

Revelation: Overview Part One

Opening Question: Discuss the idea that the book of Revelation is not revealing new information but is describing how previously foretold events will take place.

Key Takeaways:

1. The book of Revelation does not tell the “what” but the “how” of God’s work to bring Israel back to faith in Him.
2. Much of the LORD’s future dealings with Israel, the “what will occur” is foretold by the Old Testament prophets writing during Israel’s exile.
3. Interpreting the Bible “literarily” recognizes each biblical author’s intentional choice of a specific genre to contribute to the communication of one cohesive message where the rules of literature for each genre chosen are followed.
4. It is important to read the Bible literally and not through the lens of a theological system.
5. Jeremiah 31, Ezekiel 36-37, Deuteronomy 30, 32, 34 and the books of Isaiah and Daniel all aid in understanding the book of Revelation.
6. The book of Revelation reveals God’s faithfulness in keeping His promises made throughout the Bible.

Discussion Questions:

1. To best understand how the story ends, you will first need to be familiar with the overall story of the Bible. If your group is unfamiliar with the biblical story, set aside thirteen minutes to watch Teach Me the Bible “The Story of the Bible in One Session” <https://teachmethebible.subsplash.sh/rj3q8fz>, before proceeding.
2. Discuss the idea that the book of Revelation tells “how” end time events will unfold while “what” events will occur have been revealed earlier in the story. How is God’s faithfulness displayed in the book of Revelation?
3. What is the difference between a “literal” and a “literary” interpretation of the Bible? How does a literary interpretation help in understanding the Bible as one cohesive story?

Practical Application:

1. Set aside time this week to read through or listen to the book of Revelation in one sitting without pausing to take notes or ask questions. This will take about an hour and a half and will serve to familiarize you with the text as the study begins.
2. Make a list of questions you have about the book of Revelation and end times that you hope this study will address and possibly answer.
3. How does recognizing that the book of Revelation does not stand alone but is the conclusion of the biblical story inform how you will approach reading this book?

Closing Prayer:

Father, Thank You for Your Word and all that it reveals about Your character and Your plan for Your creation. As we learn the end of the story may our hope in our future resurrection and life with Christ at His return impact all that we do until He comes. Maranatha.
Amen.