

REVELATION



Let's Talk

Think of some normal signs and symbols that we encounter in our everyday lives. What are some ways that these things act as an indicator of things to come? Give some examples (e.g., birds flying south and leaves changing colour are signs of season change). Why do you think signs and symbols carry such powerful meaning for us? Do you find yourself sometimes seeking these things? Why or why not?

Let's Study

Read Revelation 1:9-20.

- What was John doing and what day was it when he encountered the angel of the Lord? The very first thing that happened was not sight but sound (v. 10). Why do you think this is significant?
- Read verses 12-15 again. What are some of the symbols identified in these verses? Is anything revealed about their meaning? Compare with Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14. With your group, discuss the significance of the similarity of these two passages.
- John describes 'someone like a Son of Man' walking among the lampstands (v. 13). Who is this High Priest revealed to be? Compare with Hebrews 4:14-16. What special quality does our High Priest have (v. 15b)? How are believers encouraged to approach God's throne?
- Read verse 17 in at least two different translations. What does Jesus say to reveal His authority? Consider with your group what this means for those who love Him. Why would this have been a controversial notion to non-believers?
- Read John 10:28-30. What does this mean for our identity in Christ? How does Jesus' statement here affirm what is revealed in the first chapter of Revelation?

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Let's Apply

In his sermon on Sunday, Pastor Jon reminded us that 'the purpose of the church is to bear light of the divine presence in a darkened world.'

John was worshipping when Jesus revealed Himself to him. In Revelation 3:20, Jesus says, 'Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.' We serve a God who longs to be among us and for us to know Him. He loves us, and He wants to reveal himself to the world through us.

How can we prepare our hearts for encounter with Jesus this week? Are we making time for Him regularly by practicing spiritual disciplines?

With your group, discuss practical ways you can develop your spiritual growth. What are you doing well? What could you spend more time doing?

Let's Pray

Heavenly Father, thank you that you have given us a High Priest who intercedes and prays for us. Help us to seek Your word in our daily lives and to rely upon it, rather than worldly wisdom or meaningful signs, to direct our paths. Help us to stand in our knowledge of Your goodness, Your mercy and truth, and Your absolute sovereignty as our Lord and Saviour. Amen.