

REVELATION: Lesson 1 (Revelation 1: 1-8)

September 20th & 21st

1. The Greek word for revelation is *apokalypto*. **What do you think most people think of when they hear the word “apocalypse”?**

2.. Take a look at some other places the word *apokalypto* i.e. “reveal or revelation” is used in the New Testament. What is revealed and by whom?

	What is Revealed:	By Whom:
Matthew 11:27:		
Matthew 16:16–17:		
2 Corinthians 12:1–3:		
Galatians 1:12, 15–16:		

3. How does this help clarify what the word “revelation” means in Revelation 1:1?

4. Revelation 1:1 describes the chain of communication by which the content of the book of Revelation came to be written. **Trace the delivery of the revelation from source to recipients.**

5. How is this chain of communication and the content of the communication re-affirmed at the end of the book in Revelation 22:6, 8, and 16?

6. John was told to write down “all that he saw.” Over thirty times in Revelation, John will say, “I saw . . .” And then he will try to describe to us what he saw. **How might our study be affected by recognizing and remembering that John is describing something he saw?**

7. Two times in this passage (v. 4, 8) God is called or calls himself, “him who is and who was and who is to come.” This phrase will appear two more times in Revelation. **How do you think it helps those who hear the message of Revelation to hear it as coming from “he who is and who was and who is to come”?**

8. Revelation 1:3 says, “Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear.” **What does this indicate about how the first audience will experience the content of Revelation?**

9. Revelation 1:3 also says that those who are blessed are those who “hear and who keep what is written in it.” *What do you think that means, and what does it tell you about the content of this letter?*

10. In each lesson we’ll consider what it will mean for us to hear and keep the passage we’re looking at in that lesson. *What will it mean for you personally to hear and keep these first eight verses of Revelation?*

11. We’re going to discover that the number seven is used a significant number of times in the book of Revelation (over fifty times) and has significant symbolic meaning. Beginning with the seven days of creation, the number seven is identified throughout Scripture with something being “finished” or “complete.” In verse 4, John addresses the letter of Revelation to “the seven churches that are in Asia.” We know that there were more than seven churches in Asia. *So what might John be seeking to communicate by addressing this letter to seven churches?*

12. This book is a revelation *from* Jesus, but it also is a revelation *of* Jesus. *What do you find in verses 5–7 about who Jesus is, what he has done, and what he will do?*

<u>Who he is:</u>	<u>What he has done:</u>	<u>What he will do:</u>

13. Which one or two of these aspects of who Jesus is, what he has done and what he will do is particularly meaningful to you and why?

14. We see in verse 4 that this book is a letter written to seven churches—seven real churches in the first century that represent all of the churches in that day and throughout church history. It was written to them so they would not be in the dark, but so that they would know “what must soon take place.” *What does this reveal to us about the mind, the will, and the heart of God toward his people?*

15. This book begins and ends with a promise that those who hear and keep it will be blessed. *How do you think the blessing promised here is different than most people think about what it means to be blessed?*