

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)

“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)

“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)

“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)

“Then the angel said to me, ‘Write: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!’” (Revelation 19:9)

“Behold, I am coming soon! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy in this book.” (Revelation 22:7)

“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)

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)

The church in the book of Revelation

A message for the churches (Revelation 1:11)

A prophetic history of the church (Revelation 2 & 3)

A church called to and found in heaven (Revelation 4 & 5)

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

A church celebrating her wedding supper (Revelation 19)

A church returning and reigning with Jesus (Revelation 19 & 20)

A church not facing the Great White Throne Judgment (Revelation 20)

A church home for eternity in the Heavenly City (Revelation 21 & 22)

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)

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)

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)

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)