

Group Discussion Questions

Revelation 22

Revelation 22 - The River of Life and Jesus is Coming!

Read Revelation 22 aloud.

What are your initial thoughts after reading this chapter? What stands out to you the most?

Revelation 22:1-3

1. The river of the water of life and the tree of life recalls Eden before the fall. Read Genesis 2:8-17 and 3:22-24. How do the images in Revelation connect to the restoration of Eden?
2. In Revelation, what is the source of the river of the water of life?
3. What does the water being “bright as crystal” imply?
4. How does the depiction of the river and tree of life relate to the idea of God’s continuous provision and sustenance?

Revelation 22:3-5

1. Verse 3 says there will no longer be any curse. How would you explain, to an unbeliever, what that means? Read Genesis 3 and Romans 8:18-25. What specific curses are the results of Adam and Eve’s sin?
2. As far as our human imagination will allow, really think about and discuss what it will be like to live in eternity, where there is no curse.
3. What does it mean that God’s people will “see His face” and what are the implications of this? See Exodus 33:17-23, Matthew 5:8, 1 Corinthians 13:12, and 1 John 3:2
4. According to this passage, what else will we be doing in eternity? What does this stir up in you?

Revelation 22:6-21

1. Jesus declares, “Behold, I am coming soon” 3 times in this chapter (vv. 7, 12, and 20). What is significant about that repetition?
2. Read 2 Peter 3:8-13, Matthew 24:42-44, James 5:7-9, and Titus 2:11-15. How does the declaration that Jesus is coming soon affect our lives and influence our priorities?
3. What does it mean to “keep the words of the prophecy of this book?” (Keep istereo in Greek, meaning, to attend to carefully, take care of, to guard, to observe, to heed).
4. What does it practically look like to keep the words of the prophecy of this book?

5. John is corrected for worshipping an angel a second time (Rev. 19:10). What does this tell you about what John was experiencing? What lessons can we draw from this about proper worship?
6. Why was John told not to seal up the prophecy of this book? (Daniel 12:4,9; Mark 1:15)
7. What does it mean when Jesus says “Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me?”
Recompense (Misthos, in Greek) means wages (dues paid for work) or reward and punishment. We know that Jesus giving to everyone according to his or her work does not mean we are saved by our works but it does show that living faith will have works with it (James 2:20, Titus 3:8). See also Luke 12:35-48 and 1 Corinthians 3:10-15 for further reading and discussion on being rewarded.
8. How does it bring you comfort that Jesus is the “Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end?”
9. Compare and contrast those who enter the city and those who are excluded from the city. How do the blessed wash their robes?
10. In what ways is Jesus both the Root and the Morning Star? (See Isaiah 11:1,10 and Numbers 24:17).
11. Verse 17 is an invitation to the spiritually thirsty. How does this summarize the gospel? What does it look like to be “thirsty” spiritually? How does recognizing our thirst help us depend more fully on Jesus?
12. In the context of vv. 18-19, how important is it to handle God’s Word with integrity and truth, and what are the implications of not doing so? Where do people today add or subtract from God’s Word, particularly in Revelation? In what ways are you personally tempted to add or subtract in your interpretation of God’s Word? Why is Scripture its own best interpreter?
13. How do the final words, “Come, Lord Jesus!” shape our prayer life and daily perspective? Would you say you long for Christ’s return? Why or why not?
14. How does the benediction in verse 21 reflect our daily need for God’s grace?

Conclusion:

We’ve made it to the end of Revelation!

1. What are 2-3 major takeaways you learned during our time in Revelation?
2. In last week’s sermon, Pastor Benji said “ “That day” should have an impact on how we live today”. Is there any area of complacency in your spiritual walk because you are sure of your ultimate heavenly destination? How is your spiritual walk advancing the Kingdom of God?
3. How has Revelation blessed and challenged you personally?
4. Perhaps the Spirit has prompted, challenged or encouraged you. Take some time to respond to the Lord in confession, obedience, and or praise.

Group Discussion Questions

Revelation 20-21

Revelation 20 - The Thousand Years

Read Revelation 20 aloud.

Revelation 20:1-3

- Who comes down from heaven, and what authority is given to him?
- What happens to Satan during the thousand years?
- What is the stated purpose of Satan's imprisonment?
- What does this teach us about God's absolute control over Satan?
- Read 1 Peter 5:8-1. What does this teach us about Satan's work now and our response to it?

Revelation 20:4-6

- Who sits on the thrones, and what responsibility are they given?
(Possibilities: Matthew 19:28 and/or Revelation 4:4)
- Who else is said to live and reign with Christ for a thousand years?
(See Revelation 2:26-28 and Revelation 3:21-22)
- Why do you think special recognition is given to Tribulation saints?
- What is the difference between the "first resurrection" and the "second death"?
See Revelation 20:13&14 and John 5:28-29
- Read Revelation 20:6. Have you ever heard of a king sharing His reign and rule with others? What does this tell you about Jesus?

Revelation 20:7-10

- What happens when Satan is released at the end of the thousand years?
- Why do you think Satan is released after being bound for so long?

"In this we see more of the important reason God has for the Millennial Kingdom and allowing this final rebellion. For all of human history, man has wanted to blame his sinful condition on his environment. "Of course I turned out the way I did. Did you see the family I came from? Did you see the neighborhood I grew up in?" With the Millennial Kingdom of Jesus, God will give mankind a thousand years of a perfect environment — with no Satan, no crime, no violence, no evil, or other social pathology. But at the end of the 1,000 years, man will still rebel against God at his first

opportunity. This will powerfully demonstrate that the problem is in us, not only in our environment.” David Guzek

- What does this quote tell you about the hearts of men?
- How is the final rebellion described?
- What ultimately happens to Satan?
- Where do you see spiritual opposition in your life—and how does this text give you hope?
- How can you cling to God’s promise of final victory when you feel discouraged?

Revelation 20:11-14 - The Great White Throne Judgment

- Describe the One seated on the great white throne.
- What books are opened, and what is in them?
- How are people judged according to the text?
- What does this scene reveal about God’s justice and holiness?
- What gives you the most hope as you read this chapter?
- What challenges you the most?
- How might this chapter encourage you in a season of suffering, uncertainty, or waiting?

Revelation 21 - The New Jerusalem

Read Revelation 21 aloud.

- What are your initial thoughts after reading this chapter? What stands out to you most?
- The new heaven and the new earth are established as prophesied in Isaiah 65:17-19, Psalm 102:25-27, and 2 Peter 3:12-13.
- Coming down from heaven is the new Jerusalem, the Holy City, dressed beautifully for her husband. While the Holy City is ascending, an announcement came from the throne.

Revelation 21:3-4. What are the similarities between these verses and Exodus 6:6-8?

- Read the following verses: Exodus 25:8, Exodus 29:45-46, Leviticus 26:11-12, Ezekiel 37:26-27, Psalm 132:13-14, Isaiah 7:14.
- What do these Old Testament verses tell us about God’s desire to dwell with His people?
- How does He dwell with us now? See John 1:14, John 14:23, 1 Cor 3:16, 2 Cor 6:16, Eph 2:22

- Revelation 21:4 is one of the most quoted scriptures in the Bible. What encouragement do you receive from this passage?

Revelation 21: 5-8 God is speaking directly to John here. He is making all things new. Why does God emphasize that His words are “faithful and true”?

- What does it mean to you that God is the “Alpha and the Omega”? Why is this important knowledge for the believer?
- What does the promise to “the one who overcomes” teach us about perseverance in the Christian life?
- How does Romans 8:31-39 offer us encouragement as we persevere?
- How can the hope of renewal help you endure suffering or trials?

Revelation 21:9-21 The Bride, the wife of the Lamb

- How is she described? What are we meant to understand about the Holy City from this description?
- How does Ephesians 2:19-22 help us understand Revelation 21:9-21?

Revelation 21:23-26

- What is the significance of the city having no temple?
 - How do you understand the statement that “the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple”?
 - What does it mean that the city doesn’t need the sun or moon because God’s glory lights it?
 - How should the reality of God’s presence shape the way we worship today?
 - What does it mean that nothing unclean will enter the city?
 - What are you most thankful for as you read this chapter of Scripture?
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Group Discussion Questions Revelation 19

Have 3 people read Revelation 19 aloud:

- Reader 1 - Revelation 19:1-5
- Reader 2 - Revelations 19:6-10
- Reader 3 - Revelations 19:11-21

Rejoicing in Heaven - Revelation 19:1-5

Chapter 19 begins with heavenly voices praising God for executing judgment on the "*great prostitute*".

- Why would the great multitude in heaven rejoice at the judgment of the "*great prostitute*"?
- Read **Revelation 6:10**. How is God's judgment the answer to the martyred saint's prayers?
- What does God's judgment of the "*great prostitute*" say to you about the character of God?
- In the context of God's judgment on Babylon, how should Christians view worldly systems that oppose God?

The Marriage Supper of The Lamb - Revelation 19:6-10

This Marriage Supper of The Lamb is a symbolic union of Christ with His Church, which occurs after the Church is prepared and purified, not by its own merit, but by the righteousness of Christ.

- Why do you think the praise recorded in this section is so loud and enthusiastic?
- Have you ever been in an environment where several thousand voices were singing God's praise? If so, what was that like for you? How do you think that will compare to Heaven?

The **marriage of the Lamb**, who is the Messiah, is a picture used frequently throughout the Scriptures.

- In the Old Testament, Israel is presented as God's wife, who is often unfaithful (Read **Hosea 2:19-20** and **Isaiah 54:5**).
- In the New Testament, the church is presented as the fiancé of Jesus, waiting for this day of marriage (Read **2 Corinthians 11:2** and **Ephesians 5:25-32**).

- What did you see or hear as these passages were read?

Verse 7 states, “*And His bride has made herself ready*”.

- What do we do to make ourselves ready for this wedding?
- Read **Ephesians 5:25-27** once again to see what Christ does to prepare us for the wedding.
- How can the scene of the marriage supper of the Lamb provide comfort to those facing difficulties and persecution?

In **verse 10** John falls at the feet of the angelic being to worship him.

- What did the angelic being say to John?
- Why are we not supposed to worship angelic beings?

The Rider on the White Horse - Revelation 19:11-21

Jesus’ appearance is both glorious and terrifying to His enemies. He is described with "a sword coming out of his mouth," and His robe is "dipped in blood," indicating His victory over His enemies.

- Why would Jesus’ appearance be terrifying to His enemies?

Jesus returns in glory on a white horse, described as "*KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS,*" with the armies of heaven following Him.

- What does the depiction of Christ on the white horse teach us about His role in the end times?
 - Compare the picture of Jesus here in **Revelations 19:11-21** to that of His triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday in **Luke 19:28-40**.
 - What are the similarities?
 - What are the differences?
 - What do we learn by comparing these two pictures?
 - How does recognizing Jesus as "KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS" impact your daily life and decision-making?
 - What practical steps can you take to stand firm in your faith, knowing you are part of Christ's victorious army?
 - How should the truths in **Revelation 19** shape our evangelistic efforts?
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Group Discussion Questions

Revelation 17-18

Revelation 17

1. Why is the world system portrayed as a woman (the great prostitute) seated on a beast in Revelation 17:1-6?
 - How does this image reveal the relationship between spiritual compromise and worldly power?
 - In what ways does this contrast with the image of the bride of Christ in Revelation 21-22?
2. The seven heads and ten horns represent the fullness of oppressive power rather than individual rulers.
 - What does this teach about the recurring nature of evil throughout history?
 - How can recognizing this symbolism help believers remain discerning in every generation?
3. Verse 15 explains that the prostitute sits on many waters, symbolizing peoples, nations, and languages.
 - What does this tell us about the global reach of worldly corruption?
 - How might the church today guard against being influenced by that same system?
4. The beast and the woman appear distinct but are deeply intertwined—the beast representing political-military power and the woman symbolizing cultural-religious seduction.
 - How do these dimensions of opposition to God work together in the world?
 - What parallels can be seen in today's society between political systems and cultural compromise?
5. Revelation 17:16-17 shows the beast and its allies turning on the prostitute, fulfilling God's sovereign purpose.
 - What does this teach about God's control even over rebellious powers?
 - How does this encourage believers facing persecution or corruption in high places?
6. Revelation 17 may not move the narrative forward chronologically but provides an in-depth explanation of Babylon's judgment.
 - Why might God reveal these details before the final judgment scenes?
 - How does this structure strengthen our understanding of God's justice?
7. Application:

- If Babylon represents systems of religious compromise and economic exploitation, what “modern Babylons” might believers face today?
- What does it practically mean to remain distinct from such systems while still engaging the world?

Revelation 18

1. Chapter 18 shifts the focus from religious corruption to economic idolatry—greed, luxury, and injustice.
 - How do these two chapters together form a complete picture of Babylon’s influence?
 - Why does Scripture treat economic exploitation as a spiritual issue?
2. The kings, merchants, and shipmasters mourn Babylon’s destruction in 18:9-19.
 - What does their grief reveal about where their hope and identity were placed?
 - How can this passage challenge our own attitudes toward wealth and success?
3. The fall of Babylon is both already certain through Christ’s victory and not yet complete until His return.
 - How does this “already-and-not-yet” reality affect the way we live now?
 - How does hope in Babylon’s eventual downfall shape the church’s mission and endurance?
4. The command, “Come out of her, my people” (18:4), calls for moral and spiritual separation.
 - What might “coming out” look like for Christians in today’s culture?
 - How can believers remain faithful without retreating from the world altogether?
5. Revelation’s imagery draws heavily on the Old Testament prophecies of Babylon’s fall, especially from Isaiah and Jeremiah.
 - What does this continuity reveal about God’s consistent opposition to pride, idolatry, and oppression?
 - How does understanding these allusions deepen our appreciation for God’s justice across redemptive history?
6. Application:
 - What aspects of modern life—entertainment, economy, politics—mirror the spirit of Babylon?
 - How can the church model integrity, generosity, and holiness in the midst of such a culture?
 - In what ways should believers live with open hands toward possessions, status, and comfort in light of Revelation’s warning?

Combined Reflection – Revelation 17 & 18

- How do these two chapters reveal the unity between religion, politics, and economics in the world's rebellion against God?
 - What do these visions teach about the church's calling during the present age of tension between Christ's reign and the world's system?
 - How does the fall of Babylon motivate believers toward faithful endurance and holiness?
 - What comfort does God's sovereignty over Babylon give to those suffering under unjust or idolatrous systems?
 - How can this passage be preached and lived out so that it challenges worldly compromise while encouraging hope in Christ's ultimate victory?
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Group Discussion Questions Revelation 15-16

Revelation 15 - The Seven Angels with Seven Plagues

Read Revelation 15 aloud.

Revelation 15:1- 4

1. Why were these plagues called the “last?”
2. Those who conquered the beast and its image are standing beside the sea of glass which John previously described in 4:6. What about the sea of glass now appears to be different? What might that represent?
3. Those who conquered now sing the song of Moses (Exodus 15:1-18, celebrating Israel’s exodus from Egypt) and the song of the Lamb (Revelation 5:9-10, telling of a greater redemption of a new kingdom of priests). How does understanding the context of the song of Moses and the Lamb contribute to its significance in this chapter?
4. What aspects of God’s character do they praise?
5. What can we learn from this song about worship? How does this encourage you in your personal worship with God?

Revelation 15:5-8

1. What is the significance of the smoke filling the temple? How does it relate to God’s glory and power?
2. Read Exodus 40:34-35 (the completion of the tabernacle) and 1 Kings 8:10-11 (the dedication of the temple). Why do you think no one could enter the sanctuary until the plagues were finished?

Revelation 16 - The Seven Bowls of God’s Wrath

Read Revelation 16 aloud.

The Bowls of God’s Wrath - these bowls are the third woe described in Revelation 11:14 and the final and complete outpouring of God’s wrath and judgment.

1. According to verse 2, who are the ones being affected?

The Bowls

1. Take some time to look at each bowl and the judgment that is given. What are some observations you made?

Some things you may notice: Some of the bowls mirror the plagues in Egypt (Exodus 7-11). The bowls are growing in intensity: The seal judgments affect $\frac{1}{4}$ of the earth, the trumpet judgments $\frac{1}{3}$ and the bowl judgments now affect all that is remaining. The bowls are directed against natural elements (boils on people, sea turning to blood, fresh water polluted, and the sun scorching people) and against the beast and his government (darkness affecting his kingdom, Euphrates river being dried up to make way for armies to gather for a great battle).

2. The bowls intensify progressively. What does this escalation teach us about the cost of ongoing rebellion? How do the bowls reflect God's response to sin? How does it challenge you to see sin as God sees it?

The Human Response

1. What are your observations of man's response to each bowl?
2. What can we learn from the repeated refusal of the people to repent despite the calamities?
3. This chapter shows that suffering does not automatically lead to repentance. Why do you think the human heart can become so hardened against God? How does suffering either soften hearts or harden them?
4. Can you think of a time God used difficulty to draw you closer instead of turning away?

God's Character and Our Response

1. How does Revelation 16 balance God's holiness, justice, patience, and sovereignty? Which attribute stands out most to you in this chapter and why?
2. In verses 4-7 the angel pours out God's wrath on the world and at the same time praises God for His justice. How can an agent of God's wrath praise Him even while executing His judgment?
3. In verses 4-7 God's judgment is described as true and just. Why is it comforting to know that judgment belongs to a perfectly holy God instead of people? How would your view of God change if there was no final judgment?
4. How does seeing all the bowls together and what you've already read in the previous chapters shape your understanding of God's patience before judgment?

God has the final word in verse 7 when He says, "It is done!", echoing Christ's words on the cross, "It is finished" (John 19:30).

1. What is the significance of God having the final word?

2. How does this promise comfort and strengthen believers today?
3. How does knowing the end encourage us to live faithfully now?

Group Discussion Questions

Revelation 14

Revelation 14 - A Message of Hope and Warning

Read Revelation 14 aloud.

Revelation 14: 1-5: The Lamb and the 144,000

Here we see three important figures:

The Lamb - Jesus

- What do we see Jesus doing?

Mt. Zion - Originally the City of David (2 Samuel 5:6-7) Later the entire city of Jerusalem (Psalm 48)

- Why is Jesus standing on Mt. Zion significant? See Hebrews 12:18-24
- Who is standing with Him? What does this tell you about the 144,000?

The 144,000 - those who have His name and His Father's name on their foreheads, redeemed from the earth. (See Rev. 7: 1-8)

- What does it mean to have God's name written on one's forehead?
- What are they doing? Why were they doing this?
- What do v. 4-5 say about them?
- What can we learn from the faithfulness of the 144,000?

Revelation 14: 6-13: The Three Angels

What is the message of the first angel? The eternal gospel (v. 6)

- What is the instruction from the angel?

What is the message of the second angel? Babylon has fallen (v. 8) Babylon is a symbol for any anti-God systems, ideology or kingdoms that seek to exalt itself above God.

- What evidence can you think of that tells us that Babylon has not yet fallen?
- In what ways can a Christian strengthen their discernment of a Babylonian system, ideology or kingdom?
- What do 2 Corinthians 6:14 - 7:1 and Romans 12: 2 tell us about our relationship to the world?

What is the message of the third angel? Judgement is coming to those who worshipped the Beast and received his mark (v. 9)

- Describe the judgement coming to those who pledged their allegiance to the Beast in one word.
- v. 12 offers up a second call for endurance for the saints. See Rev. 13:10. The word *endurance* (*hoop-om-on-AY*), means the characteristic of a man who is not swerved from his deliberate purpose and his loyalty to faith and piety by even the greatest trials and sufferings. What does Romans 5:3-5 tell us about the relationship between suffering and endurance?
- V. 13 offers a promise for those who die in the Lord. What does it say about those who die in the Lord during this time? How can we see the mercy of God demonstrated here?

Revelation 14: 14-20: The Harvest of the Earth

- Compare Revelation 14:14 to Daniel 7:13-14. Who is described here? What is he preparing to do?
 - Compare Revelation 14:15 to Matthew 9:35-38. What is the difference? Why is it important to ask God to send out workers into his harvest field?
 - There are two harvests: the harvest of the earth and the harvest of the grapes. According to Enduring Word Commentary, “**For the harvest of the earth is ripe:** This ancient Greek word for **ripe** has a negative sense, “to become dry or withered.” The idea is of something that is *over-ripe*. This means that God will judge the earth only when it is *over-ripe* for judgment. He doesn’t rush into judgment.”
What does this say about the character of God?
 - Describe the judgement of the grapes. Why do you think it is so graphic?
 - Read Matthew 13:24-30 and Matthew 13:36-43. How do these passages help us understand the harvest of the earth?
 - What is our responsibility during these days in preparation for the harvest of the earth?
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Group Discussion Questions
Revelation 13
The Seventh Seal and the Golden Censer

1. From what we have discussed so far in our study of Revelation, what have you learned?
2. Read **Revelation 13** aloud (Reader 1 reads vss. 1-10; Reader 2 reads vss. 11-18)
3. As **Revelation 13** was read, what caught your attention? What stood out to you?

The First Beast

13 And I saw a beast rising out of the sea, with ten horns and seven heads, with ten diadems on its horns and blasphemous names on its heads. **2** And the beast that I saw was like a leopard; its feet were like a bear's, and its mouth was like a lion's mouth. And to it the dragon gave his power and his throne and great authority. **3** One of its heads seemed to have a mortal wound, but its mortal wound was healed, and the whole earth marveled as they followed the beast. **4** And they worshiped the dragon, for he had given his authority to the beast, and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast, and who can fight against it?"

4. The fact that the first beast had "*blasphemous names on its head*" should be an indication of the nature and character of the beast.
 - What do you think the character of the beast is like?
5. Revelation 12 gave us an indication of who the dragon was.
 - Who was the dragon?
 - What role does the first beast play to the dragon?
6. One of the heads of the first beast had a mortal wound. The wound was healed. The whole earth marveled as a result.
 - What does this say to you about the powers of the dragon and the beast?
 - What does this say to you about the world?
7. Why do you think our world is so enamored with authority (even when that authority is questionable at best)?

5 And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months. **6** It opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against God, blaspheming his name and his dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven. **7** Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them. And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation, **8** and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written

from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain.

9 If anyone has an ear, let him hear:

10

If anyone is to be taken captive,
to captivity he goes;
if anyone is to be slain with the sword,
with the sword must he be slain.

Here is a call for the endurance and faith of the saints.

8. In **verse 5** John records that the beast “*was allowed to exercise authority...*”

- Who allowed the beast to exercise authority?
- What does that say to you?

9. Why would God allow the beast “*to make war on the saints and to conquer them (vs. 7)*”?

10. Who **WILL** and **WILL NOT** worship the beast according to **vs. 8**?

11. The saint’s names appear to have “*been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb (vs. 8)*.”

- What does that say to you about God?
- As a saint (one declared righteous by God), what does that say to you about you?

12. Why is *endurance, perseverance, and faith* of the saints such a distinctive theme of Revelation (**vs. 10**)?

The Second Beast

11 Then I saw another beast rising out of the earth. It had two horns like a lamb and it spoke like a dragon. **12** It exercises all the authority of the first beast in its presence, and makes the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose mortal wound was healed. **13** It performs great signs, even making fire come down from heaven to earth in front of people, **14** and by the signs that it is allowed to work in the presence of the beast it deceives those who dwell on earth, telling them to make an image for the beast that was wounded by the sword and yet lived. **15** And it was allowed to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast might even speak and might cause those who would not worship the image of the beast to be slain. **16** Also it causes all,

both small and great, both rich and poor, both free and slave, to be marked on the right hand or the forehead, **17** so that no one can buy or sell unless he has the mark, that is, the name of the beast or the number of its name. **18** This calls for wisdom: let the one who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man, and his number is 666.

13. The second beast appears to encourage the earth to worship the first beast, whose mortal wounds were healed.

- What do you see going on here?
- Does this appear to be mocking or mimicking someone or something? If so, what?

14. **Vs. 13** tells us the second beast performs great signs.

- What would be the purpose of the performance of these great signs? (See **vs. 14** for a clue).

15. There appears to be a remnant of saints who “*would not worship the image of the beast* (**vs. 15**).

- What happens to them?
- Does that encourage you, discourage you, frighten you, or what?

16. The final cry of **vs. 18** says, “*this calls for wisdom.*”

- Why is wisdom such an important aspect to understanding the end times?
 - How is wisdom attained?
 - What are you doing to effectively grow in wisdom?
 - How can we pray for you as you seek to grow in wisdom?
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Group Discussion Questions

Revelation 12

What does the imagery of the woman clothed with the sun symbolize? (Compare Gen. 37:9–11; Isa. 26:17; Gal. 4:26.)

How might the male child who is to “rule all nations with a rod of iron” point to Jesus Christ? (See Ps. 2:7–9.)

How does the woman’s flight into the wilderness illustrate God’s protection of His people amid tribulation?

What parallels do you see between this scene and the church’s experience today?

What does the dragon’s defeat and expulsion from heaven signify about Christ’s authority and Satan’s limitation?

According to verse 11, believers overcome Satan “by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony.” What does this mean practically for Christians today?

How can we maintain joy and hope in spiritual warfare, knowing that Satan’s time “is short” (v. 12)?

How does this passage portray the ongoing spiritual conflict between the church and Satan throughout history?

What might the imagery of the serpent spewing water like a river represent?

What does this passage teach about God’s sovereignty and Satan’s limitations in the lives of believers?

In what ways do you see the reality of this spiritual battle playing out in your life, your church, or the broader culture?

How can understanding Revelation 12 strengthen your faith and endurance when facing trials or persecution?

What does it mean for the church to live with confidence in Christ’s victory, even while still experiencing conflict?

How can our “testimony” be a weapon in overcoming evil in today’s world?

What practical steps can believers take to remain spiritually vigilant, yet hopeful, in light of the dragon’s hostility and the Lamb’s triumph?

Group Discussion Questions

Revelation 11

Read Revelation 11 aloud. What are your initial observations about the text?

Revelation 11:1-2 - The Measuring of the Temple

1. Read Habakkuk 3:6, Zechariah 2:1-5, Revelation 21:15. What do you see the act of measuring symbolizes? What does it mean to measure those who worship? (Measuring in Scripture often communicates ownership, protection, and preservation).
2. John is told to measure the temple, altar, and worshipers, but not the outer court. How does this communicate God's care for His people?

Revelation 11:3-6 - The Two Witnesses

Commentary: There are different interpretations of who the two witnesses are. Whether they are two literal prophets or symbolically, the witnessing Church, we see they have been given special power and authority by God to preach a message of judgment and salvation.

1. Read Genesis 37:34, 2 Samuel 3:31, Matthew 11:21. What did sackcloth represent?
2. The olive trees provide oil for the lampstands, symbolizing continual, abundant supply. What then does the olive tree and lampstand represent in this passage?
3. How does this passage teach us about the role of God's people as witnesses in a hostile world and what qualities of the witnesses should the Church emulate?
4. How does it challenge us to proclaim truth in a culture that resists it?

Revelation 11:7-10 - The Witnesses Killed

1. Why do you think God allows His witnesses to be killed and mocked publicly?
2. The beast makes war on the witnesses, conquers and kills them, and the world rejoices over their death. Read also John 3:19-20 and 15:18-20. What does this teach us about the world's response to God's truth? How do we see that today?

3. Have you ever felt like standing for truth cost you something (relationships, comfort, reputation, etc.) or brought rejection or ridicule? How do we remain steadfast when our obedience leads to loss or our testimony is opposed?

Revelation 11:11-14 - The Witnesses Resurrected

1. How does the resurrection of the witnesses remind us of Christ's resurrection? (1 Corinthians 15:2-22)
2. Why do you think the Lord didn't allow them to preach after their resurrection as maybe more people would have come to faith after witnessing such a miracle? Let's remember Jesus' words in Luke 16:31.
3. In what ways does this scene give courage to believers facing hostility for their faith today?
4. How should Christians live in light of God's promise that His truth cannot be silenced?

Revelation 11:15-19 - The Seventh Trumpet and God's Kingdom

1. We read that loud voices proclaim, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ." How does this verse echo Psalm 2 and Daniel 7:13-14? What does it reveal about Christ's ultimate authority?
2. The elders worship God as He brings judgment and vindication. How do judgment and worship connect? (God's justice is not vindictive but holy and righteous. Worship flows from recognizing that He defends His people and sets all things right as seen in Exodus 15:1-18).
3. How can you cultivate a heart that worships God not just for His love and mercy, but also for His holiness and justice?
4. The temple is opened revealing God's ark of the covenant. In the Old Testament the ark was the earthly representation of God's throne symbolizing His presence, faithfulness, atonement, and covenant. How does the imagery of the Ark of the Covenant's revelation impact your perception of God and His promises?

Closing: Revelation shows the tension of the "already/not yet." Though Christ already reigns, His kingdom will be fully revealed at His return. How do we live in the "already/not yet" tension of God's Kingdom?

What stood out to you from today's passage and discussion? What is one specific thing you want to do or obey?

Group Discussion Questions Revelation 9

Revelation 9:1-12 - The Fifth and Sixth Trumpets, - The First and Second Woes

Begin by reading Revelation 8:13 - Revelation 9

The Greek word for “Woe” is *ouai* (oo-AH-ee). It is an interjection (expressing very strong emotion), it is a primary expression of grief.

In reading Revelation 8:13, what sense do you get from the eagle crying, “Woe! Woe! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth”?

How is it like the “half hour of silence” in heaven at the opening of the seventh seal in Rev. 8:1?

Revelation 9:1-12 - The Fifth Trumpet: The First Woe

Describe factually what happens after the fifth trumpet sounds.

The fallen star (v.1): Likely an angel, either fallen or sent by God, given authority to open the abyss.

The abyss (v.2): A prison-like place for demonic forces (see Luke 8:31).

The locusts (vv.3–10): Not ordinary insects but demonic beings with terrifying power.

- They torment, but do not kill.
- They are given limits: only 5 months, only those without God’s seal (see Rev. 7:3).
- Their descriptions (faces like humans, teeth like lions, wings, stings) emphasize their unnatural and terrifying nature.

Their king (v.11): The angel of the abyss, called Abaddon (Hebrew) and Apollyon (Greek), both meaning “Destroyer.”

The effect: Unrepentant humanity suffers torment so severe they desire death, but cannot find it (v.6).

Discussion Questions:

What does the description of the locusts teach us about the nature of evil and spiritual warfare?

Read Ephesians 6:12 & 13. What does this say about our own struggle with evil and how we are to fight it?

How should the knowledge of the reality of spiritual forces of evil affect the day to day living of a Christian?

Revelation 9:13-21 - The Sixth Trumpet: Four Angels Released

Describe factually what happens when the sixth trumpet sounds.

- **The command (vv.13–15):** Four bound angels are released at the Euphrates River. Their release was prepared for a specific time by God’s sovereignty.
- **The army (vv.16–19):** An enormous force—200 million mounted troops—described with terrifying imagery: fire, smoke, and sulfur from their mouths; serpent-like tails.
- **The result (v.18):** A third of mankind is killed.
- **The tragedy (vv.20–21):** Despite overwhelming judgment, humanity does not repent of idolatry, murders, sorcery, immorality, or theft.

Discussion Questions:

What goes through your mind as you read the details of the sixth trumpet?

Why do you think God allows demonic forces to bring judgment on humanity?

What do we see in Revelation 9:20-21? What leads to such a hardness of heart that even the death of a third of humanity doesn’t soften for repentance?

Read Hebrews 3:7-14. What leads to a hard heart? (a sinful, unbelieving heart, sins deceitfulness)

V. 12 says, “See to it, BROTHERS, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God.” What does it mean for Christians to “SEE TO” their hearts?

Both Christians and non-believers need repentance.

The greek word for repent is *metanoeo* (met-a-nah- AY-oh) It means a change of mind, involving a turning with contrition from sin to God. Used 34 times in the New Testament.

The first mention of this word came in Matthew 3. Read Matthew 3:1-3. Who is speaking here? John the Baptist was the fulfillment of the prophecy of Isaiah 40:3-5. What is he calling the people to do? Why?

What is our role in calling people to repentance as we approach the return of Christ and the days we read about in Revelation?

Why is calling people to repentance an uncomfortable thought?

Read 2 Corinthians 1:21-22 & Ephesians 1:13-14

How should the promise of God’s seal (protection) encourage believers today?

Reflection Question:

Is there anything that I need to repent of?

Is there someone in my life that I need to call to repentance?

Group Discussion Questions
Revelation 8
The Seventh Seal and the Golden Censer

1. From what we have discussed so far in our study of Revelation, what has been the most revealing to you?
2. Read **Revelation 8** aloud.
3. At first glance, what caught your attention? What stood out to you?

The Seventh Seal and the Golden Censer

Scripture:

8 When the Lamb opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. **2** Then I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them. **3** And another angel came and stood at the altar with a golden censer, and he was given much incense to offer with the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar before the throne, **4** and the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, rose before God from the hand of the angel. **5** Then the angel took the censer and filled it with fire from the altar and threw it on the earth, and there were peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning, and an earthquake.

Question:

4. Vs. 1 - Most of us struggle to sit in silence for 30 minutes. What do you think the silence in heaven was all about?

Commentary: Vs. 2 - In the Old Testament, **trumpets** sounded the alarm of war to throw the enemy into a panic; or they called an assembly of God's people. These **seven trumpets** will sound as God's battle-alarm during the great tribulation.

Question:

5. How does the imagery of the seven angels with trumpets serve the broader themes of Revelation?

Commentary: Vss. 3-5 - **And another angel:** Some see this **angel** as Jesus, functioning as a mediator and because of Old Testament references to Jesus as "the

Angel of the LORD.” Others say it could only be a mere angelic being because the specific ancient Greek word for **another** means “another of the same kind.”

Questions:

6. The angel appears to offer up the prayers of the saints. How does this compare to your understanding of prayer and intercession?
7. What does it say to you that your prayers are offered up before God by an angel?
8. How do the saints' prayers provide a source of hope in this chapter of judgments?

The Seven Trumpets

Scripture:

6 Now the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared to blow them.

7 The first angel blew his trumpet, and there followed hail and fire, mixed with blood, and these were thrown upon the earth. And a third of the earth was burned up, and a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up.

Commentary: there followed hail and fire, mixed with blood: Blood may indicate the *color* or the *result* of the phenomenon described here. We don't know if the **hail and fire** was red in color or if it brought forth red blood, but one way or another this should be understood straightforwardly, without escaping into a creative symbolism.

How will this happen? Many wonder if it will happen through phenomena we know today, like nuclear war, fallout, pollution, meteors, and so forth. These ideas are interesting and possible, but they should never obscure the essential truth: *God* brings judgment. He isn't a passive bystander. This is not “nature” taking its course.

Question:

9. How can Revelation 8's message of judgment inspire a deeper reverence for God?

Scripture:

8 The second angel blew his trumpet, and something like a great mountain, burning with fire, was thrown into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood. **9** A third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.

Commentary: The exact nature of the "**mountain**" is debated, with interpretations ranging from a large meteor to a symbol of a powerful, corrupt nation or system collapsing and causing widespread destruction to the world's trade and economy.

Scripture:

10 The third angel blew his trumpet, and a great star fell from heaven, blazing like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water. **11** The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many people died from the water, because it had been made bitter.

Commentary: **Wormwood** is a very bitter substance, and proverbial for bitterness and sadness.

Questions:

10. What is the significance of the '**Wormwood**' star and its impact?

Scripture:

12 The fourth angel blew his trumpet, and a third of the sun was struck, and a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of their light might be darkened, and a third of the day might be kept from shining, and likewise a third of the night.

13 Then I looked, and I heard an eagle crying with a loud voice as it flew directly overhead, "Woe, woe, woe to those who dwell on the earth, at the blasts of the other trumpets that the three angels are about to blow!"

Commentary: These first four trumpets reveal the severity of God's judgment. He attacks all the ordinary means of subsistence, such as food and water; and He attacks all the ordinary means of comfort, and knowledge, such as light and the regular rhythm of days.

Question:

11. How might the repeated phrase "a third" in the calamities denote divine precision in judgment?
12. How should the announcement of the three woes challenge our perspective on the world's future and our own life?

Personal Application:

13. How can Revelation 8 inform and inspire your prayers in times of global crisis?

14. How might Revelation 8's portrayal of divine intervention influence your approach to current events and your hopes for the future?
15. In your own life, how do you reconcile God's loving nature with the severe judgments described in Revelation 8?
16. How can the vision of divine judgment in Revelation 8 be a call to personal evangelism?

Group Discussion Questions **Revelation 7**

Study Guide for Revelation Chapter 7

Revelation symbolically depicts the church age between Christ's ascension and his return, with recurring cycles of judgment, protection, and victory for God's people rather than a strict chronological timeline of future events. In Revelation 6, the opening of the first six seals reveals God's sovereign judgments unfolding throughout history on a rebellious world. Revelation 7 serves as an interlude or "pause" before the seventh seal, answering the desperate question at the end of chapter 6: "Who can stand?" (Rev. 6:17) amid God's wrath. Revelation 7 is a source of encouragement for believers enduring hardships. The two visions—144,000 sealed on earth and the multitude triumphant in heaven—work together to show that God's people (the church, uniting Jew and Gentile) are spiritually protected through life's trials and destined for eternal worship. This assures believers that God is faithful to preserve every single one of his people, no matter the challenges, until they stand victorious before his throne. It comforts us by shifting our focus from present suffering to God's sovereign protection and the certain hope of eternal life, encouraging steadfast faith and worship now.

Read Revelation 7.

- 1. Read Rev. 7:1-3. Why do you think the angels are instructed to hold back the winds of judgment until God's people are sealed? What does this teach us about God's sovereignty and mercy in the midst of judgment?**
 - The restraint of the winds (symbolizing destructive judgments) until the sealing underscores God's sovereignty in controlling history's chaos and his mercy in prioritizing the protection of his people.
 - God's judgments throughout the church age are tempered to ensure the church's preservation, teaching us to trust his timing and care even when the world seems chaotic.
- 2. Read Rev. 7:3-4. What does the angel say? What does it mean that God's people are sealed? In what ways does knowing that we are sealed affect how we view our present suffering?**

- The angel instructs to hold back harm until God's servants are sealed on their foreheads. The "seal" symbolizes God's spiritual ownership, protection, and preservation of believers through the Holy Spirit (Eph. 1:13-14), not a literal mark. It assures us that amid historical tribulations and judgments (like those in the seals), God guards our faith and eternal security. This knowledge reframes present suffering as temporary and purposeful, encouraging endurance knowing we are eternally secure in Christ, not abandoned to destruction.

3. The number 144,000 gives us a symbolic picture of God's people. What might this communicate to us about God's people?

- It is a symbolic representation of the entire church as the fulfilled Israel of God (including Gentiles; cf. Gal. 6:16). It communicates the totality, order, and wholeness of God's redeemed—every believer is accounted for, like a perfected army or census, emphasizing that none are lost and all are protected under God's covenant promises amid the church age's trials.

4. Compare the description of the 144,000 in Rev. 7:4-8 with the great multitude in Rev. 7:9-10. How do these two images together strengthen our understanding of the church's identity and mission in the present age?

- These aren't two different groups of people but rather are 2 different vantage points to communicate to us the completeness and security of God's church throughout the age. The first vision (vv. 1-8) shows the church militant on earth, sealed and numbered for protection amid trials; the second (vv. 9-17) reveals the church triumphant in heaven, innumerable and victorious. Together, they assure believers that God fully preserves his people—complete in number and secure in salvation—despite ongoing persecutions and judgments in history. They affirm the church's identity as God's complete, global people, preserved through trials to fulfill its mission of worshiping God and proclaiming the gospel to all nations, encouraging us to participate in this mission now.)

5. In Revelation 7:9-17, John sees a great multitude from every nation worshiping God. What does this show us about God's plan for the nations?

- This vision of an innumerable crowd from every tribe, language, people, and nation worshiping the Lamb shows the universal scope of God's redemptive plan.
- It fulfills Old Testament promises (e.g., Gen. 12:3; Isa. 49:6) by depicting the gospel's triumph throughout history, gathering a diverse, global church.

- It counters any notion of exclusion, assuring that God's kingdom is not limited to one ethnicity but embraces all who wash their robes in the blood of the Lamb.
- 6. Revelation 7:14 mentions that the multitude came out of the “great tribulation.” What is the “great tribulation,” and how does this encourage believers facing challenges today?**
- The “great tribulation” refers not to a single future event but to the ongoing trials, persecutions, and spiritual battles believers face throughout the church age (John 16:33). This encourages us that suffering is not a sign of God’s absence but part of the path to victory. See Matthew 16:24; Hebrews 2:10; Isaiah 53:5; 1 Peter 2:21.
- 7. We read several promises in Revelation 7:15-17. What are they? How might these promises encourage the church to remain faithful in seasons of suffering or challenge? In what ways can these promises shape the church’s perspective on its present mission and endurance until Christ’s return? How does it encourage us to live faithfully now?**

Final thoughts:

Revelation 7 reframes present suffering as part of the ongoing tribulations in the church age, not ultimate defeat, since God's people are sealed and will stand victorious. It shifts our perspective from despair ("Who can stand?") to hope, knowing God’s judgments are restrained for the church's sake and all that endure will lead to eternal joy. Chapter 7 is a call to perseverance in witness, worship, and holiness—enduring trials with confidence in God's protection, joining the multitude's praise now through obedience, and sharing the gospel.

Group Discussion Questions

Revelation 6

1. Icebreaker

When you see bad news in the world like wars, disasters, or things that feel out of control, how do you usually react?

2. A Question for Accountability

Were you able to apply what we read together last week in your daily life?

- Celebrate obedience!
- Celebrate even small steps of obedience.
- Celebrate honesty if someone struggled - this is a safe place.

3. Read Revelation 1 Together

- Read the passage **twice**: first for the mind (understanding), then for the heart (what it stirs in you).
- After reading, **close your Bibles** and retell the main idea of the chapter as a group.
- Then reflect together:

Discussion Questions:

- What stood out to you from this chapter?
- What touched your heart or made you think?
- Was anything confusing or surprising?

Leader Tip: If the group drifts, ask: *“Where do we see that in this passage?”*

4. More discussion questions from chapter 6

1. Who is the One opening the seals? What does this show us about His power and authority?
2. What feels heavy or even scary when we read about the four horsemen?
3. Why do you think God allows war, famine, and suffering if He is in control?
4. How do these pictures in Revelation 6 help us see that this book still speaks into our world today?

5. What do we notice about the believers under the altar (the martyrs in the fifth seal)? What does God give them?
 6. The sixth seal shows a huge shaking of the earth and heavens. What does this teach us about God's coming judgment?
 7. What kind of hope or encouragement can we take as Christians from this chapter?
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5. Bonus questions

1. In chapter 6, powerful kings and rich people are terrified and try to hide, while the martyrs under the altar are at peace in God's presence. What does this show us about who is truly safe in the end?
2. If you knew that following Jesus might cost you your life, like the believers in the fifth seal, what would help you stay faithful?
3. When the world looks like it is shaking apart (like in the sixth seal), what does it mean for us that the Lamb is still the One opening the seals?

6. Obedience

What is **one specific thing** you want to do or obey from today's passage?

- Each response should begin with: "**I will...**"
- Be clear and specific.

Good Examples:

I will trust Jesus even when life feels uncertain.

I will pray for believers who are suffering.

I will read Revelation without fear this week.

I will remind myself daily that Jesus rules history.

I will share hope with someone discouraged.

Less Helpful Examples:

- I will be closer to God.
 - I will not be afraid.
 - I will be a better Christian.
-

6. Prayer

Close your group in prayer:

- Thank God
 - Ask God to give courage, wisdom, and joy as you go deeper into this book.
-

Group Discussion Questions

Revelation 5

The Scroll and The Lamb

Revelation 5 is a continuation of John's heavenly vision. After seeing God seated on the throne (Revelation 4), John sees a scroll in God's hand, sealed with seven seals. No one is found worthy to open it—until the Lion of Judah, the Lamb who was slain, steps forward. This chapter highlights Christ's worthiness, God's redemptive plan, and the ultimate victory of the gospel.

Read Revelation 5 aloud. What are your initial thoughts about what you've read?

The Scroll and God's Redemptive Plan (vv. 1-4)

Commentary: There are many different ideas around what the scroll is and what was written upon it, but we can see that it represents God's sovereign plan of judgment and redemption for history. The emphasis is on the seals and the One who is worthy to take it.

1. What does the sealed scroll reveal about God's control over history and redemption?
2. Why do you think John wept when no one was found worthy to open the scroll?
3. What does this reveal about our own inability to save ourselves apart from Christ? (Romans 3:10-12, Psalm 14:2-3)
4. How does this stir your confidence in God's sovereign plan even when it feels sealed or hidden?

The Worthy One: The Lion and The Lamb (vv. 5-7)

Commentary: The Lion of the tribe of Judah (Genesis 49:9-10, Isaiah 31:4, Hosea 11:10) and Root of David (Isaiah 11:1,10, Revelation 22:16) has been revealed. The elder says

the Lion of Judah has conquered, but John looks and sees a Lamb standing though it had been slain. Christ is seen as both the conquering Lion and the sacrificial Lamb.

1. What does a conquering Lion reveal about Jesus?
2. John sees a Lamb standing (alive) though it still had the marks of a sacrifice on it as it had been slain. In his writing, he used the specific word for a little (pet) lamb, signifying a “little” or “delicate” lamb. Really think about this image. What does this stir up in you? What does it reveal about Jesus? (Isaiah 53)
3. The seven horns symbolize great power (omnipotence) and the seven eyes represent knowledge and wisdom (omniscience). What else does this reveal about the slain Lamb?
4. Why is Christ’s death and resurrection the basis of His worthiness to open the scroll?
5. Which aspect of Christ do you tend to emphasize more - the Lion’s power or the Lamb’s sacrifice and why? How should both shape the way we live as Christ followers?
6. Imagine being present in this vision. How do you imagine you would have responded when Jesus approached the throne and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on it?

A New Song of Redemption (vv. 8-10)

Commentary: The elders and living creatures fall before the Lamb with harps and bowls of incense (symbolizing the prayers of the saints). They sing a new song celebrating redemption for every tribe, language, people, and nation.

1. What does the new song reveal about the scope and power of Christ’s redemption? (Psalm 96:1-3, Galatians 3:28)
2. In what ways does Jesus’ blood bring us into God’s kingdom and make us “priests to serve our God”? (1 Peter 2:9, Hebrews 10:19-22)
3. How does this vision of global worship encourage the Church’s mission today? (Matthew 28:19-20, Revelation 7:9-10)
4. How can we be more intentional in praying for and engaging with God’s global mission?

Worship and God’s Glory (vv. 11-14)

Commentary: Countless angels and all of creation joins in praise, declaring the worthiness of the Lamb because of the redemption He accomplished.

1. Why do you think John emphasizes the sheer number of angels and voices worshipping the Lamb? What does this show about Christ's glory? (Philippians 2:9-11, Psalm 148)
2. How does this vision of worship in heaven shape how we worship here on earth?
3. If worship is the ultimate response to the Gospel, what practical steps can we take this week to grow in a life of worship - both in church and in daily living?
4. If Heaven's focus is the Lamb, how can we re-orient our lives to be more Christ centered in our thinking, decisions, and worship?

Closing: Revelation 5 calls us to see Jesus as the center of God's plan, the only one worthy to redeem, and the ultimate focus of worship.

What stood out to you from today's passage and discussion? What is one specific thing you want to do or obey?

Group Discussion Questions
Revelation Chapter 4
The Throne in Heaven

Read Revelation aloud. What are your initial thoughts about what you've read?

What are your ideas about what heaven will be like? How were those ideas formed?

We have learned two truths about us in heaven from previous chapters in Revelation. What are they?

Revelation 2:7 - we will be permitted to eat from the tree of life.

Revelation 3:21 - we will sit on the throne with Christ.

1. How is the throne in heaven described in verses 2–3?

There is symbolism present in Revelation 4. Why do you think symbolism is used in the Bible and how is it helpful to our understanding of it?

- Surrounded by jasper and carnelian (precious stones—radiance, glory, purity, majesty).
- Encircled by a rainbow like an emerald—symbol of mercy and covenant (see Genesis 9).

2. Describe the 24 elders. What do they look like? (v. 4)

- Clothed in white (purity, victory) with crowns (reward, authority under God).

What do you think is the significance of the twenty-four elders seated around the throne?

Commentary: Elders represent the people of God, especially in the Old Testament. The 24 courses of the priesthood represented all the priests (1 Chronicles 24), and the 12 tribes and the 12 apostles represent *all* the faithful.

In Revelation 5:9-10, the twenty-four elders sang a song of praise to Jesus, and they cried out: *For You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood, out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation.* In that passage, the twenty-four elders clearly spoke as representatives of all God's people, of the great company of the redeemed.

What do they do in response to the cry of the four living creatures? (v. 10-11)

What do their actions imply regarding worship in heaven?

What might it look like for us to practice “casting our crowns” before God?

In what ways do we “hold onto our crowns” instead of laying them before God?

- When we cling to accomplishments, pride, or control.
- True worship means surrendering our achievements to God.

3. Describe what's coming from the throne. (v. 5) What similarities are found in Exodus 19:16-20 and 20:18-19?

What was the response from the Israelites to what they saw? Read Hebrews 4:16. What is our invitation? How is this possible for us?

V. 5 says, “Before the throne, seven lamps were blazing. These are the seven spirits or sevenfold spirit of God.”

Commentary: Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne: The Holy Spirit (the seven Spirits of God, as referred to in Revelation 1:4 and Isaiah 11:2) is represented by seven burning lamps. In other passages He is represented as a dove (Matthew 3:16) or a flame of fire (Acts 2:3).

The lamps of fire are important because the Holy Spirit is not *ordinarily* visible. To become visible, He represents Himself in a physical form like a dove or a tongue of fire.

V. 6 adds, “Before the throne *there was a sea of glass, like crystal.*”

Commentary: A sea of glass: Is this sea really made of glass, or did it just look like it? Commentators are divided on this point. For example, Robertson says, “appearance, not

material” and Alford says, “material, not appearance.” Whether it *looks* like glass or is actually *made of glass*, it is the *finest* glass, like crystal.

A sea: This body of water before the throne is reminiscent of the laver in the Tabernacle, and our *washing of the water of the word* (Ephesians 5:26).

“The word is to us a crystal glass, giving us a clear sight of God and of ourselves, 2 Corinthians 3:18; James 1:23.” (Trapp)

What are we to learn from the descriptions of what comes from the throne and what surrounds the throne?

6. How are the four living creatures described (vv. 6–8)?

- Lion, ox, man, eagle, full of eyes, winged

a. Four living creatures full of eyes: From comparison with Ezekiel 1:4-14 and 10:20-22, we understand these creatures to be *cherubim*, the spectacular angelic beings surrounding the throne of God. Satan was once one of these high angelic beings, according to Ezekiel 28:14.

What do the living creatures continually proclaim about God (v. 8)?

How are we to practice the continual worship of God here on earth?

7. What situations in your life would look different if you remembered that God is enthroned?

Group Discussion Questions Revelation Chapter 3

1. This is now our 3rd week in **Revelation**. What have you learned so far? What has been most surprising to you?
2. Read **Revelation 3** aloud.
3. What are your initial thoughts and impressions from this chapter?

To the Church in Sardis

4. Read **Revelation 3:1-6** once more.
5. To this point, the address to each church has begun with, “*And to the angel of the church in...write...*” Does every church have an angel? If so, what would be the angel’s purpose?
6. We understand God to be Triune - God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. He obviously doesn’t have seven Spirits (vs. 1). Read **Isaiah 11:2-5** to get an understanding of what this phrase may mean.
7. Jesus starts first with a correction of the church in Sardis. What is the correction?
8. Jesus uses the phrase, “*Wake up!*” How does a church fall asleep?
9. He also uses the phrase, “*and is about to die...*” (vs. 2). Can a church die? If so, how?
10. Two key words Jesus uses in vs. 3 are *remember* and *repent*. Why are those two words so crucial to any church?
11. What does the phrase, “*have not soiled their garments*” (vs. 4) mean?
12. The phrase, “*The one who conquers...*” is used in vs. 5. Describe the characteristics or attributes of a *conqueror* or an *overcomer*. Now discuss how those attributes apply in the life of a church.

13. Jesus closes each message to each church with the phrase, “*He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.*” Why is this phrase so important, not only to the churches He’s addressing here but, for us today?

To the Church in Philadelphia

14. Read **Revelation 3:7-13** once more.
15. What does the word *Philadelphia* mean? Why is that meaning significant to not only this specific church, but to all churches of all time?
16. Compare vs. 7 to **Revelation 1:18** and **Isaiah 22:22**. Who holds the *key*? What is the significance of the *key*?
17. Compare the *open door* of vs. 8 to **Acts 14:27**. In scripture, what does an *open door* typically mean?
18. Describe an *open door* God has recently given you.
19. How do you know if and when God has *set before you an open door*?
20. In vs. 10, Jesus states, “*Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the world...*” Does that mean that those who keep Jesus’ word will be kept from trials? If not, then what does it mean?
21. Jesus states in vs. 17 that He is “*coming soon.*” If you knew definitively the specific time and day Jesus was returning, would you do anything differently? If so, what?
22. Jesus repeats the phrase, “*the one who conquers*” (**3:5 & 12**). When God repeats a phrase in scripture, what does that generally mean? In this particular case, why is *conquering* or *overcoming* of such importance?
23. In your own specific walk with the Lord, what resonates with you from the message to the church in Philadelphia?

To the Church in Laodicea

24. Read **Revelation 3:14-22** once more.
25. Why would Jesus rather the church in Laodicea be either cold or hot? What’s wrong with being lukewarm?
26. How would you characterize your own walk with the Lord right now - cold, lukewarm, or hot? If either cold or lukewarm, what would it take for you to return to your first love?
27. Due to the Laodicean’s lukewarm nature, Jesus said that He would spit them out of His mouth? What does He mean by that statement?
28. Is there a potential deceptive nature to being rich and having wealth (vs. 17)? If so, what is it? How would one avoid that deception?

29. Compare vs. 19 to **Hebrews 12:3-11**. What does this teach us about God, His love for us, and His discipline of us? Take it one step further and read what **Hebrews 5:8** teaches us about Jesus. What then is the purpose of God's discipline of us?
30. Vs. 20 seems to imply that Jesus is standing outside the church of Laodicea and knocking on its door. What does that picture say to you?
31. To close our discussion, compare and contrast **Revelation 3:5,12** and **21** with regard to "*the one of conquers.*" What did you learn?

So What?

32. What was your biggest insight from **Revelation 3**?
 33. What are you now going to do about it? Can your action step be measured? Is it specific? Is your next step realistic?
 34. How can we pray for one another?
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Group Discussion Questions Revelation Chapter 2

Understanding Revelation: Important Notes

- Revelation is a mixture of literary genres; epistolary, prophetic, & apocalyptic.
 - A key to interpreting this book is understanding the genres.
- There are over 500 allusions to the Old Testament in the 404 verses of Revelation.
 - A key to interpreting this book is familiarity with the Old Testament.
- The overarching purpose of Revelation is to encourage the church to faithfully endure in the midst of trials by “revealing” God’s ultimate victory over evil through Jesus.
 - A key to studying this book is to not “miss the forest for the trees.”

Chapter 2 Discussion Questions:

The church at Ephesus

- In what specific ways were they commended?
- How are we to understand their waning love in light of how they are commended?
- What will they face if they do not repent?
- What will they gain if they faithfully endure?
- How is this applicable for the church today?

The church at Smyrna

- What specific trials were they facing?
- Is God sovereign over the suffering of the church?
- What will they gain if they faithfully endure?

- How is this applicable for the church today?

The church at Pergamum

- In what ways were they commended?
- In what ways were they corrected?
- What will they face if they do not repent?
- What will they gain if they faithfully endure?
- How is this applicable for the church today?

The church at Thyatira

- In what ways were they commended?
- In what ways were they corrected?
- What will they face if they do not repent?
- What will they gain if they faithfully endure?
- How is this applicable for the church today?

Group Discussion Questions

Revelation Series: The Unveiling of Jesus Christ

Revelation 1

1. Icebreaker

If you could ask Jesus **one question** about the future, what would you ask — and why?

2. A Question for Accountability

Were you able to apply what we read together last week in your daily life?

- Celebrate obedience!
- Celebrate even small steps of obedience.
- Celebrate honesty if someone struggled — this is a safe place.

3. Read Revelation 1 Together

- Read the passage **twice**: first for the mind (understanding), then for the heart (what it stirs in you).
- After reading, **close your Bibles** and retell the main idea of the chapter as a group.
- Then reflect together:

Discussion Questions:

- What stood out to you from this chapter?
- What touched your heart or made you think?
- Was anything confusing or surprising?

Leader Tip: If the group drifts, ask: *“Where do we see that in this passage?”*

4. Discussion Questions (Use the ones that fit your group best)

Understanding the Book of Revelation:

- What are some things you've heard about the book of Revelation before?
- Why do you think some people are afraid to read this book?
- According to verse 3, what does God promise to those who read, hear, and obey this book?

Genre and Purpose:

- What kind of writing is Revelation? (Apocalyptic, prophetic, a letter — or all three?)
- Why do you think God used symbols and visions to speak through this book?
- What is the main goal of the book — to scare us or to encourage us? Why?

The Author and Audience:

- Who wrote this book? What do we learn about him in this chapter?
- What were John's circumstances when he received this vision (verse 9)?
- Who was this message originally written to? (verse 4 and 11)

Jesus in Chapter 1:

- How is Jesus described in this chapter?
- What do these descriptions tell us about who He is?
- How would you feel if you saw Jesus like John did?
- Why is it important that Revelation begins by showing Jesus in His glory?

About the Message (verses 3, 19):

- What promise is given in verse 3? How can we apply this promise practically?
- In verse 19, Jesus tells John to write what he has seen, what is now, and what will take place later. What does this teach us about the structure of the book?

5. Obedience

What is **one specific thing** you want to do or obey from today's passage?

- Each response should begin with: **"I will..."**
- Be clear and specific.

Good Examples:

- I will take time this week to worship Jesus as King, not only just my Savior.
- I will read Revelation this month without fear and trust God to guide me.
- I will pray for courage when I feel afraid of the future.

Less Helpful Examples:

- I will be closer to God.

- I will not be afraid.
- I will be a better Christian.

6. Prayer

Close your group in prayer.

- Thank God for revealing Jesus in glory and power.
- Ask God to give courage, wisdom, and joy as you go deeper into this book.