

Revelation for Wednesday, March 6, 2024

Pastor Espinosa

LifeLight #1: Revelation 1:1-8

Sing Hymn and Pray the Prayer, then see maps (or page 14 of Enrichment Magazine)



1. The Personal Study Questions are for your self-study, you can do them whenever you want to, but it is best to do them *before* our class. ***Please plan on doing Session 2 this coming week before our class on March 13th, notice that they are broken down into 5 days.*** If you did the self-study leading up to today's class, I will stay a little longer after today's class to clarify any of the answers with you.
2. Read Acts 14:22. The Christians to whom St. John was writing to in the first century were experiencing this tribulation.
3. In modern rapturist theology, the tribulation is yet to come in their false timeline, but the tribulation has always been for Christians throughout the history of the Church, including Christians in the Church today.
4. These are met with the Theme of Revelation: "The Present Rule and Ultimate, Absolute Triumph of God and His Saints over All the Forces of Evil in the World." – W.A. Maier
5. The purpose of Revelation is to give God's people comfort no matter when the Christian finds himself/herself in history.
6. Remember we approach Revelation understanding the unique writing style called "apocalyptic." What characterizes this genre? Written especially for God's people facing times of trouble. Yes, it was like a code book. What do we mean by this?
7. Why was this style of writing NOT new to the Christians? Answer: Ezekiel, Daniel, and Zechariah already used it in the O.T.
8. There is immediate imagery in Alpha and Omega! Revelation 1:8...why might this symbolism be comforting (indeed, it should be)?



9. There is a very strong dualism in Revelation. The idea of forces of evil against Christ and His Church. But we know Christ the Victor. Thus, the purpose of the book is for our comfort.
10. We've gone through the 4 interpretive approaches: preterist, futurist, idealist, and historical. We see Revelation covering the entire span of Church history from Christ to the End. It has aspects of all of them, but especially in covering all history while understanding that most of what is described has already been accomplished by Christ, though there are still some futurist aspects at the end of Revelation.
11. John the apostle, though he was not martyred, still suffered persecution to which his exile on Patmos testifies. Review Patmos on the map again.
12. Revelation may have been written around AD 95, but there are competing views dating it closer to AD 70. Either way, the Roman emperors were already bestowing divine honors upon themselves. Christians, however, are called to worship only the LORD.

Matthew 6:24: What does the Lord teach here?

13. Revelation 1:1-3:

- A. One reason that we may have hope in the midst of tribulation is because Christians are those who are "blessed" (1:3). This term will be used in Revelation 6 more times for a total of 7 times in the book! That is, there are 7 beatitudes in Revelation about those who have received the grace of God.
- B. End of verse 3: "for the time is near." The time of hardship has upon us, so that we need these words about the battle that Christ has won for us. "Near" because the times when we feel defeated are near to us in this life.
- C. Verse 2: God made this Revelation of Jesus Christ known to St. John by sending St. John an \_\_\_\_\_. What does the word mean? Answer: \_\_\_\_\_. They are with us in the midst of the battle. One of your study questions was to look up Hebrews 1:14. Would someone please read this for us. When angels speak, they speak God's message/God's Word.
- D. Here in Revelation the angel is revealing to St. John about war between God and Satan that has two stages: 1) Spiritual Stage; 2) Earthly Stage.
- E. The spiritual battle rages on, which is why we need to know Christ's victory over Satan.
- F. The earthly stage is how Satan works through the world against Christ's Church.

- G. “Far from being insignificant, what goes on in the world has great spiritual significance; the eternal salvation of the people of God is at stake.” (pg. 13 of Leader’s Guide)
- H. At the time of St. John, Satan used the Roman Empire against the Church.

#### 14.Revelation 1:4-8:

- A. Going back to the idea that Revelation is a code book, unlocking the code or meaning was accomplished by knowing the Old Testament.
- B. 278 of the 404 verses in Revelation make reference to the Old Testament!
- C. What does this say about the relationship between Old and New Testaments?
- D. Symbolism is extremely important as you already know. Verse 7 says that Christ is “coming with the clouds”: now please look up Daniel 7:13.
- E. Jesus applied this prophecy to Himself. Please see Matthew 24:30 and Matthew 26:64.
- F. Revelation 1:7 also states, “even those who pierced him”...please see Zechariah 12:10.
- G. Numerology is also very important. The first big number that appears here in our section today is the number 7. Verse 4 refers to the “7 churches” and the “7 spirits”...7 is the number of completeness, perfection, or holiness.
- H. Creation is associated with 7 as you know. The Old Testament speaks of 7 high festivals in the Jewish year, four of them falling in the seventh month, and two of them lasting for seven days.
- I. The seven churches stand for real congregations, but ALSO stand for the whole of the Christian Church throughout the ages.
- J. The seven spirits symbolize the fullness of the power of the Holy Spirit. Please see sevenfold description in Isaiah 11:2.
- K. Seven is the sum of two other numbers: 3 which stands for God and 4 which stands for the world.
- L. 3 ½ (half of seven), however, is associated with the evil forces that oppress the church, usually those spiritual and religious in nature.
- M. This 3 ½ concept is represented in the phraseology, “a time, and times, and half a time” in Revelation 12:14; 42 months or 1,260 days (three and one-half years) in 11:2-3 and 12:6.
- N. The numbers 12 and 10 are also very important. 12 refers to the OT and NT (do you remember in what way?). 10 x 10 x 10 = 1000 represents completeness. 24 is connected to 12 and 144,000 is connected to both 12 and 10 = all God’s people of all time.

#### 15.Other notes:

- A. Who are we in verse 1?
- B. “witness” = *martyria*...though the apostle was not martyred, he conducted *martyria*.
- C. Note: triad in verse 3: Who are the blessed ones? Those who: 1) reads aloud; 2) hear; and 3) keep. What’s up with reading aloud...why not just say “reads”?
- D. Verses 4-5: The Holy Trinity. How so?
- E. What is the triad title of Jesus in verse 4?
- F. What is the triad describing our benefits from Jesus in verses 5-6?
- G. Verse 8. Who does this apply to? Later in Revelation, it will apply to another person of The Holy Trinity.