overview of Revelation: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7wHMb14jt-o>