

Revelation: Chapter 2

Opening Question: What is a literary approach to biblical interpretation and how is this approach being applied in this study of Revelation?

Key Takeaways:

1. Many Old Testament allusions are contained in this chapter and throughout the Book of Revelation, highlighting the importance of understanding the entire Bible.
2. The seven churches that John addressed in Revelation were facing persecution from both non-believing Jews and Gentile unbelievers.
3. The seven sets of instructions in this chapter are addressed specifically to the human messenger, or pastor, of each church.
4. The angels/messengers whom John addressed were the church leaders responsible for guiding their congregations and refuting false teaching.
5. These churches were repeatedly encouraged to overcome and remain faithful despite persecution.
6. The “second death” is reserved for those who, after death and resurrection, will be judged not by Christ’s work on their behalf but by their own works, and will be found wanting.

Discussion Questions:

1. Read aloud together Revelation 1-2. From these two chapters, list everything you know about John’s original audience and discuss why these original readers needed to know what John was writing to them? As you continue this study keep in mind that the entire book is addressed to these seven churches.
2. Read together “The Song of Moses,” Deuteronomy 32. This is the biblical story in one chapter. Now rehearse the biblical story and be prepared to connect what has been foretold previously in the Bible with how it will unfold as you continue through Revelation.
3. Read Revelation 1:19. This literary marker lays out three sections, what John “has seen,” verses 1:1-18, “the things which are,” chapters 2-3, and “the things that shall take place after these things,” beginning in chapter 4. Recognizing these markers will be helpful as you progress through the book.

Practical Application:

1. Read Revelation chapters 1-2. Who is John addressing in this letter and why does his audience need to know what he is writing to them?
2. The word “overcome” is used repeatedly in John’s address to each of the seven churches. List the results for the overcomers in this book, according to John.
3. The pronoun “you” is singular in this section of Revelation except for Revelation 2:10, 24- 25. Reread chapters 1 and 2 keeping the pronouns distinct to better understand who John is addressing.

Closing Prayer:

Father, Thank You for Your Word which encourages us to endure and overcome as John encouraged the seven churches in Asia. We are grateful to know the end of the story and the coming of King Jesus to rule and reign. Encourage us with the words of Your Scriptures as we await His return. Amen.