

Title of Study: “The Revelation of Jesus Christ”

Theme of Revelation: The majesty and glory of the warrior lamb, King Jesus, who is coming again to rule and reign forever.

Purpose: To encourage and give hope to the persecuted church and call the church to faithful obedience.

Title: “Are You Ready?”

Main idea: Be prepared for the coming of Jesus!

3 Reasons

1. Be prepared because His coming will be sudden!
 - vs (12) “coming quickly”
 - 12:7, 12, and 20 all say He is coming quickly!
 - It can mean at any time but also carries the idea of suddenness.
 - Jesus’ return will be sudden. It could happen before I finish this message.
 - Mark 13:33-37
 - Luke 12:35-40

Application

- We must be ready at all times!
 - Obviously making sure of salvation but also working with a sense of urgency.
2. Be prepared because rewards will be coming!!
 - vs (12) “my reward”
 - It seems best to take this as the rewards given to believers.
 - Salvation is not rewarded based on our work.
 - vs (13) “Alpha” “Omega” He started all things and will bring it to its conclusion. He is qualified to judge us!
 - 1 Corinthians 3:9-15
 - Matthew 25:14-30
 - 2 Corinthians 5:9-10
 - Believers will not be at the ‘Great White Throne’ judgment (Revelation 20:11-14).
 - Our sin has been judged when Jesus “became sin” for us.
 - 2 Corinthians 5:21
 - But we will stand before the “Judgment Seat of Christ”.
 - The “Bema” (judgment seat) was the platform where they handed out prizes, usually a wreath crown to the winners at “the games”.
 - We must all stand there as believers.
 - It is possible we may cry here and Jesus “wipes away our tears”.

- We are accountable to the Lord for our lives and what we did or didn't do with the opportunities God gave us.
- Pastors are accountable for how we oversee the church.
- Hebrews 13:17
- It's a scary thought for us as pastors.
- It's a scary thought for us as believers.

Application

- 2 Corinthians 5:9-10
- "Be well pleasing".
- That is part of being prepared.
- Romans 12:2
- We should live our lives knowing we will stand before Him and give an account.

3. Be prepared because access is exclusive!

- vs (14) "blessed" – 7th beatitude of Revelation
- vs (14) "do His commandments"
 - Most of the best manuscripts have "those who wash their robes".
 - There are two common interpretations of that phrase.
 - Some say culturally it was a picture of persevering even in tribulation.
 - Others, and I fall into this group, say it is a picture of having our filthy garments of unrighteousness washed by the blood of Jesus.
 - It pictures us participating in His death.
 - Isaiah 64:6
 - Zechariah 3:3-4
 - Verses picture sin being cleansed.
 - Psalm 51:7
 - Isaiah 1:18
 - Titus 3:5
 - Many verses picture the blood of Jesus washing us.
 - Revelation 1:5
 - Revelation 7:14
 - 1 John 1:7
 - Hebrews 9:14
- vs (14) "right to the tree of life"
 - See study from Revelation 22:1-5 for more detail.
 - Remember that right was lost by man in the garden. It is regained in heaven.
 - The ones who have the right to it are those "washed".
- vs (14) "may enter"
 - Who may enter?
 - Only those "washed"
 - Only the saved. This is not to say they can go elsewhere on the new heaven and earth but just to point out they will not be a part of that city. They will also have no part of the new heaven and earth.

- vs (15) “dogs”
 - Does that mean all dogs don’t go to heaven?
 - Dogs in that day were not domesticated.
 - They were not household pets but scavengers and often vicious.
 - It was used to describe someone who was of very low character.

- vs (15) “sorcerers”
 - Where we get our word for phararacy.
 - These are those who practiced the occult and often used drugs in their practices.

- vs (15) “sexually immoral”
 - Any sexual sin, sex outside of marriage.

- vs (15) “murderers”
- vs (15) “idolaters”
- vs (15) “loves lies”
- vs (15) “practices lies”

- This is not an exhaustive list.
- The point is only believers will enjoy heaven and its new city.

Application

- Be prepared, making sure you are washed by the blood of Jesus.
- Be prepared by sharing the gospel intentionally with others.
- He could come at any time! Are you ready?