



REVELATION

LESSON SUMMARY:

Revelation is one continuous story. It is the unfolding drama of a creator who wants to have a relationship, who wants to live in fellowship with his creation. We now come to the last book in the drama, the book of Revelation. The book that more than any other book promises that someday all of this mess that we call “life” will end. A book that promises we will return to the Garden of Eden; we will return to full fellowship, to full relationship with God our Creator. And there God will be our God, and there we will be his people.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- Student will gain insight and strategies for unveiling of the book of Revelations
- Student will complete an analytical review of the book of Revelations:
 - Past.....The Things Which Thou Hast Seen!
 - Present.....The Things Which Are!
 - Future.....The Things Which Shall Be
- Student will be exposed to the three beatitudes of the book of Revelations.
- Student will gain knowledge and understanding of the keys to decipher of the symbolism contained in the book of Revelations.

THE BEGINNING:

The Bible is one unfolding story. It is the unfolding, continuous drama of God's relationship with his creation:

- Garden of Eden where Adam and Eve walked in the presence of the Creator
- The choice (two main trees) of eating of the tree of life ...and live forever or disobey...**instead they sinned (did what God told them not to do)!**
- As the story unfolds we begin to see the effects of sin;
 - Adam and Eve alienated from the Creator
 - Forced to leave the presence of their Creator
 - Then, we read about the downward spiral of sin and its destruction among the descendants...US!

SAVED BY “ONE”:

As we have read and been taught, the drama of life unfolds and we see through “ONE” ***descendent, Jesus Christ***. God's plan of redemption was implemented in Jesus' life, Jesus' death, and Jesus' resurrection! The good news of the gospel ...the ***“Word”*** was spread!!!

THE BOOK:

Man writes history – God writes prophecy. Revelations is prophecy from God!!!

The importance of the Book is in **V-3**, and there we find three *beatitudes* of the Book:

1. “Blessed is he that readeth
2. And they that **hear** the words of **this prophecy**
3. And keep those things which are written therein”

THE CENTRAL MESSAGE:

Revelations, some say is a strange book. It is written in a genre called “apocalyptic”.

Apocalyptic literature uses bizarre images, so we have a white rider on a horse with a sword coming out of his mouth.

These images are metaphors, which need to be interpreted...apocalyptic literature has its own set of rules of interpretation.

Revelations is also a controversial book. Because it is apocalyptic literature, it has many interpretations... **the whole key in the book is to know what the primary questions are.**

John, the Apostle, wrote the book of Revelations. In his vision, he was told to write letters to the seven churches of Asia and that is what **chapters 2 and 3** are all about. The message that goes to each of these churches is basically the same message. Here we will find the primary/right question to understand as you go through “Revelations”!

MESSAGE OF REVELATIONS:

1. God will not keep you from suffering. God will not keep you from being persecuted.
2. Second, the basic message is that God calls us to be faithful. He calls us to be faithful in the midst of suffering and in the midst of persecution.
3. Thirdly, he says that there is great joy if we do **conquer**, that there are great rewards waiting for us.
 - o **Example:** in chapter 2:7, John writes to the church at Ephesus: “To the one who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, with a new name written on the stone that no one knows except the one who receives it.”

To church of Sardis: **This is the basic message of the book of Revelation. – READ Rev 3:5.**

These are the **right questions** to ask:

1. Were you surprised when persecution came? No.
2. How are you to behave? I am to be faithful unto death.
3. Why? Because the greater joy waits for me on the other side of death.

THE KEY:

If we sat down and spent 45 minutes to read all the way through Revelation *without getting lost in the details*, we would say ***it is going to hurt to be a Christian but we are going to win so we must persevere.***

That is the fundamental truth of the book of Revelation. That, at least, is the clue from **chapters 2 and 3**, and I think that is ***the key*** to understanding the rest of the book of Revelation.

VISIONS OF THE FUTURE:

Chapters 4 and 5, marvelous chapters. Chapter 5:6 is the throne room scene, and we see the Lamb of God and a scroll, and no one is found worthy to break the seals to open up the scroll. Finally, they say the Lamb is worthy to break the seal and open the scroll. (**READ Rev 5:6**)

OPENED SEALS---THE LAMB

- **First seal** opens and a rider comes out. He is on a white horse, and he goes out and wages war.... things are going to get rough.
- **Second seal** opens and another rider goes out on a red horse. This rider removes peace from the world... so people are killing each other.
- **Third seal** opens and a rider goes out on a black horse. We start seeing the consequences of war...specifically in this case, the financial devastation of war.
- **Fourth seal** is opened and a rider goes out on a pale horse. He not only kills with the sword but also with famine and with pestilence...the things that follow in the aftermath of war.
- **Fifth seal** opens and things change. We go from earth to heaven, and we start seeing all the events of all the horrors are going on earth from heavens standpoint, specifically from the standpoint of martyrs, of Christians that have died for their faith.
 - In **chapter 6**, starting at verse **10**, the **martyrs** cry out to God, “Oh Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth? How long will you wait until you punish those who have killed us, your people?” And Jesus says, ‘Wait just a little.’ “Until the number of [your] fellow

servants and their brothers should be complete, who were to be killed as they themselves have been.”

- **Sixth seal** is opened and we have the final judgment. The final judgment comes with great cosmic signs. The very people who were killing Christians, the very people who had worldly power but no spiritual power start crying out down on earth.
- **Seventh Seal...The Sealing** of the 144,000 - (**READ Rev 7: 2- 8**)
- **Final Judgement** begins - (**READ Rev. 7: 9 – 17**)

Is there anything that this world has to offer more joyous and more satisfying than what is waiting for us on the other side of the passageway? Anything?

SERIES OF CYCLES:

- In **chapter 8** we enter a series of cycles [I think that there are two in these cycles] John tells us the same thing, makes the same point, but he is tightening the noose, the cycles are becoming shorter and getting worse, but it is the same thing over and over again. So you have a cycle of seven trumpets, because when you open the seventh seal you get seven trumpets and you go through the message of the seven trumpets with the same basic message that the seals had.
- Then there is some more information, then another cycle of seven bowls being poured out, and then the same basic message in those seven bowls. [This takes us to **Chapter 19**]

WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR?

- It starts in **chapter 21** with the destruction of everything here and the creation of the new heaven and the new earth. (**READ – Rev 21: 1-7**)
- (**READ 21: 22-23**)
- (**READ 21: 22-23**)

We Are Back Where We Belong: The Imagery of the Garden of Eden (READ Rev. 22: 1-5)

SUMMARY:

We were created for fellowship. You and I were created for a relationship with God. That relationship was broken by sin in the Garden of Eden. It has been repeated in the life of every sinful human being. Creation is therefore alienated from its holy Creator and the penalty of that separation is death. Jesus, the Lamb of God, died to pay that price so that we could have open access to God and live in his presence once again. He can do that because he is God, because only God can offer the sacrifice. Jesus is also fully human because it had to be a human sacrifice for human sins.

CLOSING THOUGHT:

We who are faithful, we who conquer even to the point of death when necessary, will have our names written in the book of life. We will hear Jesus say one of the last verses in Revelation chapter 22:20: “Surely I am coming soon.” And we will respond with the earliest creedal statement of the early church, “**Maranatha!**” which means “**Come, Lord Jesus!**”

MEMORY VERSE:

“Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God” (Revelation 21:3).

[Small Group Activity]

Stories of the Bible CAYA Series

Statements or questions 1 – 6

1. “Do you really believe in hell?”
2. Who do you know and care for that may end up in the Lake of Fire? How does that make you feel?
3. Is someone persecuting you right now? How do you feel about them burning in the lake of Fire?
4. Who are you in love with? A God who is coming again, or this world? What is your most precious possession that is going to burn?
5. Do you know who is going to be in the new heaven and the new earth
6. How did it impact you when you heard that Jesus has sealed you, that he has set his mark of ownership and protection on each of his children?