

Revelation: Overview Part Two

Opening Question: Briefly recount the biblical story, beginning in Genesis, in order to understand the story's conclusion in

Revelation. **Key Takeaways:**

1. The book of Revelation is the end of the biblical story and must be understood in light of the previous 65 books.
2. The book of Revelation contains no direct quotations from the Old Testament but is replete with Old Testament allusions, indirect references which rely on the audiences prior knowledge to grasp their meaning.
3. The book of Revelation is a letter written by the apostle John to Jewish believers in seven specific churches.
4. Galatians 2:6-10 records that the apostles Peter, James, and John preached the gospel to the circumcised (Jews) while Paul preached the gospel to the uncircumcised (Gentiles).
5. John's original audience knew the Old Testament story, were anticipating the fulfillment of God's promises to Israel, and had need of endurance.
6. The book of Revelation is not revealing new information, but explaining how previously foretold events will unfold.
7. It is important to read the Bible, including the book of Revelation, literarily and not through the lens of a theological system.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is it important to have a good understanding of the Old Testament before studying Revelation? How might this change your approach to reading it?
2. What is the difference between an "allegorical" and a "literary" interpretation of the Bible? How does a literary interpretation help in understanding the Bible as one cohesive story?
3. Read aloud together Leviticus 26 as you prepare to understand Revelation. Look for the blessings and curses described in Leviticus 26 as you read the events described in Revelation.

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. Did you recognize the blessings and curses pronounced on Israel from Leviticus 26 as you listened or read through Revelation? Make note of where these were in the book.
3. Read Deuteronomy 28, 30, and 32 to equip yourself to better understand the events described in Revelation.

Closing Prayer:

Father, Thank You for the revelation of Yourself and Your plan for Your creation in Your Word. We ask for stamina and clarity as we approach this study. Change our lives as we come to know You more through Your Word. Amen.