

Introduction

“In all its uses, “revelation” refers to something or someone, once hidden, becoming visible. What this book reveals or unveils is Jesus Christ in glory. Truths about Him and His final victory, that the rest of Scripture merely allude to, become clearly visible through revelation about Jesus Christ. This revelation was given to Him by God the Father, and it was communicated to the Apostle John by an angel (1:1).”

John MacArthur
The MacArthur Study Bible, p. 1959

This year we are memorizing Ephesians 2. This week’s verse is Ephesians 2:21:
“...in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord...”

Day One

Read Revelation 1; John’s Vision of the Glorified Christ

1. In Revelation 1:1–2 and 9–11, what is the purpose of this book and who is the author?

2. What promise is given in Revelation 1:3? How does that encourage you as you begin this study?

3. In verses 7–8, what event did John anticipate? (See also Matthew 24:29–30 and Daniel 7:13–14.)
 - a. According to Revelation 1:7, what will be the response of those who see this future event?

 - b. What do you think it would look like for a believer today to live expectantly for Christ’s return?

 - c. How are *you* living in light of understanding Christ’s return? How do you think your life would be different practically if you anticipated that event?

4. According to 1:12–20, what did John see in his vision, and how did it affect him?

5. How does John’s vision of the glorified Christ in these verses contrast with the picture of Christ in Philippians 2:5–11?
 - a. Why do you think it’s important to understand both Christ’s humiliation as well as His coming glory? How does this affect your worship of Him?

Day Two

Read Revelation 1:17–2:29; Christ and His Churches, Part One

“The seven churches addressed in chapters 2 and 3 were actual existing, historical churches in Asia Minor (modern Turkey)...they represent the types of churches perennially exist throughout the church age. What Christ says to these churches is relevant in all times.”

John MacArthur

The MacArthur Study Bible, p. 1960 and 1963

1. In your own words, summarize briefly Christ’s message to the church of Ephesus in Revelation 2:1–7.
 - a. In your opinion, what are signs of waning affection for Christ? Is that something with which you are struggling?
 - b. According to this passage, what steps can reignite the flames of affection in one’s heart?
2. From 2:8–11, what did Jesus say to the church of Smyrna? How can His message to them encourage you today? (See also James 1:2–4 and 1 Peter 5:10.)
3. From 2:12–17, summarize Christ’s message to the church of Pergamum.
 - a. What worldly ways of thinking and acting do you find yourself struggling with most? How can you battle practically against worldliness? (See also 1 John 2:15–17.)
4. In 2:18–29, what was Christ’s message for the church at Thyatira?
 - a. According to Matthew 18:15–17, why is it important for the church to deal with sin among her people? What does it accomplish?

Day Three

Read Revelation 3; *Christ and His Churches, Part Two*

1. In Revelation 3:1–6, what did Jesus say to the church of Sardis? What was their sin?
 - a. In your own life, are there areas where your spiritual reputation exceeds your spiritual reality? Why is this dangerous? What remedy is there for this condition?
2. From 3:7–13, what commendations did Christ give to the church in Philadelphia?
3. In 3:14–17, what was the spiritual condition of the church at Laodicea?

- a. In 3:18–22, what was Christ’s counsel to the Laodiceans? What is the remedy for their condition?
 - b. Prayerfully consider your own life; what qualities might Christ affirm and in what areas would He call you to repentance?
4. From 2:7a, 11a, 17a, 29; 3:6, 13, and 22, what exhortation was given to John’s readers? How would this exhort believers today? What practical difference could this make in your life this week?
 5. From 2:7b, 11b, 17b; 3:5, 12, and 21, what encouragement was given to John’s readers? How would this encourage believers today? What practical difference could this make in your life this week?

Day Four

Read Revelation 4; **Heaven’s Throne Room**

NOTE: “After these things” in Revelation 4:1 indicates that the events are sequential, not just the visions.

1. Read Revelation 4:4–11 and Daniel 7:9–10. What do you find most compelling about John’s description of the throne room and the One “sitting on the throne”?
2. In verses 6–9, what creatures did John see around the throne, and what were they doing?
 - a. Use a dictionary to define “holy.” Why do you think the creatures’ worship focused on God’s holiness?
3. In Revelation 4, what attributes of God are shown?

Day Five

Read Revelation 5; **The Scroll and the Worthy Lamb**

NOTE: “The scroll John saw in God’s hand is the title deed to the earth, which He will give to Christ...and how He will regain His rightful inheritance...by means of the divine judgments about to be poured out on the earth. While the scroll is a scroll of doom and judgment, it is also a scroll of redemption.”

John MacArthur

The MacArthur New Testament Commentary:

Revelation 1–11, p. 164

1. In Revelation 5:1–5, what object becomes the focal point of all of heaven’s attention? What is its significance?

- a. In verse 4, what happened, and what was John's response? Why do you think opening the scroll was so important?
 - b. In verse 5, who did the elder say would open the book and its seven seals? See also Genesis 49:10, Hebrews 7:14, Isaiah 11:1-2 and 10, and Revelation 22:16.
2. From 5:6-10, what is the identity and significance of the Lamb?
 - a. How do Exodus 12:1-13; Isaiah 53:5-7; John 1:29; and 1 Peter 1:17-19 deepen your understanding of the work of the Lamb?
 3. Why was Christ worthy to open the scroll?
 4. From verses 12-13, what specific aspects of worship are due the Lamb who is worthy?
 5. Spend some time in personal prayer to worship and thank the God who is holy and the Lamb who is worthy.

Revelation 1-3

The Past and the Present Revealed

"Therefore write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after these things." *Revelation 1:19*

I. Commissioned to Reveal the Glory of Christ (1:1-25)

"The things which you have seen..."

II. Commendations, Condemnations, and Promises to the Seven Churches (2:1-3:22)

"The things which are..."