

THE BOOK OF REVELATION



THIS GUIDE IS DESIGNED TO HELP YOU LISTEN ACTIVELY, REFLECT HONESTLY, AND PARTICIPATE MEANINGFULLY DURING OUR STUDY. THERE ARE NO TRICK QUESTIONS. THERE ARE ONLY INVITATIONS TO THINK, PRAY, AND ENGAGE.

1. OPENING REFLECTION

BRINGING OUR BAGGAGE INTO THE ROOM

THINK ABOUT YOUR PAST EXPERIENCES WITH REVELATION.

WHAT EMOTIONS COME TO MIND WHEN YOU HEAR "THE BOOK OF REVELATION"?

FEAR CONFUSION CURIOSITY AVOIDANCE INTEREST OTHER: _____

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN TAUGHT REVELATION PRIMARILY AS:

WARNING PREDICTION MYSTERY SOURCE OF HOPE A THING TO AVOID

REFLECTION QUESTION:

WHAT ASSUMPTIONS MIGHT GOD BE INVITING YOU TO LOOSEN AS WE BEGIN THIS STUDY?



2. WHAT REVELATION IS

AND WHAT IT IS NOT

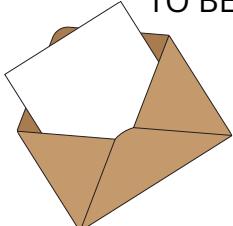
REVELATION IS A REVELATION OF JESUS, NOT A ROADMAP OF WORLD EVENTS.

THINK ABOUT THIS:

WHY DO YOU THINK A BOOK MEANT TO ENCOURAGE BELIEVERS HAS SO OFTEN BEEN USED TO FRIGHTEN THEM?

REFLECTION QUESTION

WHAT WOULD IT CHANGE IF YOU APPROACHED REVELATION EXPECTING TO BE ENCOURAGED INSTEAD OF CONFUSED?



3. WHY THE OLD TESTAMENT MATTERS

REVELATION CONSTANTLY ECHOES EARLIER SCRIPTURE.

THINK ABOUT THIS:

WHY MIGHT JOHN CHOOSE TO SPEAK IN THE LANGUAGE OF ISRAEL'S SCRIPTURES RATHER THAN EXPLAIN EVERYTHING PLAINLY?



REFLECTION QUESTION:

HOW DOES KNOWING THE BIBLE AS ONE CONNECTED STORY CHANGE THE WAY WE READ ITS FINAL BOOK?

4. THE AUTHOR AND HIS SITUATION

JOHN WRITES AS A FAITHFUL WITNESS, NOT A DISTANT OBSERVER.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT:

HOW MIGHT EXILE, PRESSURE, OR SUFFERING SHARPEN SOMEONE'S SPIRITUAL VISION RATHER THAN DULL IT?



APPLICATION QUESTION:

WHERE MIGHT GOD BE SPEAKING MOST CLEARLY IN TIMES OF DISCOMFORT RATHER THAN EASE?

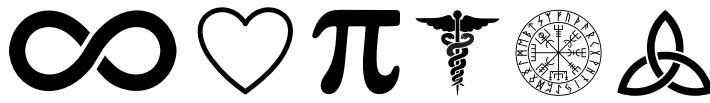
5. APOCALYPTIC LANGUAGE

APOCALYPTIC WRITING PULLS BACK THE CURTAIN TO SHOW WHAT'S REALLY GOING ON.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT:



WHY DO YOU THINK GOD SOMETIMES USES IMAGES AND SYMBOLS INSTEAD OF STRAIGHTFORWARD EXPLANATION?

**REFLECTION QUESTION:**

WHAT SYMBOLS OR IMAGES TEND TO STICK WITH YOU MORE THAN EXPLANATIONS?

6. INTERPRETING REVELATION WITH HUMILITY

FAITHFUL CHRISTIANS HAVE HELD DIFFERENT VIEWS ON HOW REVELATION WORKS.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT:

WHAT DANGERS COME FROM FORCING CURRENT EVENTS INTO BIBLICAL PROPHECY?

REFLECTION QUESTION:

HOW CAN HUMILITY ACTUALLY STRENGTHEN, NOT WEAKEN, OUR FAITH?



7. REVELATION 1:1–3

THE PURPOSE OF THE BOOK

BLESSING COMES FROM READING, HEARING, AND KEEPING. NOT SPECULATING.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT:

WHAT KIND OF OBEDIENCE DO YOU THINK REVELATION IS CALLING BELIEVERS TOWARD?

APPLICATION QUESTION:

WHERE MIGHT FAITHFULNESS TO JESUS BE QUIETLY COSTLY IN EVERYDAY LIFE?



8. CLOSING REFLECTION

WHY THIS STILL MATTERS



REVELATION REMINDS US THAT GOD IS PRESENT, JESUS REIGNS, AND FAITHFULNESS MATTERS.

FINAL QUESTION:

IF GOD IS TRULY IN CONTROL OF HISTORY, HOW SHOULD THAT SHAPE THE WAY YOU LIVE THIS WEEK?



OPTIONAL PRAYER:

"GOD, HELP ME TO SEE REALITY THE WAY YOU SEE IT AND GIVE ME THE COURAGE TO LIVE BOLDLY AND FAITHFULLY WITHIN IT."

