

Revelation: Chapter 1

Opening Question: How does your understanding of Jesus and your response to Him compare with the description of Jesus and John's response to Him in chapter one?

Key Takeaways:

1. The Book of Revelation is a letter written by the apostle John to Jewish believers in seven specific churches in Asia.
2. The entire letter is addressed to these seven churches.
3. "Angel" simply means "messenger" and could be a human or an angelic being.
4. The readers and hearers of the prophecy are two distinct groups.
5. Old Testament passages alluded to in this chapter include Exodus 19, Daniel 7, Zechariah 4 and 12, Genesis 11, and Isaiah 49.
6. John explains the imagery of the seven stars and the seven lamp stands as the seven angels or messengers and the seven churches.
7. John, who previously described himself as the disciple that Jesus loved, fell to his face like a dead man as he encountered Christ in Revelation 1.

Discussion Questions:

1. Read aloud together Revelation 1. How does John's description of Jesus in Revelation 1 challenge or expand your current view of Christ? What implications might this have for your faith and worship?
2. Read together Ephesians 4:1-16 and Acts 6:1-7. From these passages discuss what is, and what is, not the primary role of the pastor/shepherd and why protecting this primary role is vital for a church's understanding of God's Word.
3. Discuss the interconnectedness of the Old Testament and the Book of Revelation in just the first chapter of Revelation. Discuss how this fact encourages or challenges your understanding of the Bible and what steps you can take to have a more comprehensive understanding of the complete story of the Bible.

Practical Application:

1. Read Revelation 1 and list the ways in which Jesus is described in these verses. Use this list as you worship the LORD this week.
2. Look up and mark in your Bible the Old Testament passages referred to in Revelation 1 including Exodus 19:3-6; Daniel 7:13-14; Zechariah 12:10-11; Genesis 11:1-9; Zechariah 4:1-7; Isaiah 49: 1-2.
3. The Book of Daniel is often studied alongside the Book of Revelation. Read or listen to the Book of Daniel this week in preparation for the study of Revelation. This will take about an hour and a half.

Closing Prayer:

Father, Thank You for the revelation of Jesus Christ given in the Scriptures. We ask that You would enlarge our view of You and of Your Son Jesus as we read Your Word. May we grow more and more aware of Christ's majesty and authority and respond in adoration as we anticipate and long for His return. Amen.