

Message: Revelation Week 1: Introduction

Scripture: Revelation 1:1-4

"The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, who testified to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw. Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of the prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near." Revelation 1:1-3 (NRSV)

Two negative responses to the book of Revelation

1. We get obsessed with it.
2. We avoid the book all together.

Three reasons why we are studying the book of Revelation

1) Because it's in the Bible.

"All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness." 2 Timothy 3:16 (NRSV)

2) Because it carries a promise of blessing.

"Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of the prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it." Revelation 1:3 (NRSV)

3) Because it will sharpen our ability study Scripture.

Four primary images used in the book of Revelation

1) OBJECTS

"In His right hand He held seven stars; and from his mouth came a sharp double-edged sword..." Revelation 1:16

2) NUMBERS.

"To the seven churches who are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, from the Father; and from the seven Spirits who are before his throne; and from Jesus Christ..." Revelation 1:4

"It shall serve for you as a sign on your hand and as a reminder on your forehead, so that the teaching of the Lord may be on your lips; for with a strong hand the Lord brought you out of Egypt." Exodus 13:9 (NRSV)

3) EVENTS

"The nations are in a uproar, the kingdoms totter; God utters his voice, the earth melts." Psalm 46:6 (NRSV)

4) CREATURES.

"Then one of the elders said to me, 'Do not weep. See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals. Revelation 5:5 (NRSV)