

RBCPC
2011 Study Series



New Testament

Week #11
Study Guide

Revelation

Posting date: June 15, 2011

www.rbcpc.org/mark-up-your-bible/

Note: This is the last in the Mark Up the New Testament series. In July 2011, the sermons will return to the Old Testament with a series on Psalms. Although there will not be study guides produced for the Psalms series, you are encouraged to read them devotionally, study, and discuss, either personally, or with your group, as you feel led by the Holy Spirit.

Overview

Revelation is a vision of God's ultimate purpose for man. The author uses a lot of imagery and symbolism, not only for illumination, but also to protect the recipients from persecution. Much of the scriptures need interpretation. There is much debate amongst Bible scholars on this interpretation, however, the central message is clear: God is in control, and ultimately victorious.

Scripture Study – Key Passages

Open your Bible and read the following scriptures:

Revelation 1:8

1. Share the first time you heard the words *Alpha* and *Omega*.
2. What do the words mean to you today? Is it any different than the first time you heard them?
3. Discuss how this scripture might be comforting to someone suffering from persecution.

Revelation 1:9-11

1. What does it mean to be a *companion in suffering*? Why does John share this with his readers? What value might it have for them?
2. What do you think John was doing when he says he was *in the spirit*?
3. Have you ever heard God's voice? What were you doing if/when this happened?
4. If you have not heard God's "voice," how does He communicate with you?

Revelation 3:7-13

1. What image comes to mind in *opening* a door? In *shutting* a door?
2. Even though the church in Philadelphia had *little strength*, they persevered. What does this say about their faith?
3. Where did they get their *strength*?
4. Where do you go for *strength* in your own personal times of trials?

Revelation 22:7-20

1. What words are repeated 3 times in this scripture?
2. What does the word "soon" mean to you?
3. What might you do differently if you really believed Jesus was coming "soon?"

Key Themes:

1. God is in control.
2. Perseverance and faithfulness is necessary in times of trials.
3. God wins - the people of God will dwell with Him forever.

Reflection

Revelation is full of imagery and prophecy, written 2,000 years ago to people in a culture very different from ours today. It has been interpreted in many different ways throughout the centuries, however, the ultimate message is the same. Reflect on how different, how much *better*, the promised eternity with Jesus will be from what you could possibly imagine!

Prayer:

Join in a prayer of praise with the seven angels in ***Revelation 15:3-4***:

*Great and marvelous are your deeds,
Lord God Almighty.
Just and true are your ways,
King of the nations,
Who will not fear you, Lord,
and bring glory to your name?
For you alone are holy.
All nations will come
and worship before you,
for your righteous acts have been revealed.*

Homework

Read ***Revelation 21:1-5***, in preparation for the sermon on June 25/26, "*Wait For It!*" Mark words, or phrases that stand out to you.

Notes & Reflections: