

A close-up, detailed illustration of a dragon's eye. The eye is a vibrant, glowing red-orange color with a dark pupil. It is surrounded by intricate, golden-brown scales that have a textured, overlapping appearance. From the eye, thick, wispy plumes of blue smoke or fire rise upwards, filling the upper portion of the image. The background is dark, making the eye and the smoke stand out prominently.

# HOW TO DODGE A DRAGON

A STUDY ON THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Resources and materials from this study,  
including participant handouts, slide presentations, and  
supplemental materials and links are available online at  
***[jimmymcloud.com/howtododgeadragon](http://jimmymcloud.com/howtododgeadragon)***.

*Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.*

- Revelation 1:5

## Outline of Revelation

- ETERNAL HOPE
  - Greeting and Introduction - (1:1-8)
  - The Revelation of Power (1:9-20)
- LETTERS TO THE CHURCHES
  - Ephesus - Passion for Christ (2:1-7)
  - Smyrna - Dependence upon Christ (2:8-11)
  - Pergamum - Perseverance in the Truth (2:12-17)
  - Thyatira - Purity of Leadership (2:18-29)
  - Sardis - Faith that Leads to Life (3:1-6)
  - Philadelphia - Deliverance Through Trials (3:7-13)
  - Laodicea - Dangers of a Lukewarm Faith (3:14-22)
- WORSHIP OF THE KING
  - The Door of Revelation (4:1)
  - The God of Revelation (4:2-3)
  - The Revelation of Worship (4:4-11)
- THE LION AND THE LAMB
  - The Scroll and the Lion (5:1-5)
  - The Lamb and the Salvation (5:6-7)
  - The Worship and the Praise (5:8-14)
- THE FOUR HORSEMEN
  - The White Horse (6:1-2)
  - The Red Horse (6:3-4)
  - The Black Horse (6:5-6)
  - The Pale Horse (6:7-8)
  - Prayer in Persecution (6:9-11)
  - The Cosmic Disturbance (6:12-17)
- THE DRAMATIC PAUSE
  - The Angels and Servants (7:1-8)
  - The Believers are Rescued (7:9-17)
- THE WRATH OF GOD
  - Preparation for Justice (8:1-5)
  - The First Four Trumpets (8:6-13)
- THE DAY OF THE LORD
  - More Trumpets and the First Woe (9:1-11)
  - The Last Trumpet and the Second Woe (9:12-21)
- THE MESSENGER, THE MESSAGE, AND A MEAL
  - The Messenger (10:1-3)
  - The Message (10:4-7)
  - The Meal (10:8-11)
- TWO WITNESSES AND ONE LAST TRUMPET
  - The Measuring (11:1-2)
  - The Messengers (11:3-14)
  - The Seventh Trumpet (11:15-19)
- THE SEVEN SIGNS
  - The Woman and the Dragon (12:1-6)
  - A Battle With the Enemy (12:7-17)
- THE ANTICHRIST AND THE FALSE PROPHET
  - The Beast's Ancestry, Authority, Adoration (13:1-4)
  - The Beast's Arrogance (13:5-6)
  - The Beast's Activities and Admirers (13:7-10)
  - The False Prophet's Presence and Purpose (13:11-14)
  - The False Prophet's Plan (13:15-18)
- THE PROTECTION AND POWER OF GOD
  - The Protection (14:1-5)
  - The Proclamations (14:6-13)
  - The Harvest (14:14-20)
- PRELUDE TO DESTRUCTION
  - The Agents of Wrath (15:1-4)
  - The Attire of Wrath (15:5-6)
  - The Attitude of Wrath (15:7-8)
- THE SIX BOWLS
  - The First Six Bowls (16:1-12)
  - Preparations for War (16:13-16)
  - The Seventh Bowl (16:17-21)
- THE DESTRUCTION OF BABYLON
  - The Vision of the Prostitute (17:1-6)
  - The Angel's Explanation (17:7-14)
  - The Relationship Between Beast & Prostitute (17:15-18)
- THE FUNERAL OF HUMANITY
  - The Warning (18:1-8)
  - The Weeping (18:9-19)
  - The Wrath (18:20-24)
- WORSHIP AND WRATH
  - Praise for the Judgment of Babylon (19:1-6)
  - The Wedding Celebration (19:7-10)
  - The Return of the Messiah (19:11-16)
  - The Reign of the Messiah (19:17-21)
- THE COMPLETION OF THE PROMISE OF GOD
  - Satan Bound (20:1-3)
  - Saints Ruling (20:4-6)
  - Completion of the Promise to the Serpent (20:7-10)
  - Completion of the Promise to Humanity (20:11-15)
- ALL THINGS BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL
  - The New Heaven and New Earth (21:1-8)
  - The City of God (21:9-21)
  - The Temple, Sun and Moon (21:22-27)
- EDEN RESTORED
  - The Tree of Life (22:1-5)
  - Epilogue (22:6-21)

## Parallels Between Genesis and Revelation

Genesis 1-3	Revelation 20-22
"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (1:1)	"I saw a new heaven and a new earth" (21:1)
"The darkness He called Night" (1:5)	"There shall be no night there" (21:25)
"God made two great lights" (sun and moon; 1:16)	"The city had no need of the sun or of the moon" (21:23)
"In the day that you eat of it you shall surely die" (2:17)	"There shall be no more death" (21:4)
Satan appears as a deceiver of mankind (3:1)	Satan disappears forever (20:10)
Shown a garden into which defilement entered (3:6-7)	Shown a city into which defilement will never enter (21:27)
Walk of God with man interrupted (3:8-10)	Walk of God with man resumed (21:3)
Initial triumph of the serpent (3:13)	Ultimate triumph of the Lamb (20:10; 22:3)
"I will greatly multiply your sorrow" (3:16)	"There shall be no more death or sorrow, nor crying; and there shall be no more pain" (21:4)
"Cursed is the ground for your sake" (3:17)	"There shall be no more curse" (22:3)
Man's dominion broken in the fall of the first man, Adam (3:19)	Man's dominion restored in the rule of the new man, Christ (22:5)
First paradise closed (3:23)	New paradise opened (21:25)
Access to the tree of life disinherited in Adam (3:24)	Access to the tree of life reinstated in Christ (22:14)
They were driven from God's presence (3:24)	"They shall see His face" (22:4)

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## SESSION ONE: THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

Revelation 1:1-8

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### What is the book of Revelation?

- A series of apocalyptic visions.
  - Predominant use symbols and numbers.
- Filled with prophetic pronouncements.
  - The kingdom of God has come and will soon be consummated.
- Written as a congregational letter.
  - From God in Christ through an angel to his servant for the church.

### When will these prophecies be fulfilled?

- Four different interpretations:
  - **Preterist:** They were fulfilled in the first few centuries of Christianity.
  - **Historicist:** They have been and are being fulfilled in the course of Western Christian history.
  - **Futurist:** They are largely unfulfilled (chapters 4-22 are still awaiting fulfillment in the future).
  - **Idealist:** They are fulfilled symbolically throughout the history of the church.
- Three millennial views:
  - Pre **millennialism:** Jesus will return *before* the millennium.
  - Post **millennialism:** Jesus will return *after* the millennium.
  - A **millennialism:** The millennium is the present church age, and there is no other future millennium to come (before or after Jesus' return).
- Two important contexts:
  - Specific historical context.
  - Overall biblical context.
- One significant reminder:
  - The book of Revelation was not written to create confusion for the Christian, cause division in the church, or promote speculation about the coming of Christ.

### NOTES

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**SESSION ONE: THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST**

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*Revelation 1:1-8*

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**Why was it written?**

- To give unshakeable hope to suffering Christians.
- To encourage unwavering holiness in a seductive culture.
  - Filled with promises of blessing for the faithful.
  - Filled with warnings of judgment for those who fall away.
- To refute deception in the church.
- To fuel mission among the nations.

**How is all of that accomplished?**

- Through a grand portrait of God's greatness.
  - He is sovereign over all history.
  - He is supreme above all things.
- Through glorious pictures of God's gospel.
  - Look to the past... Jesus is the conquering Savior who redeems.
  - Look to the present... Jesus is the cosmic Lord who rules.
  - Look to the future... Jesus is the coming King who will reign forever.
  - Feel His affection for you.
  - Experience His liberation of you.
  - Realize your position in Him.
    - We're not just people under His rule; we're participants in His reign.
    - We not only have access to God; we're also now ambassadors of God.
  - Give your adoration to Him.
  - Live with anticipation of Him.
    - Humbly wail over your sin.
    - Patiently wait for His return.

**NOTES**

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**SESSION ONE: THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST**

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*Revelation 1:9-20*

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**The Indescribable Christ...**

- Jesus is a man.
- Jesus is God.
- Jesus is the fulfillment of prophecy.
- Jesus is the final high priest.
- Jesus is infinitely old.
- Jesus is infinitely wise.
- Jesus has knowledge of all things.
  - He searches every area of our hearts.
  - He sees everything we'd like to hide.
- Jesus is holy above all things.
  - His purity has no error.
  - His power knows no equal.
- Jesus' voice resounds with authority.
  - He declares eternal salvation.
  - He decrees final judgment.
- Jesus' face radiates with light.
- Jesus had the first word in creation.
- Jesus will have the last word in creation.
- Jesus was dead ... for a time.
- Jesus is alive ... for all time.
- Death is controlled by Jesus.
- No one or nothing compares to Jesus.

**The Indestructible Church**

- Jesus is present among us.
- Jesus possesses us.
- Jesus protects us.
- Jesus has a purpose for us.

**NOTES**



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## SESSION ONE: THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

Revelation 1:9-20

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### The Inevitable Commission

- Fall down in worship.
  - Non- Christians: Have much fear.
  - Christians: Have no fear.
- Rise up as witnesses.
  - May His glory continually captivate our imagination.
  - May His grace supernaturally empower our devotion.
  - May His gospel radically compel us on Mission.

### NOTES

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## SESSION ONE: THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

### Revelation 1

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#### Remember

*“They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful.” - Revelation 17:14 ESV*

#### Review

- What is the meaning of the Greek word “apokalypsis”?
- What style of literature is the book of Revelation?
- What are the four major views of interpreting this book?
- Who is the author of Revelation? (1:1-2)
- What is the purpose of the book? (1:13; 22:10,16)
- What is the key verse that summarizes the book? (Hint: it’s not in Chapter 1)
- Who did this book promise to bless?
- How is God described in the greeting from John? How is the Holy Spirit described? (1:4)
- How is Jesus Christ described by John in this greeting? (1:5-6)
- What is said about the coming of Christ? (1:7)
- How does the Jesus refer to Himself? (1:8)
- Where and when did John receive the Revelation? (1:9b-10)
- How does John describe the Son of Man? (1:13-16)
- What is the explanation of the seven stars and seven lampstands? (1:20)

#### Respond

- Why and how should the message of God’s greatness combined with glorious pictures of His gospel fuel mission to our neighbors and to the nations? (1:7-8)
- Is Jesus now ruling and reigning or is His kingdom only coming in the future? Why is the wording of 1:4 and 1:8 significant? How can His eternal sovereignty comfort us in trial and encourage us in good times?
- Based on what you’ve studied this week, what do you believe God wants you to:
  - KNOW
  - DESIRE
  - DO
- What is the most challenging part of this study for you to understand, believe, or apply to your life?

#### Read Ahead

- To prepare for next week, read *Revelation ch. 4-5*.

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## PRAYER GUIDE FOR WEEK ONE

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### **Pray for your life.**

Our study this week showed us how the introductory verses of Revelation set the stage for the rest of our study, as John gives us a heavenly perspective on redemptive history in order to compel us to faithfully follow the Lord of history. Pray for God to help you look beyond the temporary to the eternal. Pray for God to give you a heavenly perspective, through His Word, to compel you to trust and follow Him. Pray for God to encourage you with the hope that one day all will be made right.

### **Pray for your city.**

*Each week, we will pray specifically for one of FCC's Local Mission Partners.*

This week, pray for Refuge of Hope. Refuge serves the homeless population of Canton and the surrounding area. Pray for God to provide resources so that they can continue to care for people in our city. Pray for the people who work and serve at Refuge, that God will bless them for their service and give them opportunities to share the Gospel. Pray for those who are served by Refuge, that God will speak to them, provide for them, and give them hope. To find out more about Refuge of Hope, visit [refugeofhope.org](http://refugeofhope.org).

### **Pray for the world.**

*Each week, we will pray specifically for one of FCC's Global Mission Partners.*

This week, pray for the Fittro family. David, Teresa, Nathan, and Rachel Fittro have been serving as missionaries in England for nearly 25 years, currently in Birmingham. They are currently working with *Christian Missionary Fellowship (CMF)* leading a program called "EQUIP" which provides an immersive learning experience for new missionaries entering the field to be mentored and trained by veteran missionaries. Pray for God to continue to provide for the Fittro family as they continue their work. Pray for success in their mission and blessing for their family. Pray for EQUIP and CMF, for continued success for their work around the world and in England. Pray for the EQUIP group that is in training this year, that God will prepare them for the mission that He has in store for them. Pray for greater opportunities for FCC to partner with the Fittro family to reach people in England with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. To find out more about the Fittros and CMF, visit [cmfi.org](http://cmfi.org).

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## SESSION TWO: THE CHURCH AND THE GLORY OF GOD

Revelation 3-5

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- Jesus knows us truly. (3:1)
- Jesus loves us deeply. (3:19)
- Jesus guards us zealously.
- Jesus uses us purposefully.

### Jesus Commends His Church

- For faithful perseverance in the Word of Christ. (2:2, 19; 3:10)
  - Guarding the church internally.
  - Advancing the church externally.
- For faithful proclamation of the name of Christ.
  - In light of opportunity. (3:8)
  - In the midst of opposition (religious, governmental, social, and economic).
- For trusting God amidst testing in the world. (2:10)
  - Satan is subordinate, and he intends suffering to sabotage us.
  - God is sovereign, and He uses suffering to sanctify us.
- For loving God amidst temptation from the world.

### Jesus Rebukes His Church

- For compromise.
  - In the church...
    - Tolerance of evil (idolatry and immorality). (2:14)
    - Tolerance of error (false teaching and false teachers).
  - With the world...
    - For the sake of financial gain, social acceptance and personal safety.
- For complacency.
  - Self-satisfaction and self-sufficiency.
  - Failure to complete the works of God and failure to confess the Word of God.

### NOTES

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**SESSION TWO: THE CHURCH AND THE GLORY OF GOD**

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*Revelation 3-5*

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**Jesus Commands His Church**

- Remember who you are and what Jesus says.
- Repent: Turn from sin and trust in Jesus.
- Receive: Find your treasure in Jesus, clothe your life in Jesus, and fix your eyes on Jesus. (3:18)

**Jesus Warns His Church** (2:5, 16, 22-23; 3:3, 16)

- God gives warnings to Christians about falling away to keep Christians from falling away. (Heb. 3:11-14)
- By grace through faith, true followers of Christ will persevere to the end. (1 Peter 1:3-5; John 10:27-29; Eph. 1:13-14)
- By grace through faith, true followers of Christ work to persevere to the end. (Matt. 24:13; Heb. 3:14, 10:36; 1 John 2:19)

**Jesus Rewards His Church**

- Total vindication of Christ's ways in this world.
- Triumphant victory over Satan's powers in this world.
- Secure protection from the horror of Hell. (2:11; 3:5)
- Shared participation in the reign of Christ.
- Permanent citizenship in the city of God.
- Perpetual celebration in the presence of God. (2:7, 17; 3:20)

**NOTES**

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## SESSION TWO: THE CHURCH AND THE GLORY OF GOD

Revelation 3-5

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### The Portrait of God

- God the Father... (compare to Daniel 7, Ezekiel 1, Isaiah 6)
  - sits at the center of the universe.
  - dwells in unapproachable light. (1 Tim. 6:15-16)
  - is surrounded by unending praise. (4:8, 11)
  - is the Judge of every man. (4:5)
  - tempers wrath and judgment with mercy.
  - is holy above all.
  - has power over all. (4:8)
  - is infinitely timeless. (4:8-9)
  - is infinitely glorious. (4:11)
  - is supreme above all things.
  - is the sustainer of all things. (4:11)
  - is sovereign over all things. (5:1)
- God the Son... (5:5)
  - is the conquering lion. (Genesis 49:10)
  - is the slaughtered lamb. (John 1:29; Rev. 5:7, 9)
  - His worth is undisputed.
  - His work is unforgettable.
  - His worship is unending.
- God the Spirit...
  - is omnipresent.
  - is omniscient.
  - is omnipotent.
  - enacts judgment.
  - enables salvation.
- The Mystery of the Trinity:
  - God is three persons.
  - Each person is fully God.
  - There is one God

### NOTES

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## SESSION TWO: THE CHURCH AND THE GLORY OF GOD

Revelation 3-5

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### The Point for Us

- The glory of God compels us to receive salvation.
  - God holds the future glorification of believers in His hand.
  - God holds the final damnation of unbelievers in His hand.
- The glory of God empowers us to escape temptation.
  - We overcome idolatry by glimpsing a greater God.
  - We fight immorality through fulfillment in our Father.
  - We refuse to compromise in light of the example of Christ. (Heb. 12:1-4)
  - We resist complacency in view of the excellency of Christ.
- The glory of God motivates us to accomplish mission.
  - Let's pray passionately.
  - Let's give sacrificially.
  - Let's go confidently.

### NOTES

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## SESSION TWO: THE GLORY OF THE TRIUNE GOD

*Revelation 4-5*

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### Remember

*“And they sang a new song, saying, ‘Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.’”*  
- Revelation 5:9-10

### Review

- Why is it important to start the study of this passage with the four truths about Christ - that He knows, loves, guards, and uses us?
- When you consider the ways that Jesus commended the churches in Revelation, what commendations do you feel apply to our church today? What’s biblically right about our church? Based on Scripture, what rebukes apply to our church? Why? Take time to reflect on this and to consider how we can repent and address the areas of rebuke.
- Why should we value God’s testing? What is the purpose of being tested?
- Why were the churches in today’s text tempted to compromise their beliefs? In America, why is it often easy for the church to blend in with the world? What happens when Christians’ lifestyles are indistinguishable from the world? In what areas of your life are you indistinguishable from the world?
- What is the difference between compromise and complacency? How are they often intertwined? Are you coasting through life, or are you living and enduring faithfully?
- Were any of these churches written off by Christ? What did He tell them to do to be restored?
- When you consider the eternal rewards in store for the church, how do they change the way you view and value this world? What steps do you need to take to focus less on material things and more on Christ?
- How does John’s description of the throne in heaven and the One who sits on it give a picture of the glorious power and sovereignty of God?
- Why should seeing God for who He truly is drive us to dissatisfaction with complacency?
- Why does Jesus’ death and resurrection make Him worthy to take the scroll and open its seals?
- How can we encourage one another to continue steadfastly in the faith?

### Respond

- What is an area in which you need to stop resisting the call to involvement and become a part of God’s mission?
- How can you grow in praying passionately, giving sacrificially, and going confidently?
- Based on what you’ve studied this week, what do you believe God wants you to:
  - KNOW
  - DESIRE
  - DO
- What is the most challenging part of this study for you to understand, believe, or apply to your life?

### Read Ahead

- To prepare for next week, read *Revelation ch. 6-11*.



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## PRAYER GUIDE FOR WEEK TWO

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### **Pray for your life.**

Pray for continued wisdom, insight, and guidance from God through the Holy Spirit as we continue to study Revelation together. Pray for knowledge and understanding. Pray for faith to give God the glory He alone is due. Praise Jesus for His worthiness. Pray for the day to come soon where every creature will bow down and worship the Lamb Who was slain.

### **Pray for your city.**

*Each week, we will pray specifically for one of FCC's Local Mission Partners.*

This week, pray for the Christian Children's Home of Ohio. CCHO exists to bring healing to hurting children and families in Jesus' name. They provide growth and enrichment opportunities for kids in foster care, and assist in foster and adoption services throughout Ohio. They are currently in the middle of a building campaign to expand their campus and provide even more opportunities to impact the lives of young people. Pray for success in their mission. Pray for the children who are cared for by CCHO. Pray for financial resources to continue to do their work. Pray for qualified, capable, and compassionate staff. Pray for wisdom for their leadership. Pray for God's blessing on their ministry, their team, and their families. To find out more about CCHO, visit them online at [ccho.org](http://ccho.org).

### **Pray for the world.**

*Each week, we will pray specifically for one of FCC's Global Mission Partners.*

This week, pray for Gene and Melba Morden. For 20 years, the Mordens have worked with Christian Missionary Fellowship to bring clean water and the hope of Jesus to the Turkana people of Kenya. Their work to bring wider access to food and water is significantly contributing to the declining death rate and increasing levels of education of the Turkana peoples. Pray for success in their mission. Pray for financial resources to continue to do their work. Pray for their physical and spiritual health. Pray for the people of Turkana and the surrounding area, that they will come to know Jesus. Pray for God's blessing on their mission, their family, and the people they reach. To find out more about the Mordens, visit them online at <https://give.cmfi.org/p-203-gene-melba-morden.aspx>.

## SESSION THREE: THE LIFE OF THE CHRISTIAN AND THE COMING OF THE KINGDOM

*Revelation 6-11*

### Basic Reminders

- Concerning the church...
  - In essentials, unity.
  - In non-essentials, liberty.
- Regarding Revelation...
  - The arrangement of Revelation seems cyclical, not chronological.
  - The visions in Revelation gradually build toward a climactic consummation.
  - The timing of Revelation involves the last days.
  - The theme of Revelation is the gospel. (Acts 1:6-8)

### Gospel Truths

- God is ultimately sovereign over evil. (6:2-8)
  - Satan can do nothing apart from divine permission.
  - Suffering is always used to fulfill divine purposes. (Romans 8:28)
- Men and women are morally responsible for evil.
  - Men and women are decidedly sinful.
- God will judge men and women who turn from Him and live for this world. (6:10-14)
  - The breadth of His judgment will be universal.
  - The effect of His judgment will be terrifying.
  - The duration of His judgment will be eternal.
- God will save men and women who trust in Him and live for another world.
  - Christians are secure on earth in the midst of tribulation. (7:1-8)
    - God plans the persecution of His people.
      - They will suffer as they witness.
    - God promises protection for His people.
      - They are safe from God's wrath.

### NOTES

## SESSION THREE: THE LIFE OF THE CHRISTIAN AND THE COMING OF THE KINGDOM

*Revelation 6-11*

- God empowers perseverance in His people.
  - They are sealed by God's Word. (7:9-10)
- Christians will stand in Heaven at the end of tribulation. (7:14)
  - They will shout God's victory.
  - They will serve in God's presence.
  - They will soak in God's glory. (7:15)
  - They will be satisfied by God's goodness.
  - They will be soothed by God's mercy.

### Let's Not Miss the Point

- The purpose of Revelation is not to promote speculation about the future.
  - What are these trumpets?
    - 1-4: Systematic physical judgments across creation.
    - 5-6: Terrifying personal judgments for idolatry and immorality. (8:13; 9:20-21)
  - Why do we have these trumpets?
    - God is giving the world a warning.
    - God is calling the church to war.
- The purpose of Revelation is to compel action in the present.

### Let's Faithfully Pray for God's Kingdom to Come

- Our battle is fierce.
  - There are forces that are fighting you.
- Our prayers are effective. (8:2-6)
  - Our cries go up.
  - His kingdom comes down.
- Our God is faithful.
  - He will demonstrate His power over the gods of this world.
  - He will extend His mercy to sinners around this world.
  - He will uphold His justice amid sin in this world.

### NOTES

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## SESSION THREE: THE LIFE OF THE CHRISTIAN AND THE COMING OF THE KINGDOM

Revelation 6-11

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### Let's Fearlessly Proclaim God's Gospel to All

- Our lives are secure.
- Our suffering is expected.
- Our task is prophetic. (11:3)
- Our message is clear.
- Our light is unquenchable. (11:4)
- Our souls are untouchable. (11:5)
- Our power is invincible. (11:6-10)
- Our death will be temporary. (11:11)
- Our resurrection will be sure. (11:12-19)
- Our mission will be complete. (24:14)
- Our God will be glorified. (11:17; Matt. 24:14)

### Practical Takeaways

- Repent of sin with urgency.
- Proclaim the gospel with urgency.
- Build your life and your family on that which lasts forever.
- Spend and sacrifice your resources on that which brings eternal reward.
- Always remember that this world is not our home.

### NOTES

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## SESSION THREE: THE LIFE OF THE CHRISTIAN AND THE COMING OF THE KINGDOM

*Revelation 6-11*

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### Remember

*“And they sang a new song, saying, ‘Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.’”*  
- Revelation 5:9-10

### Review

- The theme of Revelation is “gospel”. How does that understanding change or influence how you *interpret* this book? How does that understanding change or influence how you *apply* this book to your life?
- Why is the purpose of Revelation not to promote speculation? What does speculation about times and interpretations achieve?
- In Revelation 6:2, 4, 8; 7:2; 8:2, 3; 9:1, 3, 5; 13:5, 7, 14, 15, permission is given by God for all that occurs in these chapters, indicating that He is sovereign. Think of a trial that you have experienced or aren't experiencing in your life. Does your response to trials indicate that you believe God is sovereign? What does it practically look like to trust in the sovereignty of God, especially in the midst of a trial?
- How do you respond to sin in your life? Are you broken over your sin? Do you hate your sin? Are you urgent to confess it? Or do you have a laissez-faire attitude towards sin? What does your response to sin indicate about your relationship with God?
- Christians are secure on earth in the midst of tribulation. Discuss your definition of “security.” How does your definition of security align with Revelation 6-7 as believers are persecuted for the faith and facing great trials on earth? Is Christ your security, or are you depending on people or things (both of which are temporary) to provide that sense of protection and well being in your life?
- How does knowing and understanding God's Word fuel prayer and proclamation? Can you pray and proclaim rightly when not grounded in the Word? Why not?
- How do the three-words, “Our God wins,” summarize the Book of Revelation?
- Read the word of the twenty-four elders in Revelation 11:17 and consider the missing words, “who is to come.” How does knowing that His Kingdom will indeed come—fully and finally—fuel your mission?

### Respond

- Based on what you've studied this week, what do you believe God wants you to:
  - KNOW
  - DESIRE
  - DO
- What is the most challenging part of this study for you to understand, believe, or apply to your life?

### Read Ahead

- To prepare for next week, read *Revelation ch. 20-22*.

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## PRAYER GUIDE FOR WEEK THREE

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### **Pray for your life.**

Pray for continued wisdom, insight, and guidance from God through the Holy Spirit as we continue to study Revelation together. Pray for knowledge and understanding. Pray for perseverance to resist sin, repent, and turn to Jesus daily. Praise Jesus for securing you and keeping you for eternity. Identify areas of injustice in Canton and in our world. Like the saints in Revelation 6, cry out to God for His holiness and His justice to be made known and for things to be made right according to His righteousness.

### **Pray for your church.**

Revelation chapter 6 begins a series of chapters in Revelation that are meant to remind Christians that God is ultimately going to judge the wicked and save the righteous. Such confidence in the justice and mercy of God enables bold, radical faithfulness to God, for we know how things will turn out in the end and we can trust in Him, no matter what happens to us. Pray that God would produce an unshakable confidence in us as we wait for His return. Pray that God would send laborers out from among us with a bold and radical faithfulness to His saving message to reach those who will face God's certain judgment.

### **Pray for your city.**

*Each week, we will pray specifically for one of FCC's Local Mission Partners.*

This week, pray for **Ability Ministry**. As an independent Christian non-profit ministry, Ability Ministry strives to enhance the lives of persons affected with disabilities by providing services for persons with developmental disabilities, including residence, job placement, opportunities for social interaction and spiritual growth. They seek partnership with individuals, churches, and other organizations to meet the physical and spiritual needs of persons with disabilities. They also work to enable others through training, resources, and encouragement to effectively minister. They also manage two residential facilities for adults with disabilities, one in Missouri and the other in Tennessee. To find out more about Ability Ministry, visit them online at [abilityministry.com](http://abilityministry.com).

### **Pray for the world.**

*Each week, we will pray specifically for one of FCC's Global Mission Partners.*

This week, pray for **Lifeline Christian Mission**. For more than 30 years Lifeline has been restoring hope by meeting the physical and spiritual needs of people around the world while carrying out the Great Commission to go make followers of Jesus. God is changing lives through Lifeline's ministries around the world in Arizona, Canada, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Panama, and the U.S., along with a global food ministry. To find out more about Lifeline, visit them online at [lifeline.org](http://lifeline.org).

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## SESSION FOUR: THE END OF THE BEGINNING

*Revelation 20-22*

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### THE MILLENNIUM (20)

#### Where We Need To Start Today...

- It's ok to disagree about the millennium.
- It's sin to divide over the millennium.

#### What We Don't Know For Certain...

- When?
  - Are these passages arranged chronologically or cyclically?
  - Is the millennium before or after Christ returns?
  - Is the millennium present (happening now) or future (still to come)?
- How long?
  - Is the millennium literally 1,000 years?
  - Or is the millennium simply a planned, perfect, limited time?
- What and where?
  - Will the millennium involve a physical resurrection of Christians to reign on earth during the millennium?
  - Will the millennium involve a spiritual resurrection of Christians to reign in heaven during the millennium?

#### What I Think I Know For Now...

- Christ has come once, and Satan has been bound. (Col. 2:15)
  - Satan could not stop Jesus.
  - Satan cannot stop Christians. (12:10-11a)
- We are in the millennium. (1 Cor. 10:13; Rev. 20:3)
  - Christians who are alive now reign with Christ on earth.
    - Satan cannot keep the church from proclaiming the gospel, and he cannot keep the nations from believing the gospel. (7:9)
  - Christians who have died now reign with Christ in heaven.
    - They are worshipping God while they rule with Christ as judge.

### NOTES

## SESSION FOUR: THE END OF THE BEGINNING

Revelation 20-22

### THE CONSUMMATION OF THE KINGDOM (21:1-22:5)

- Christ will come again, and Satan will be obliterated.
  - After a final period of Satanic revolt, there will be a final point of Satanic defeat. (Matt. 24:21-22)
  - The return of Christ will usher in full and final judgment, once and for all.

### What We All Know Forever...

- God is sovereign.
- Satan is subordinate.
  - He is limited and bound.
  - He is doomed to be defeated. (12:12)
- The gospel will advance through the church. (Matt. 24:14)
- Jesus will return for the church.
- At the end of history, every single one of us will be judged by God.
  - Two questions:
    - Did we put our faith in Christ's work? (13:8)
    - Was there evidence of faith in our work?
      - Were we faithful in our worship?
      - Did we fight against sin?
      - Did we trust amidst suffering?
  - Two destinations:
    - Eternal torment.
    - Everlasting joy.
- We live between two worlds.
  - We are travelers on a journey in this country today.
  - We are citizens of a kingdom in a country to come.
- We live between two times.
  - The birth of Christ: The King has come!
    - The kingdom of God is a present reality.
  - The return of Christ: The King is coming!
    - The kingdom of God is a future hope.

### NOTES



## SESSION FOUR: THE END OF THE BEGINNING

Revelation 20-22

- We live for one purpose.
  - To experience the consummation of God's kingdom.
  - A kingdom...
    - People who are ruled by the King.
    - A place where the King has dominion.
    - A purpose for the King and His kingdom.
  - God's kingdom...
    - God is bringing His people...
    - To His place...
    - For His purpose.

### Consummation of the Kingdom

- God's people: God's final blessing and judgment.
  - For all who have revered the King...
    - Inexpressible joy. (Psalm 16:11)
    - Heaven exemplifies God's eternal blessing for conquerors who have turned from this world to Christ.
- In God's place: Eternal fellowship. (21:3)
  - We will be with Him.
    - Death will be replaced by life.
      - No more sin. (21:1)
      - No more sorrow.
      - No more sickness.
      - No more separation.
    - Night will be replaced by light. (21:22-25)
    - Corruption will be replaced by purity. (21:27)
    - Curse will be replaced by blessing. (22:1-4)
  - We will see His face.
  - We will reign with Him. (22:5)
    - Our bodies will be resurrected. (Phil. 3:21)
    - All creation will be restored.
- For God's purpose: God's glory enjoyed by all people. (21:3)

### NOTES

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**SESSION FOUR: THE END OF THE BEGINNING***Revelation 20-22*

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**THE END OF THE BEGINNING (22:6-21)**

- See the world in all its deception.
  - The beast: Do not put your hope in government.
  - The false prophet: Do not put your hope in religion.
  - The prostitute: Do not put your hope in material affluence and social acceptance. (1 Jn. 2:15, 17)
- See Christ in all His glory.
  - No one and nothing compares to Him.
- See the Church in all her beauty.
  - We are His body. (Acts 9:5)
  - We are His bride.
- See your life in proper perspective.
  - Fight against sin.
    - Resist compromise.
    - Refuse complacency. (22:18-19)
  - Endure amidst suffering.
    - Do not be surprised by it.
    - Do not be overcome in it.
    - Jesus is present with you.
- God, give us unwavering holiness in this world...
- With unshakeable hope in the world to come.

**NOTES**

## SESSION FOUR: THE END OF THE BEGINNING

*Revelation 20-22*

*And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell in them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God."  
- Revelation 21:3*

	<b>PEOPLE</b>	<b>PLACE</b>	<b>PURPOSE</b>
<b>CREATION</b> (Genesis 1-2)	God's <u>blessing</u> on His people	<u>Perfect</u> fellowship	God's glory <u>multiplied</u> to all people
<b>FALL</b> (Genesis 3-11)	God's blessing and judgment through Adam & Eve	<u>Disrupted</u> fellowship	God's glory marred in all people
<b>PATRIARCHS</b> (Genesis 12-50)	God's blessing and judgment through Abraham, Isaac, & Jacob	<u>Promised</u> fellowship	God's glory made known to all people through His faithfulness
<b>EXODUS &amp; CONQUEST</b> (Exodus - 1 Samuel 8)	God's blessing and judgment through Moses, Joshua, Judges, Samuel	God with His people: <u>Tabernacle</u>	God's glory made known to all people through His deliverance
<b>UNITED MONARCHY</b> (1 Sam. 9 - 1 Kings 11; 1 Chr. - 2 Chr. 9)	God's blessing and judgment through Saul, David, & Solomon	God with His people: <u>Temple</u>	God's glory made known to all people through His anointing
<b>DIVIDED MONARCHY</b> (1 Kings 12 - 2 Kings; 2 Chr. 10 - Esther)	God's blessing and judgment through Prophets	God with His people: <u>Exile</u>	God's glory made known to all people through His discipline
<b>JESUS</b> (Matthew - John)	God's blessing and judgment through Christ	God among His people: <u>Incarnation</u>	God's glory made known to all people through His salvation
<b>PRESENT</b> (Acts - Jude)	God's blessing and judgment through His Church	God in His people: <u>Body</u>	God's glory proclaimed to all people
<b>NEW CREATION</b> (Revelation)	God's <u>final</u> blessing and judgment	<u>Eternal</u> fellowship	God's glory <u>enjoyed</u> by all people

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## SESSION FOUR: THE END OF THE BEGINNING

Revelation 20-22

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### Remember

*“And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.”*

*- Revelation 21:3*

### Review

- Who is it that sits on the throne to judge all humankind?
- How does a person know if their name is written in the book of life?
- The “second death” and “first resurrection” are mentioned in this passage. What definitions of these terms are provided in Revelation 20 itself (see Rev. 20:5-6, 14-15)?
- Even though we do not know for certain which view of the Millennium is correct, why is it important to think through what you believe on each of the issues regarding the timing, length, and location of the Millennium?
- If you knew the day and time of His return, how would you live? Is that an accurate description of how you are currently living? What regrets do you not want to have when He returns – with regard to family, the lost, friends, time, money, etc.?
- We often sing and talk about mansions, personal health, personal comforts, and other material aspects of heaven. What does it reveal about us that we think of material things as the best parts of heaven? What does it reveal about our view of God?
- Scripture is clear that there will be those in the church who confess God but show no evidence of a changed life. Why should this be a warning to us personally and to us as we proclaim the gospel?
- What hope do we have regarding the world to come? In what ways are you placing your hope in this present world? Take time to repent. In what ways are you placing your hope in the world to come?
- How has this study of Revelation fueled hopeful obedience in your own life? Why should the study of Revelation motivate believers towards greater faithfulness?
- Revelation views the church through the eyes of her Groom. Do you have the same attitude and commitment to the church as Christ? Why or why not? Why is commitment to the local church important?
- Who in your normal rhythm of life needs to know Christ as Lord and Savior? How can you encourage, share, and invest in them this week?
- How are you part of the advancement of the gospel to the nations?
- How would you summarize the message of the book of Revelation? What was John’s intent in writing this epistle to its original readers? How is this book’s message applicable to readers today?

### Respond

- Based on what you’ve studied this week, what do you believe God wants you to:
  - KNOW
  - DESIRE
  - DO
- What is the most challenging part of this study for you to understand, believe, or apply to your life?

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## PRAYER GUIDE FOR WEEK FOUR

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### **Pray for your life.**

Ask for God's guidance, wisdom, and discernment as we seek to understand more fully the events described in Revelation. Praise Him for His salvation, a result of which we will one day find our names written in His book of life. Pray for those facing judgment for their sins. Ask God to graciously grant them the faith to repent of their sins and turn to Him for salvation. Praise God for His Word and specifically for the book of Revelation. Thank Him for helping us in our understanding of this book. Pray for God's help in living in obedience to all we have studied and learned. Pray we will all live in such a way that eagerly anticipates Jesus' return.

### **Pray for your church.**

Pray for unity among our faith family in the midst of the differences we might have in interpreting Revelation. Pray that those who have trusted in Christ would find joy in the midst of hardship and struggle. Pray that those who are still in rebellion against Christ would see Him as the greatest treasure they could ever obtain, and that they would turn from sin to worship and adore Him. Pray for influence and opportunities for our church to reach people with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

### **Pray for your city.**

*Each week, we will pray specifically for one of FCC's Local Mission Partners.*

This week, pray for the **Canton Christian Home**. CCH is a faith-based retirement community offering Independent, Assisted, and Nursing Care living options. They exist to empower seniors to live life fully, continuing to impact their world and enjoy the endless adventure of the Christian life. To find out more about CCH, visit them online at [cantonchristianhome.org](http://cantonchristianhome.org).

### **Pray for the world.**

*Each week, we will pray specifically for one of FCC's Global Mission Partners.*

This week, pray for **Mashoko Christian Hospital**. Mashoko Christian Hospital is a medical facility led by Dr. Zindoga Bungu that provides care for 60,000 patients, trains and sponsors new nurses and doctors, and develops churches and leaders in Zimbabwe Africa. Everyone who's trained and cared for at Mashoko has the opportunity to hear the gospel. To find out more about Mashoko, visit them online at [asheisusa.com](http://asheisusa.com).

*And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God."*

*- Revelation 21:3*

