

**I. Review (Rev. 1-21)**

A. We started our study together on Aug. 13<sup>th</sup> 2017 and even though we have taken a short breaks to teach on some other subjects this has been our primary focus for a year and a half as a church family. This study today marks our 50<sup>th</sup> and final session.

B. The Book in Review – Four Main Parts

1. John's calling to prophesy about the end times (Rev. 1)
2. Jesus gives seven pastoral letters to seven churches (Rev. 2-3)
3. Jesus receives the scroll in the throne room (Rev. 4-5)
4. Jesus executes His plan to return and restore all things (Rev. 6-22)
  - a. The restoration plan (Rev. 6-22) can be broken up into 5 sections. Each section starts with a chronological list of events that Jesus is orchestrating to transition the earth into the promised age to come. Each chronologic section is followed up with an angelic explanation giving us more information concerning the chronological events.
    1. Chronological Section of the Seal Judgments (Rev. 6) - Angelic Explanation (Rev. 7)
    2. Chronological Section of Trumpet Judgments (Rev. 8-9) - Angelic Explanation (Rev. 10-11:14)
    3. Chronological Section when Jesus Returns to Earth (Rev. 11:15-19) - Angelic Explanation (Rev. 11:20-14)
    4. Chronological Section of Bowl Judgments (Rev. 15-16) - Angelic Explanation (Rev. 17-19:10)
    5. Chronological Section of Jesus setting up His Kingdom (Rev. 19:11-21:8 - Angelic Explanation (Rev. 21:9-22)

C. Main Themes in Review

A. The Revelation of Jesus – This book is possibly the clearest picture that we get of the entirety of the person and beauty of Jesus our beloved. It ties together multiple aspects of his activity and person unlike any other Holy Spirit inspired work in scripture. It reveals his heart as a Servant, Sacrifice, Bridegroom, King, and Judge. 17:24-26; Eph. 1:17-19)

1. It Prepares the Church – The prophetic nature of the book of Revelation informs the church and prepares her to be victorious in trials, participate in God's judgments, interpret the current events rightly, walk with urgency, and have confidence in who God is and what He is doing. (Mat 24:13, Dan. 11:32-34)

2. It Builds Hope – Hope is highlighted over and over in the scriptures as the anchor for our hearts. The scriptures point to the return of Jesus and the ushering in of the Kingdom of God as our greatest hope. The book of Revelation builds tangible details of the return of Jesus and the coming Kingdom unlike any other book of the bible. (1 Cor. 15:19)

## II. The Exhortations of the Holy Spirit Concerning the Vision. (Rev. 22:7-21)

A. Revelation 22:6 marks the end of the encounter and vision that Jesus gave to us through John concerning His glorious return. The final passages (Rev. 22:7-21) of the chapter should be understood as final exhortations of God concerning all that He just showed us.

1. Do not seal the words – When Jesus encountered John with this revelation of His coming it was His intention for all who desired to know about it would have open access to it. For us to seal this book off from our prayer life, messaging, and discipleship is to be in defiance of God's command. (Dan. 8:26, 12:9)
2. I am bringing your reward – The Hope of the Christian faith is solidly established upon the bodily return of Jesus to the earth to fully restore all that was lost at the fall including the restoration of the fullness of your life. Placing our hope in the age to come is a message that runs in contradiction to the pull of the spirit of this age. The cruciform lifestyle of biblical discipleship and maturity is dependent upon the promise of our reward being brought with Him. (Lk 6:20-36, 9:22-26; Acts 9:15-16; Rom. 8:13-25; 1 Cor. 4:8-13, 15:13-34; Phil. 3:8-21)
  - a. You will save yourself from so much pain and heartache if you can settle the fact that the fullness of your life is hidden in Jesus and will be revealed after He returns. Your dream spouse, family, house, vacation, job, body, goals, financial position, and retirement in this age will leave you unsatisfied and wanting. You were fashioned to live with God on a fully righteous and restored heaven and earth reality and any dynamic of life that falls short of this will leave you disillusioned and disappointed. (Col. 3:1-9; Heb. 2:14-15)
3. I am coming as the Root of David – This title is the primary Messianic title of the prophetic scriptures used to speak of the one who would institute a kingdom of righteousness that would never end. In essence He is saying, "I am coming to the earth in the fullness of my identity as Messiah" (Ps. 89; Is. 11:1-11; Lk. 1:32-33; Rom. 15:12)

4. I am coming as the Morning Star - This is also a Messianic title, it is only used once in the prophetic scriptures. Its meaning however is undeniable. When He comes as the morning star it means the long night is over and a new day has dawned upon the earth! (Num. 24:17-19; Lk. 1:78; 2 Pet. 1:19)
5. Let Him who hears say Come!! – The Holy Spirit, and those who truly walk in a Bridal identity are already crying “come Lord Jesus”. There are many who read this book or hear this book being taught and do not cry “come” as a result. The idea behind this exhortation is that those who truly hear the words of this book will see what John saw and ultimately join in the cry of the Holy Spirit and say “come”. (Acts 3:19; 1 Cor 1:7; Titus 2:13; 2 Pet. 3:11-13)
6. Behold I am coming quickly – Jesus says this 3 times in the final two chapters of Revelation. After the vision that John has is over Jesus breaks in post vision and thunders into John’s soul the message of soon expectancy. Why then has it been so long? Has Jesus mislead John and His original followers? The early church expected Jesus’ return *soon* – were they wrong to live the way they did in light of His return? **Not at all**; they were not wrong and they were not misled by Jesus. God wants to keep all generations expectant, watching, and ready for His return, hoping for this day is the fuel for the radical life we are privileged to live.

“eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ”(1 Cor. 1:7)

“For our citizenship is in heaven from which we eagerly wait for the Savior” (Phl. 3:20)

“there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness.... Not only to me but to all who have loved His appearing” (2 Tim. 4:8)

“looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior” (Titus 2:13)

“Looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God..... We according to His promise, look for a new heavens and new earth .....therefore looking forward to these things be diligent to be found blameless.” (2 Pet. 3:12-14)

*We are not rushing towards a distant brink of the consummation of all things; we are running parallel along the edge of that brink, and have been since the time of the apostles. “Thus the time has always been at hand. The tension of imminence is the condition of that span of redemptive history lying between the cross and the blessed arrival.” (Mounce)*