

HOW TO READ THE BIBLE

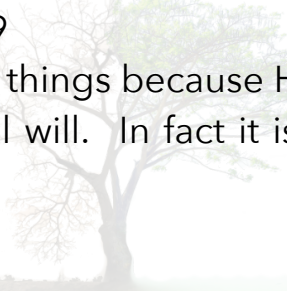


RECAP

- ▶ Over **20** million Bibles are sold in the US every year.
 - ▶ The average American Christian owns **9** Bibles & wants to purchase more. For this reason, the Bible is actually excluded from book bestseller lists because it would always be on top.
 - ▶ In 2016, the Gideons International distributed 59,460,000 testaments worldwide. That is more than **100** per minute.
 - ▶ In 2018, on the International Bible Society's app, YouVersion, there were 4.5 billion chapters read by over 32 million users. Those 32 million users shared over 43 million verses with others on social media.
 - ▶ There are **900** different translations of the Bible just in English. There is even one Bible that has been translated into the fictional language of Klingon.
- ▶ Why this series?
 - ▶ The Bible >> 807,361 words, 31,164 verses, 1,189 chapters, 66 books (39 OT, 27 NT)
 - ▶ The goal of this series has been to see the Bible as **approachable** & to be able to open the Bible to any section & have the tools you need to understand it.
 - ▶ But we want to go beyond reading the Bible just for personal comfort to grow in our **awareness** of what God is doing now & in the future based on what God has done in the past.

APOCALYPTIC LITERATURE

- ▶ Apocalyptic literature (i.e., parts of Daniel & Revelation) cannot be **interpreted** the same way as others. They are meant to be mysterious. But even in the mystery they tell us about the character of God.
- ▶ There are some things He has not **revealed** to us because He is God & cannot fathom it >> Deuteronomy 29:29
- ▶ But He is not **withholding** these things because He has some kind of mean streak inside of Him or some kind of ill will. In fact it is the opposite >> 1 Corinthians 2:9-10



REVELATION

Genre: Apocalyptic • Written by John around 95-96 AD

- ▶ God is the God of **Eternity**
- ▶ Just like his Gospel account, John immerses this account in the biblical idea of God's **perfection** being restored to His creation, Revelation contains several sets of sevens: Seven Churches in Asia (1:9-3:22), Seven Seals (4:1-8:1), Seven Trumpets (8:6-11:19), and Seven Bowls of Wrath (15:1-19:6).
- ▶ Why did John write this book?
 - ▶ Revelation 1:10 >> John was in the **Spirit** on the Lord's Day, but he was also in the Spirit beholding the **Lord's Day** of the future.
 - ▶ At the time that John received the Revelation, the church was being greatly persecuted by the Roman emperor Domitian.
 - ▶ Revelation 1:11 >> This revelation was written to specific sister **churches** in seven cities in Asia Minor. All that unfolds in the book is meant to speak into the situations that these churches were facing.
 - ▶ The message of Revelation is that Satan and the world cannot **win**, and that Christ & His church cannot **lose**.
- ▶ Summary Verse >> Revelation 21:3-4 | And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."
- ▶ Outline
 - ▶ Chapters 1-3 >> The Message to the **Churches**: Each church is facing a unique situation, but will all be judged by a uniform standard: faithfulness to Jesus & His mission.
 - ▶ Chapters 4-5 >> Hell on Earth, **Peace** in Heaven: In these chapters, John gets a glimpse of what is going on in the throne room of God.
 - ▶ Chapters 6-16 >> The Day of the **Lord**: These chapters do not contain a literal timeline. The main point is to describe the evil brought by sin, the cost of rebellion, & the need for repentance.
 - ▶ Chapters 17-20 >> Judgment: **Babylon** is not a literal kingdom, but a general title that came into view in the book of Daniel which represented those who put their trust in man rather than God.
 - ▶ Chapters 21-22 >> Eternal **Restoration**: After evil is fully & finally judged, those who have trusted Christ are gathered & receive this restored Creation (21:1-4)

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