

SRMBC FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION

SRMBC May - Jul Bible Study Schedule

Date	Subject	Scripture
5/1/2019	Lesson 1: An Illustrated Letter from Jesus	Revelation 1
5/8/2019	Lesson 2: Pardon My Speaking the Truth	Revelation 2
5/15/2019	Lesson 3: My Dear Compromised People	Revelation 3
5/22/2019	Lesson 4: Worship the All-Powerful Lamb	Revelation 4 – 5
5/29/2019	Lesson 5: The Beautiful Wrath of God	Revelation 6
6/5/2019	Lesson 6: Living Faithfully Through the Holocaust	Revelation 7, 16
6/12/2019	Lesson 7: Cheer Up! The Worst Is Yet to Come!	Revelation 8 – 9
6/19/2019	Lesson 8: The Last Word on Witness	Revelation 10 - 11
6/27/2019	Lesson 9: Conflict with the Accuser	Revelation 12 – 13
7/3/2019	Lesson 10: Doing Mission in Hard Times	Revelation 14 – 15
7/10/2019	Lesson 11: Tearing Down Strongholds	Revelation 17 – 18
7/17/2019	Lesson 12: Are You Going to the Wedding?	Revelation 19
7/24/2019	Lesson 13: The Last Battle	Revelation 20
7/31/2019	Lesson 14: God Dwelling with His People	Revelation 21 – 22

SRMBC Family Bible Study

Revelation - The Triumph Of God

Lesson 1: **An Illustrated Letter from Jesus**

Revelation 1

Foundational Truths on Revelation

What is "Eschatology"?

Eschatology: The belief that God will bring an end to history and resolve the problem of evil with a Last Judgment; Biblical doctrines of these "last things."

- Historic Premillennialism
- Postmillennialism
- Amillennialism
- Dispensational Premillennialism



Dispensational premillennialism holds that a seven-year tribulation (foreseen in Daniel 9:27) will precede a thousand-year period (Revelation 20:1-6) during which time, Christ will reign on the throne of David (Luke 1:32).

The Apostle John – The Book of Revelation

- **Author:** Revelation 1:1,4,9 and 22:8 identify the author as the apostle John.
- **Date of Writing:** The Book of Revelation was likely written between A.D. 90 and 95.
- **Purpose of Writing:** The Revelation of Jesus Christ was given to John by God (while in exile on the Isle of Patmos) to tell his servants about the last days before Christ's return, the final judgment of sin and Satan and the new heaven and new earth.

The Book Of Revelation:

- Gives us a glimpse of heaven and the glories awaiting those who keep their robes white.
- Informs us on the Great Tribulation and the final fire that unbelievers will face for all eternity.
- Records the defeat of Satan and the doom he and his angels are bound for.
- Shows us the worship and service of all creatures and angels of heaven and the promises of eternal life with Jesus in the New Jerusalem.



John on the Isle of Patmos

Group Discussion: From all you have read or experienced before opening Revelation, what images or pictures do you have of Jesus?



The Baby Jesus



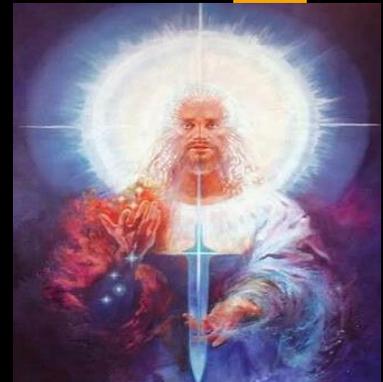
The Fictional Jesus



The Suffering Jesus



The Non-Serious Jesus



We rarely see Jesus as He is: Omnipotent, Omniscient & Omnipresent God Almighty Large and In-Charge

Revelation 1:1 – 5 (NKJV)

1 The **Revelation of Jesus Christ**, which God gave Him to show His servants—things **which must shortly take place**. And He sent and signified it by His angel to **His servant John**,

2 who bore witness to **the word of God**, and to the **testimony of Jesus Christ**, to all things that he saw.

3 **Blessed is he who reads** and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; **for the time is near**.

4 John, to **the seven churches** which are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from **Him who is** and who was and who is to come, and from **the seven Spirits** who are before His throne,

5 and **from Jesus Christ**, the faithful witness, **the firstborn from the dead**, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. **To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood**,

Revelation 1:6 - 10 (NKJV)

6 and has made us **kings and priests** to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

7 Behold, **He is coming** with clouds, and **every eye will see Him**, even they **who pierced Him**. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.

8 “I am the **Alpha and the Omega**, the **Beginning and the End**,” says the Lord, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”

Vision of the Son of Man

9 I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the **island that is called Patmos** for the **word of God** and for the **testimony of Jesus Christ**.

10 I was **in the Spirit on the Lord's Day**, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet,

Revelation 1:11 - 16 (NKJV)

11 saying, "I am **the Alpha and the Omega**, the **First and the Last**," and, "What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to **Smyrna**, to **Pergamos**, to **Thyatira**, to **Sardis**, to **Philadelphia**, and to **Laodicea**."

12 Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw **seven golden lampstands**,

13 and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like **the Son of Man**, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a **golden band**.

14 **His head and hair** were white like wool, as **white as snow**, and His eyes like a **flame of fire**;

15 His feet were like **fine brass**, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the **sound of many waters**;

Revelation 1:16 - 20 (NKJV)

16 He had in **His right hand seven stars**, out of His mouth went a **sharp two-edged sword**, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength.

17 And when I saw Him, **I fell at His feet as dead**. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last.

18 **I am He who lives**, and was dead, and behold, **I am alive** forevermore. Amen. And I have the **keys of Hades and of Death**.

19 Write the things which **you have seen**, and the **things which are**, and the things which **will take place after this**.

20 The mystery of **the seven stars** which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars **are the angels of the seven churches**, and the **seven lampstands** which you saw are **the seven churches**.

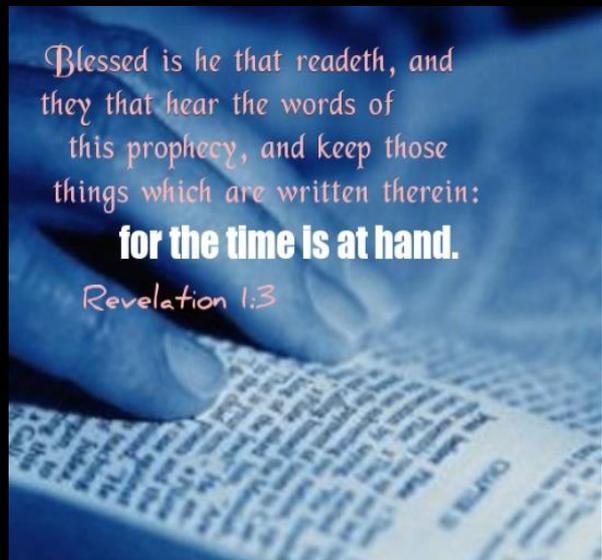
1. The word revelation means to bring to light what was formerly hidden, veiled and secret. Who and what will be unveiled by the revelation given to John (vv. 1-5)?

- **God's Plan:** vs. 1 – Things that must shortly take Place
- **God's Person:** vv. 4 – 5 - The Godhead
 - He who was, and is to come (The Father)
 - The Seven Spirits (Holy Spirit)
 - Jesus Christ the Son - who died
- **God's Power/Purpose:** vs. 5 - His power to rule over all earthly kings and to forgive sins

Seven, the "perfect" number, is used to express the fullness of the Spirit. All three references in verse 5 should greatly encourage Christians struggling to be faithful: Jesus is faithful in witness, triumphant over death and ruler over all earthly rulers.

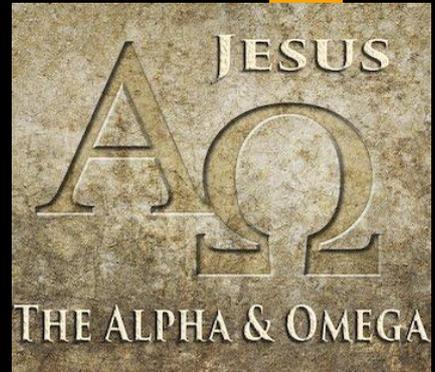
2. John states that we will be blessed if we hear his message and take it to heart (v. 3). In what ways do you think he expects us to take this message to heart?

- I. **Comforts us in our Suffering**
 - Our Suffering is Passing
 - Our Suffering is a Proof
 - Our Suffering is Predicted
- II. **Convicts us to Action**
 - To Proclamation
 - To Sanctification
 - To Expectation
- III. **Confirms Our Salvation**
 - Victory over Sin/Satan
 - Eternity in Heaven
 - Surety in the Judgement



3. John presents a vision of Jesus as both coming (v. 7) and already and always here (v. 8). What would it be like to have only one of these two perspectives?

- Most groups of believers have some persons who live mainly in the future, eagerly waiting for the return of Christ,
- There are Others who live a faith based primarily on what God has done in the past.
- Each perspective needs the other, and we should encourage the interdependence of both the perspectives and the persons who hold them.



Alpha (v. 8) is the first letter and **Omega** the last letter of the Greek alphabet.

John's vision balances the truth that Jesus begins and ends everything, yet is beyond time.

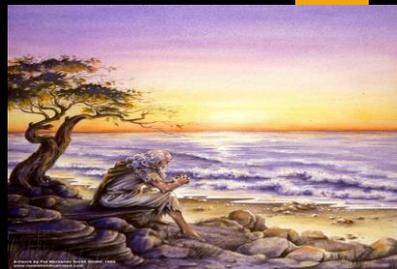
4. In what ways has a knowledge of Christ's coming encouraged you in the midst of suffering?

If we define suffering to include **illness**, **loneliness**, **discouragement** and **frustration** we will find this book speaks to our situations.

- **Illness** – That Jesus is coming with Healing – even if we don't recover He will be come for us with eternal life.
- **Loneliness** - Jesus comes to me when no one else will. And He will Be with us forever.
- **Discouragement** – No matter how bad things get – I can be encouraged that Jesus is coming.
- **Frustration** – No matter how frustrated my plans or how much it seems Satan's plan is succeeding God's Plan in Christ will prevail.

5. Why are the circumstances of John's receiving the revelation especially encouraging (vv. 9-11)?

- No matter where we are or what we are going through, Jesus can get us.
- Although He is All-powerful, He is our friend and we need not be in fear.
- God can still use us – not matter our age location or state.
- Jesus' Love And Mercy is trustworthy and Faithful.
- Despite what things look like – God has a plan.
- God will guide us to the glorious future that He has planned for us.



6. John pictures the seven churches as seven golden lampstands (to hold oil lamps, v. 12, 19). What does this tell us about the function of the churches?

- The Church is to be light of the Gospel to a dark and dying world.
- The Church is to be empowered by the oil/power of the Holy Spirit to do the Work of the Lord.
- Churches are to follow the lead of the Under-shepherds (seven stars) as they follow Christ.
- Churches/Christians who fail to embrace or fulfill their mission will lose their place and/or assignment in God's Kingdom.



7. Which images impress you most with the magnificence of Jesus, and why (vv. 13-16)?

Our image of Jesus is enhanced when our minds, like John's, are steeped in Scripture:

- "a son of man" (Dan 7:13)
- a long robe with a golden sash (Ex 28:4; 39:29)
- white head and hair (Dan 7:9)
- "eyes . . . like blazing fire" (Dan 10:6)
- "feet like bronze glowing" (Dan 10:6)
- a voice like rushing water (Ezek 1:24)
- "out of his mouth a double-edged sword" (Heb 4:12)
- "His face was like the sun" (Ex 34:29; Judg 5:31).



*It is important not to allow this vision of Jesus to contrast with the Gospels. **This magnificent Jesus who touched lepers forgave welcomed tax collectors, adulterers and sinners.***

8. How would Jesus' words encourage John not to be fearful in his presence (vv. 17-18)? How would this vision of Jesus give heart to churches facing a sinful and hostile world?

All four self-descriptions of Jesus in verses 17 and 18 are designed to overcome John's fear. They all focus on Jesus' power over death:

- **"the First and the Last,"**
- **"the Living One,"**
- **"I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever,"**
- **"I hold the keys of death and Hades."**

Jesus reassures John about why he should not be afraid in His presence - Our Lord's desire that we overcome our natural fear of Him



Keys For Living

- *While Jesus is correctly viewed as a gentle and loving Savior, we also need to see Him as the Omnipotent, Omniscient, Omnipresent, Holy and Majestic God.*
- *For the believer, the coming of Christ is something to look forward to that should spur us to action - not complacency.*
- *Although none of us are worthy to be in the presence of the Lord, it is the knowledge that Jesus is ever-present that assures and comforts us in the midst of trouble/suffering.*



QUESTIONS

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PEOPLE



Tell them bad weather
is coming, and they prepare!

Tell them JESUS is coming,
and they do nothing!

"Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son
of man cometh at an hour when ye think not."

Luke 12:40



"Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every
eye will see him, even those who pierced him;
and all the peoples of the earth will mourn
because of him. So shall it be! Amen."