
SESSION ONE: THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

Revelation 1:1-8

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.

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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.

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Revelation 1:9-20

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.

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Revelation 1:9-20

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.

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Revelation 1

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*.

PRAYER GUIDE FOR WEEK ONE

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.

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.