

Overview:

Of all the books in the Bible the book of Revelation is probably the most intimidating. It is filled with descriptions and illustrations that come across completely foreign to us. Within its pages are locusts that sting like scorpions, four horsemen, a dragon, bowls and trumpets of judgement, a prostitute riding on a beast with seven heads and ten horns, and, finally, there is Jesus riding on a white horse with an unknown name tattooed on his thigh. This sounds more like a description of an amazing fantasy adventure movie than a book of the Bible.

With all of this going on it is no wonder why it is easy to get confused and lost in Revelation. We need to remember that above anything else the book of Revelation is about Jesus. In writing the book the Apostle John is pulling back the curtains of the eternal and giving us a glimpse of the heavenly realm. He is doing the best with the vocabulary he has to describe the indescribable. For 22 chapters John is going to take us on an amazing ride. No other book of the Bible describes both God's wrath and love so clearly. John will write about everything from judgments being poured out on the earth to God wiping away every tear. No matter your opinion of Revelation one thing is clear; Jesus is coming back.

Revelation 1:7 states: ⁷"Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him."¹ From the beginning of Revelation to the end the consistent message John doesn't want you to miss is that Jesus is returning. He uses the word "behold" which means to pay attention and open your eyes. There are so many things in this life that cause us to lose sight of Jesus. Everything from regular daily stresses to major life events have the potential to cause us to lose our focus. John wants us to open our eyes and pay attention. He wants us to see Jesus for who He really is: the all powerful, mind blowing, fear invoking, creator of the universe. This is a far cry from the pocket Jesus many of us like to carry around. The one we pull out when we want something or when life is not going our way. The little Jesus who we can control and use. John is presenting a Jesus who will not be managed, whose face is like the sun and voice is like a thundering waterfall.

When John saw Jesus he fell down as though dead. In case you are wondering, in the Greek dead means dead. Throughout the entire book of John he referred to himself as the "one Jesus loved." First of all, it does not count if you give yourself your own nickname. Secondly, Jesus and John undeniably had a close

¹ [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#). (2016). (Re 1:7). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

relationship. Even with this relationship background John still fell down as though dead. The picture John had of Jesus in his mind did not equate to the vision of the Jesus He was seeing. He was now seeing the heavenly Jesus. The curtain was pulled back and the Jesus he had known, but never truly saw, was now standing before him.

I cannot think of a faster way to get an accurate perspective of our finite lives versus an infinite God than to see the heavenly Jesus. When we have this vision of Jesus in our lives then the depravity of our sin becomes clear. Our sin cannot be combined with His Holiness. Our sin plus all our efforts equal an eternity in hell. Our sin plus Jesus' sacrifice equals an eternity in heaven. This powerful picture of Jesus leaves no room for nominal Christianity. When we see this huge, holy, towering vision of Jesus it should cause all of us to fall as though dead before our mighty God. It should pull us into a deep, abiding, loving, relationship with Him. It should make us realize that we are not appeasing God by just attending church on Sunday. He wants more than our physical impression in a pew. He wants our heart every day. Do you have a loving relationship with Him or are you just doing religious activities?

Jesus did not leave John on the ground as a dead man. He reached out with His right hand and touched him saying "Fear Not." This is amazing. Even with all of Jesus' power, and holiness there is still a gentle side to Him. There is a side that reaches out to each one of us telling us to fear not. When this ____ ^{fill in blank} ____ is going on in your life, Jesus is saying "fear not." Look at Him and see His power. We cannot lose sight of this Jesus. The book of Revelation will bring judgment and wrath along with love and grace. The biggest question you must answer is which are you going to receive? Reject Jesus now and pay for your own sins for eternity or accept Jesus as your Savior and be covered by His grace for eternity. Have you accepted Jesus as your Savior?

Bible Study:

1. What thoughts come to mind when you think of the book of Revelation?
2. Does the thought of the second coming of Jesus bring you fear or hope? Why?
3. How can the image of an all-powerful Jesus help you deal with fears in your life?
4. This is the first time John had seen Jesus in about 60 years. Why do you think Jesus chose to appear to John in an all-powerful form instead of the Jesus he would have remembered?

5. John was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and testimony of Jesus? Have you ever felt or experienced persecution because of these same things?
6. Have you ever read the book of Revelation? Why or why not? If you have, what impacted you the most?
7. The book of Revelation concludes with Jesus being triumphant over everything. How can knowing this provide you hope in what can sometimes feel like a hopeless situations?