



# REVELATION

## Session 1

September 12, 2021

### “Introduction”

Revelation 1:1-8

#### BIG IDEA

Seeing the point matters more than solving the puzzle. Revelation is not written to provoke our curiosity about the future, but to give us a vision that will shape our living in the present.

#### BIBLE CONVERSATION / GENERAL INFO

Revelation is a wonderful and exciting book in the bible. Yet Christians can sometimes be scared of this book or confused by the myriad of radio broadcasts, doomsday predictions, and misleading accounts of it. But Revelation doesn't have to worry us. In fact, it can be quite informative and uplifting when we understand that seeing the point matters more than solving the puzzle.

Every book of the bible tells us something about the nature and will of God. Revelation is no different. It tells us that God still has a plan. That He is still in control ultimately and that, even though things may seem hard and confusing and frightening around us, we can trust that Jesus is with us and for us and that He wins!

Read Revelation 1:1-8 as a group. This is the introduction to the whole of Revelation, and thus it informs us of a lot of things, particularly *what* the book is going to be about and *what* kinds of things we are going to be seeing and reading. It is vitally important that we start off well with the right things in mind.

**Question #1** In verse 1, what does the book of Revelation tell us it is going to be about? And why is it important that we understand this as the first key to understanding all the rest?

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**Question #2** In verses 5-8, what has Jesus *done* for us? What has he promised *to do*?

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## SERMON OVERVIEW

In the sermon on Sunday, we were taught that Revelation is primarily **a reminder** of things that have already been communicated to us in the bible. In fact, did you know that Revelation has more OT references than any other book in the NT? We see over 185 direct quotes of the OT in Revelation. That's a lot! But Revelation is not just quoting some of those OT passages, it also is the same kind of literature as some of the OT books. Books like Daniel and Ezekiel are written in the same way. This kind of literature is called apocalypse (which means "unveiling"). In other words, Revelation is written to reveal something to us. To show us something. It is a grand narrative of all kinds of sights, sounds, word pictures, and movement. It is, in a lot of ways, like a movie. A movie intended to encourage and clarify, not confuse or distress us.

Now, Revelation doesn't just use intense imagery and symbols to remind us, it also guides us. It is largely written as **a guide** for us here and now. It is not only about strange and wild things to come but is also about stabilizing and correcting us as we seek to live more faithful lives and follow Jesus more consistently every day. It is true that Revelation was written to early Christians who were persecuted and scared and under great distress, but over the centuries the book has also been a source of great comfort and growth for Christians in all sorts of situations.

Lastly, we were taught that Revelation **is sobering!** We do see in this book God's judgement of his enemies, and we see Jesus in all his mighty splendor and terrifying glory. This is a sobering reality that we should remember and that should guide us ... C.S. Lewis remarked that "God is not safe, but he is good."

**Question #3** When reflecting on your own faith and relationship with Jesus, do you often think of God as judge? Or perhaps more as forgiver? Kind friend? Or Teacher? Do you have a healthy and well-rounded picture of Jesus? Or a lop-sided one?

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**Question #4** In your opinion, what are some things that would be good for us and others to remember? (about Jesus, God, the bible, Christian teachings?) What do we and those around us seem to forget all too often?

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OPTIONAL EXERCISE

Option 1	Option 2
<p>Video Lesson</p> <p>Watch the Revelation Pt.1 Video from the Bible Project. (11 min)</p> <p><a href="https://www.briarcliff.church/Revelation/">https://www.briarcliff.church/Revelation/</a></p> <p>or</p> <p><a href="https://youtu.be/5nvVVcYD-0w">https://youtu.be/5nvVVcYD-0w</a></p>	<p>Further Group Discussion</p> <p>What are you most excited about learning as we go through Revelation?</p> <p>What struck you the most from the sermon?</p> <p>What was most thought provoking?</p> <p>What was most challenging?</p> <p>Does imagining Revelation as a movie help you think about it better?</p>

PRAYER

- Intentionally Specific Prayer for this week:  
Pray for your group and the many other groups going through this study. Pray that you all would see more of Jesus and His power and wonder and beauty, and that you all would grow closer to him and to each other through this process.

DIGGING DEEPER

Read Daniel 2

Read through the chapter, then go back and discern the major ideas. Consider what parallels there may be between Revelation and Daniel 2. How can Daniel 2 remind you and guide you and prepare you for tackling the longer and more perplexing book of Revelation?

