

STUDYING THE BOOK OF REVELATION

IN SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Lesson 1 - Prologue - Revelation 1:1-3

Read the following verses in the New International Version or a translation of your choice. Then discuss the questions that follow. Questions should be studied by each individual before your discussion group meets.

Materials may be copied and used for Bible study purposes. Not to be sold.

REV 1:1 The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, [2] who testifies to everything he saw--that is, the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. [3] 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.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 1 - Prologue - Revelation 1:1-3

1. What did John call his writing? (1:1)
2. What is this book about? (1:1)
3. For whose benefit did God intend the book of Revelation? (1:1)
4. What did God want us to learn from the book of Revelation? (1:1)
5. How did God deliver this revelation? (1:1)
6. To whom did God deliver this revelation? (1:1)
7. Why did God give us the book of Revelation? (1:1-3)
8. How much of the revelation he received did John report? (1:2)
9. What sources did John say were the basis of his revelation? (1:2)
10. What is promised to those who take the time to study this revelation? (1:3)
11. What did John urge his readers to do? Why? (1:3)
12. How did John show urgency in what he wrote? (1:3)

Lesson 2 - Greetings and Doxology - Revelation 1:4-8

REV 1:4 John, To the seven churches in the province of Asia:

Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits* before his throne, [5] and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, [6] and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father--to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.

REV 1:7 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.

REV 1:8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 2 - Greetings and Doxology - Revelation 1:4-8

13. To whom did John write this letter? (1:4)
14. How did John begin his letter? (1:4)
15. What was unique or very Christian about the way John opened his letter? (1:4)
16. How did John refer to God? (1:4)
17. How did John greet his readers in Christ's name? (1:4)
18. By what threefold description is Jesus presented? (1:5)
19. What is Jesus' attitude toward Christians? (1:5)
20. What does Jesus do on behalf of Christians? (1:5)
21. In what way does Jesus make all believers new? (1:6)
22. What is Jesus' purpose for the church? (1:6)
23. How did John react when he recounted all the things that Jesus had done for Christians? (1:6)
24. What prophecy opens this book? (1:7)

25. By what unique description does God explain Himself in this passage? (1:8)
26. What does the description, "him who is, and who was, and who is to come," tell us about God? (1:4)
27. What does it mean that God is the "Alpha and Omega"?

Lesson 3 - One Like a Son of Man - Revelation 1:9-20

REV 1:9 I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. [10] On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet, [11] which said: "Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea."

REV 1:12 I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, [13] and among the lampstands was someone "like a son of man," dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. [14] His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. [15] His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. [16] In his right hand he held seven stars, and out of his mouth came a sharp double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.

REV 1:17 When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. [18] I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.

REV 1:19 "Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later. [20] The mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand and of the seven golden lampstands is this: The seven stars are the angels* of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 3 - One Like a Son of Man - Revelation 1:9-20

28. In what way was John a companion of his readers? (1:9)
29. Where was John when he received his revelation of Jesus Christ? (1:9)
30. Why was John where he was when he received this revelation? (1:9)
31. What kind of voice did John hear in his vision? (1:10)

32. What did God's voice command John to do? (1:11)
33. When John turned around, what objects did he see? (1:12)
34. Whom did John observe standing behind him? (1:13)
35. How was the person "among the lampstands" dressed? (1:13)
36. What was the appearance of the one "like a son of man"? (1:14-16)
37. How did John react to seeing Christ in His glory? (1:17)
38. Why did Jesus comfort and reassure John? How? (1:17-18)
39. What did Jesus say about himself as He comforted John? (1:17-18)
40. What did Jesus tell John to do? (1:19)
41. How did Jesus interpret the meaning of the seven stars and golden lampstands? (1:20)