

REVELATION

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Week 2

Summary

In this profound exploration of Revelation, we're invited to see Christ in a new, awe-inspiring light. The vision of John in Revelation 1 presents Jesus not as the humble carpenter, but as the glorified, cosmic Christ - with eyes like flames of fire and a voice like rushing waters. This image challenges us to deepen our reverence and 'tremble' in our walk with God. The parallel drawn between the Old Testament tabernacle and John's heavenly vision in Revelation 4 reveals how God's redemptive plan unfolds throughout scripture. As we contemplate the mercy seat, the rainbow, and the sea of glass, we're reminded of God's sovereignty, faithfulness, and the removal of barriers between us and Him. This fresh perspective on Revelation invites us to approach our faith with renewed wonder and to see our current struggles through the lens of God's eternal throne room.

Key Points

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- The importance of understanding Revelation through the perspective of the persecuted first-century church
- The vision of Christ in Revelation 1 as a glorified, sovereign judge and priest
- The parallel between the physical tabernacle in Exodus and the cosmic throne room in Revelation 4
- The significance of numbers and symbols in Revelation as representing ideas rather than literal quantities
- The encouragement for believers to approach God's throne boldly, as the veil has been torn
- The call for Christians to view current events and challenges through the lens of God's sovereignty



Scripture References

Mentioned

1. Revelation 1:12-20
2. Hebrews 4:12
3. John 11:25
4. Proverbs 16:31
5. 1 Corinthians 1:30
6. Daniel 7 (general reference)
7. Colossians 2:3
8. Exodus 28 (general reference)
9. Leviticus 8 (general reference)
10. Psalm 3 (general reference to "lifter of our head")
11. John 12:29
12. Isaiah 11:2
13. Exodus 19-25 (general reference)
14. 1 Peter 2:9 (implied reference to "royal priesthood")
15. Acts 2:42
16. Hebrews 12:2
17. Ezekiel 1-10 (general reference to living creatures)
18. Revelation 2-3 (general reference to letters to the churches)
19. Revelation 4-5

Main Themes

Suggested relevant verses for themes discussed:

1. Matthew 17:2 (Christ's transfiguration)
2. Exodus 40:34-35 (God's glory in the tabernacle)
3. Hebrews 9:11-12 (Christ as high priest)
4. Romans 12:2 (Not conforming to the pattern of this world)
5. 1 Thessalonians 4:16 (Trumpet call)
6. Genesis 9:13-16 (God's covenant and the rainbow)
7. Revelation 21:3 (God dwelling with his people)
8. Philippians 2:9-11 (Christ's exaltation)
9. 2 Corinthians 3:18 (Being transformed into Christ's image)

Small Group Guide

Key Takeaways:

1. The book of Revelation is meant to unveil a deeper understanding and experience of Christ.
2. We should approach Revelation through the lens of the first-century persecuted church.
3. Chapters 4-5 of Revelation are pivotal for understanding the entire book.
4. The vision in Revelation 4 parallels the Old Testament tabernacle, but on a cosmic scale.
5. Numbers in Revelation are often symbolic rather than literal.

Discussion Questions:

1. How does understanding the perspective of the first-century church change your view of Revelation? Why is this context important?
2. The pastor mentioned "peppering a little tremble into your walk." What do you think this means, and how might it apply to your life?
3. How does the description of Christ in Revelation 1:12-20 compare to your usual perception of Jesus? What aspects stand out to you?
4. In what ways does the vision of the throne room in Revelation 4 provide encouragement to believers facing persecution or difficulties?
5. How does the parallel between the Old Testament tabernacle and John's vision in Revelation 4 deepen your understanding of God's plan throughout Scripture?
6. The sermon emphasized that Revelation is not separate from the rest of the Bible but a fulfillment of it. How does this change your approach to reading and interpreting Revelation?



Practical Applications:

1. This week, spend time meditating on the description of Christ in Revelation 1:12-20. Journal about how this impacts your view of Jesus and your relationship with Him.
2. Reflect on areas in your life where you may have become too casual in your approach to God. How can you cultivate a healthy reverence for God without losing sight of His love and mercy?
3. Choose one aspect of the throne room vision (e.g., the rainbow, the sea of glass, the living creatures) and research its biblical significance. Share your findings with the group next week.
4. Practice "looking up" this week by intentionally shifting your focus from earthly concerns to heavenly realities. How does this change your perspective on daily challenges?
5. As you encounter difficult situations or cultural conflicts this week, try to view them from the perspective of God's throne room. How might this "transcendent maturity" affect your responses and interactions?



Day 1: The Unveiling of Christ Reading: Revelation 1:9-20

Devotional: As we begin our journey through Revelation, we're immediately confronted with a powerful vision of Christ. John's description of Jesus is awe-inspiring and perhaps even frightening. This is not the gentle carpenter from Nazareth, but the glorified King of Kings. Today, reflect on your own image of Christ. Have you domesticated Him in your mind? Allow John's vision to expand your understanding of Jesus' majesty and power. How might this renewed perspective change the way you approach Him in prayer and worship? Remember, this awesome figure is the same one who loves you deeply and calls you His own.

Day 2: The Throne Room of Heaven Reading: Revelation 4:1-11

Devotional: John's vision of the throne room gives us a glimpse into the very heart of heaven. The imagery is rich with symbolism, but the central focus is clear - God on His throne, sovereign over all creation. In our troubled world, it's easy to feel that things are spiraling out of control. But this passage reminds us that there is One who reigns supreme. Today, consider the areas of your life where you feel powerless or afraid. How does the image of God on His throne bring comfort and perspective to these situations? Take time to join the heavenly worship, declaring God's holiness and surrendering your concerns to His loving rule.

Day 3: The Lamb Who is Worthy Reading: Revelation 5:1-14

Devotional: The drama in heaven continues as we see a scroll that no one can open - until the Lamb appears. This beautiful picture combines the power of the Lion of Judah with the sacrifice of the Lamb of God. Jesus alone is worthy to unveil God's plans because of His redemptive work on the cross. Reflect today on the unique qualifications of Christ. How has His sacrifice impacted your life? In what ways do you need to more fully embrace both His power and His humility? Let this vision of Jesus inspire you to join the heavenly chorus in new praise and adoration.

Day 4: Messages to the Churches Reading: Revelation 2:1-7, 3:14-22

Devotional: These letters to the seven churches reveal Christ's intimate knowledge of His people - both their strengths and their weaknesses. He offers words of encouragement, rebuke, and promise. As you read, imagine Jesus speaking directly to you or your church. What would He commend? What areas need repentance or renewal? Pay special attention to the promises given to those who overcome. How do these promises motivate you to persevere in your faith journey? Remember, Jesus stands at the door and knocks, desiring deep fellowship with you. How will you respond to His invitation today?

Day 5: Hope in Suffering Reading: Revelation 7:9-17

Devotional: This beautiful passage offers a vision of ultimate hope for those facing persecution and hardship. John sees a vast multitude from every nation worshipping before the throne, their trials behind them. In a world often marked by division and conflict, this picture of unity in diversity is profoundly moving. Whatever struggles you face today, let this promise of future glory strengthen your resolve. Reflect on how your current difficulties are shaping your character and deepening your faith. How can you live today in light of this eternal perspective? Ask God to help you see your trials through His eyes and to use them to draw you closer to Him and to your eternal home.