

## Introduction to the book of Revelation

### Blessing & Warnings

“Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.” (Revelation 1:3)

***May we take this book to heart as we see these events coming into place.***

“As I watched, I heard an eagle that was flying in midair call out in a loud voice: ‘Woe! Woe! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the trumpet blasts about to be sounded by the other three angels!’” (Revelation 8:13)

***We do not want to be among those who are left behind!***

“But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you. He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short.” (Revelation 12:12b)

***This is the midpoint, when the antichrist breaks his treaty (Daniel 9:27)***

“Then I heard a voice from heaven say, ‘Write: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.’ ‘Yes,’ says the Spirit, ‘they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them.’” (Revelation 14:13) ***The dead are spared from evil (Isaiah 57:1-2)***

“Then the angel said to me, ‘Write: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!’” (Revelation 19:9) ***The church is His bride and others are invited.***

***John the Baptist was a friend of the Bridegroom (John 3:29)***

“Behold, I am coming soon! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy in this book.” (Revelation 22:7) ***Hold on to the Revelation of Jesus Christ! Remember, this book is about Him.***

“I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book. And if anyone takes words away from this book, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.” (Revelation 22:18-19)

***Man cannot change what God has planned (Proverbs 21:30)***

The outline for the book: “Write, therefore, what you have seen (Chapter 1), what is now (Chapters 2 – 3) and what will take place later. (Chapters 4-22) (Revelation 1:19)

***Ch. 1 – John’s vision. Ch. 2-3 – message for the churches. Ch. 4-22 – still future (Coming soon!)***

The church in the book of Revelation

A message for the churches (Revelation 1:11) – ***we should listen!***

A prophetic history of the church (Revelation 2 & 3) – ***historic, personal & prophetic***

A church called to and found in heaven (Revelation 4 & 5) – ***“Come up here” (24 elders)***

A church absent from the earth – not mentioned (Revelation 6-18) – ***not mentioned***

A church celebrating her wedding supper (Revelation 19) ***A 1 week (7yr.) celebration***

A church returning and reigning with Jesus (Revelation 19 & 20) – ***our role for 1000 yrs.***

A church not facing the Great White Throne Judgment (Revelation 20) – ***book of life***

A church home for eternity in the Heavenly City (Revelation 21 & 22) – ***All things new!***

Discussion questions for Introduction to Revelation

What things bring a blessing according to the teaching of the book of Revelation? How can we practically do these things? Why do they invoke a blessing? (Romans 10:17 / Revelation 19:10 / Matthew 7:24; 13:22)

***Hearing, heeding, and holding on to the teachings of this book.***

***Listen to the prophetic message (Romans 10:17 / Revelation 19:10)***

***Respond in obedience to what you hear. (Matthew 7:24)***

***These teachings give us perspective on what really matters (Matthew 13:22)***

***These teachings motivate us to share the gospel***

***These teachings give us hope beyond what this world has to offer.***

What warnings are given in the book of Revelation? To whom are they written? (Joel 3:12 / II Thessalonians 2:10-12 / Revelation 12:17; 13:7 / Proverbs 30:5-6)

***His coming judgments – all the peoples and nations who reject God's love***

***The wrath of the enemy upon God's people – Israel and others who come to faith***

***Those who think they know better than God and change His teachings***

How can we add to or take away from the prophecies in this book? Do we see this happening today? In what ways? (Acts 20:27, 32 / II Peter 3:16 / Genesis 3:3 / Mark 7:8-9)

***Picking and choosing which parts you want to believe.***

***Distorting the teaching by taking passages out of context.***

***Adding rules & regulations not given by God (Genesis 3:3 / Mark 7:8-9)***

***We see many churches ignoring the clear teaching of Scripture.***

***We see the prophetic teachings ignored or greatly distorted.***

***We see many churches no longer even teaching Scripture.***

If the church is in heaven during the Tribulation, why are chapters 6-18 written to those who are part of the church? Why would these chapters bring a blessing? (Deuteronomy 6:24 / II Corinthians 5:18-21 / Isaiah 45:4-7 / Joshua 21:45)

***Motivating us to be right with the LORD – the fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom.***

***Motivating us to be witnesses for the LORD – the time is at hand (II Corinthians 5:18-21)***

***Revealing the character of God – He is Holy and Righteous and Just – He does show His wrath***

***Seeing that God is faithful to His Word and to His promises – He does what He says!***

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