

How to Read Revelation
Session 1
Notes

Class Details:

- This class will meet the second and fourth Monday of every month from January – April.
- The only exception to this schedule is April 12 which will be online only.
- If you are taking the class online, there is no livestream to watch on Mondays. You will get the video, audio, and handouts emailed to you on Tuesday.
- All of this content will be posted on the City of God website and available for you to use whenever is most convenient for you.

Opening Questions:

As we prepare to enter this study of Revelation together, take a couple of minutes to answer a few introductory questions.

1. What has your experience with the book of Revelation been up to this point?
2. What role has Revelation played in the churches you've attended?
3. What do you hope to get out of this study and our time together?

What are the main purposes of the book of Revelation?

1. Revelation wants to help us see _____ more clearly.
2. Revelation wants to help us become more _____ of Jesus.

Why is Revelation so hard to understand?

1. The main reason Christians struggle to understand Revelation is because we really don't know the _____ that well.

2. Before we can understand the book of Revelation, we have to know what we're reading.

Revelation is a(n)...

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Assignment:

1. At some point in the next two weeks, sit down and read the book of Revelation in its entirety in one sitting. Don't slow down as you read or get lost in the details. You're simply wanting to read this book once from cover to cover.
2. After you've read the book of Revelation, try and answer this question. What is the main point of the story that Revelation is telling? If I had to summarize the plot of Revelation in 1-2 sentences, how would I do it?
3. As you read, start a notebook of questions, things that don't make sense, and things you notice. At the end of the class, we will use these comments and questions to help us assess our progress. Feel free to send these notes to Eric to help him shape the content of the course.

Recommended Resources:

- A good study Bible (e.g., The ESV Study Bible)
- Breaking the Code: Understanding the Book of Revelation by Bruce Metzger
- Reversed Thunder: The Revelation of John & the Praying Imagination by Eugene Peterson (more devotional than commentary)
- Revelation's Rhapsody: Listening to the Lyrics of the Lamb by Robert Lowery
- Reading Revelation Responsibly by Michael Gorman

- Revelation and the End of All Things by Craig Koester
- The Theology of the Book of Revelation by Richard Bauckham