

Main Idea: We live in a world of physical and spiritual conflict, but Christians have hope in the ultimate victory of Jesus.

Context of Revelation

- **Author:** The Apostle John
- **Audience:** All Churches
- **Situation:** Christians face difficulty while waiting in hope for the return of Jesus.

What is Revelation?

- **Apocalyptic Literature** - Visions, imagery, and symbolism are used to communicate the spiritual realities behind earthly circumstances.
- Elements of Apocalyptic Literature
 - Told in the form of a story
 - Mediated by a supernatural being
 - Interprets present earthly circumstances through two lenses:
 - The supernatural world
 - The future
 - Influences the audience's
 - Understanding
 - Behavior

Interpreting Revelation

- Interpret Revelation Historically
- Interpret Revelation Practically
- Interpret Revelation Humbly

Essential Sections

- The Letters to the Churches - Instructions for real Christians in a fallen world. (2-3)
- The Praise of the Lion and the Lamb - A spiritual look at the glory of Jesus. (5, 7:9-12)
- Defeat and Judgment for the enemies of God - (20:7-15)
- The New Heaven and New Earth (21:1-8, 22-27; 22:1-5)

Main Idea: We live in a world of physical and spiritual conflict, but Christians have hope in the ultimate victory of Jesus.

Intro Question: What do you think will happen before the world ends?

Teaching Part 1

What is Revelation?

What are your opinions about the book of Revelation? Do you see it as interesting, uninteresting, confusing, weird, fascinating, etc.? Why?

Interpreting Revelation

Read Revelation 5. Talk about some of the images in this passage and what you think they mean.

- The symbolism of the scroll and its seals is debated, but in some way they represent God's plan for human history and His judgment on the world. We will talk more about this. The Lion and the Lamb represent Jesus, who was slain for the salvation of people from every nation. The living creatures and elders may represent both people who have been saved and heavenly creatures whose purpose is to worship God. The more important point is that every creature in the presence of the Lamb is pouring out loud praise to the Lamb. In the great spiritual conflict between good and evil, Jesus proves to be the One who is worthy of worship, who will reign forever.

Teaching Part 2

Essential Sections

Read Revelation 19:11-16. Talk about the images in this passage and what they teach us about Jesus.

- The person on the white horse is Jesus, described by the apostle John in John 1 as "The Word of God." That He is called Faithful and True shows us that God's promises of victory for His people will be fulfilled. He is the just judge who will judge the world. He is described as glorious. His robe is dipped in blood, which seems to be the blood of His enemies over whom He is victorious. He commands the hosts of heaven. His word is like a sword that has power to overcome the nations. He delivers the wrath of God on His enemies and claims the kingship and lordship which requires His worship. This Jesus is a powerful warrior who comes back to fulfill the promises of God, and there is no one who can stand in His way. This is great news for His people and a powerful warning for those who are not with Him.

Read Revelation 21:1-8. What difficulties in your life does this picture promise to resolve? How can this picture give you hope in the midst of a fallen world?

- Revelation pictures a day when our relationship with God is fully restored. He will dwell with us and give us the life we were always meant to live. All of the pain and suffering that sin caused in this world will be gone and we will live as the people of God in a world where everything is good. This is not describing a long worship service where we all stand in choir robes and sing for thousands of years without doing anything else. It is describing a world where everything we do will be done perfectly in the presence of God for His glory. As difficult as things may be now, they will be so much more beautiful then.

Answer to Remember: The letters of the New Testament are God's inspired instructions to His people about the gospel, the Christian life, and the Church.

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Interpreting Revelation

- Interpret Revelation _____
- Interpret Revelation _____
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REVELATION

NT Overview

Teaching Resources

[Bible Project video: Revelation Overview](#)

[Capitol Hill Baptist Church Core Seminar: NT Overview](#)

[TGC Course - ESV Study Bible: Introduction to Revelation](#)

Thomas Schreiner - [The Joy of Hearing: A Theology of the Book of Revelation](#)