



REVELATION

Session 11

November 21, 2021

“Conclusion”

BIG IDEA

Revelation is a story of worship, victory, and providence in the Lord Jesus. That's why it is the final book of the Bible because those things are God's great finale for us.

BIBLE CONVERSATION / GENERAL INFO

What an amazing book of the Bible we have just been through. Revelation is such a rich and layered tapestry of pictures and promises that it can be overwhelming at times. But what we also get is the feeling of how grand and complex God truly is. Our God is truly beyond our understanding and yet He has given us His plan. He has revealed to us what He is up to and what we can expect. He is asking us to trust Him even when things seem out of our control.

One of the interesting things you may recognize about Revelation when you step back is the intermingling of God's magnificence with the demise of those against Him. This dance of light and dark, of worship and rebellion, of God's followers, contrasted with Satan's followers, mirrors the dance of creation and decay which is seen throughout the whole Bible. The great overarching picture in Revelation is a picture of this stark contrast. We are meant to see these two categories set side by side. The great question Revelation poses is whose side are you going to be on? Whose mark will you bear? Where will you spend eternity? What sort of life will you choose to live; will you live a life of worship and blessing or a life of rebellion and demise?

Revelation chapters and which theme they are depicting at the time.

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= the chaos, suffering, or ill-intent of those opposed to God

= the splendor, restoration, or blessings of those who believe in God

Of all the books in the Bible, no other is better suited to be our great finale than the book of Revelation. God's great redemptive mission throughout all time culminates with such a wonderful and awe-inspiring book where the Lamb is on the throne, evil is gone, and we get to

worship Him forevermore. We lost our place in the garden of Eden but God still has a plan for us. He has promised to fix all that we have messed up: our broken relationships, our poor stewardship of what's been given to us, all the pain and suffering and chaos which our sin has brought into this world. Revelation tells us that Jesus will set all that right. It tells us that He vanquishes His foes and blesses us beyond our imagination. This is the great hope we look forward to *and* the great salvation which we get a taste of in our own lives here and now.

As we look back on our study over the past few months, let's remember some of the key things we have discussed:

- Revelation is of Jesus Christ. He is the main thing. It's all about Him.
- Jesus cares about the health and perseverance of His churches.
- Revelation explains the past, applies to the present and gives hope for the future.
- Revelation is more of a picture book than a codebook.
- All of Revelation's intense imagery and pictures are used to usher us into His grand scheme. God uses these vivid pictures to invite us to be amazed, awe-struck, and to fall down in astonishment to worship Him.
- Revelation is more about worship than about destruction or the end times.
- God's wrath is used to remove His enemies so we can enjoy the way things ought to be.
- 2,000 years ago, Jesus *overcame* the world and defeated death and Satan! And while we still have to face these forces in our own lives, we too can *overcome* them by the power of Christ in us. Furthermore, He has promised to come back and demonstrate His dominance and *do away* with each of these once and for all. We can have hope in that.
- Those who overcome by the blood of the lamb and the power of their testimony are written in the Lamb's book of life and are granted access to the tree of life. The second death, the lake of fire, has no power over them.
- God will establish a new heaven and new earth and a new Jerusalem! Christians will spend eternity in joy with Christ where there will be no more death, mourning, crying, or pain.

Question #1 What is the most impactful or interesting thing you have learned from your study of Revelation?

Question #2 What is one thing about Revelation you have had to unlearn? Or at least re-shift your focus from?

SERMON OVERVIEW

So now that we have finished our deep dive into the book of Revelation, what have we just seen? Can you explain it? We saw a lot. Do you remember it all? That's ok if you don't. You don't have to remember it all because you can go back later and read it again. That's what is great about having God's word; you can return to books you have already studied and be reinvigorated with God's promises and wonders all over again later down the road. As we end our series here, let's look at just a few final things that we should carry with us and a few things which we should leave behind.

Things we should leave behind

- 1) We should leave behind our infatuation with Revelation and the end times.
- 2) We should leave behind our curiosity with puzzles, codes, and symbols.

Things we should carry forward

- 1) We should carry forward a refocus on worship.
- 2) We should carry forward an urgency to live faithfully.

Revelation mirrors life on earth. The chaos and storms of life are intermingled with the hope and blessing of our faith. It explains all of history, applies to our present situations, and gives us hope for the great future God has promised. Every book of the Bible operates as a signpost pointing to the person and work of Jesus and Revelation is the final signpost - the last call.

Revelation is the finale of the Bible. Remember, it is not a timeline. It's not a decoder book. It's not even the end, per se, but rather the beginning of a new and perfect world. Revelation is the unfolding of God's final intentions for us. It is the inauguration of His eternal purpose for us. It is the gateway into perpetual and eternal worship in the presence of Him who sits on the throne.

For many of us, God's story of redemption is woven into our hearts and lives. Revelation, hopefully, reminds you of this great fact. Don't just let it satisfy your curiosity for novelty and mystery but let it spur you on to becoming the breath-taking image of God you were designed to be!

Question #3 What is one thing you will carry forward with you from this study?

Question #4 What is one thing you will leave behind as you pursue a more faithful and lasting walk with Jesus? What is your next step?

FINAL PRAYER OF THE SERIES

Intentionally specific prayer for this week: Thank God. Thank Him for being such an amazing and awesome God. Thank Him for the book of Revelation and for revealing His plan to us so that we can hope in it and so we can adjust our lives here and now towards His purposes.

