

Session Three:

Why Study The Revelation

I) Introduction

- A) Through this session I am going to be giving the why before and behind the what. The what we are studying is The Revelation and tonight I want to present 10 reasons for why we study The Revelation. Understanding the why behind the what helps us in perseverance because we have clarity about why we are doing what we are doing.

II) 10 Reasons Why We Study The Revelation

A) Completion of the Bible

- 1) Without The Revelation, our story and the story of how all things come to an end is incomplete. It's important that we have understanding and clarity about the end so that we can make changes now, in light of that yet coming day.
- 2) Looking ahead helps us in the here and now. This empowers us to approach the future with sobriety. Things will get much worse before they get better, but when it gets better it will be better than it's ever been and it will stay that way for eternity (for the saint).

(i) **Revelation 22:13** *"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last."*

B) Defense Against Heresy

- 1) Many cult groups major on this book and because many Christians have shied away from reading and understanding The Revelation, we are caught off guard by those that do teach it, even if it's wrong.

(i) **Matthew 24:4-5** *"And Jesus answered and said to them, take heed that nobody deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, I am the Christ, and will deceive many."*

C) Interpretation Of History

- 1) Looking at newspapers and watching the news for information about the future can leave anyone and most everyone confused, scared and without peace. Future events cast a shadow ahead of them and a good student of this book is forewarned about times past and those times that are still yet ahead.
- 2) To be forewarned we are also forearmed.

(i) **Revelation 22:12** *"And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me..."*

D) Ground For Hope

- 1) It's important that we see everything in this age is going according to God's plan. The Book of Revelation lets us in on Him who is overseeing all things. We see that God is on the throne, good will conquer evil and the saints will one day rule on the earth.
- 2) The Revelation lets us know that the days of humanism, new ageism and overt devil worship are numbered. Those that hate God will eventually be wiped off the planet and those that love Jesus will be with Him forever.
 - (i) **Revelation 4:2,6** *"Immediately I was in the Spirit and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne." "...Before the throne there was a sea of glass, like crystal..."*
 - (ii) **Psalms 29:10** *"The Lord sat enthroned at the Flood, and the Lord sits as King forever."*

E) Motive For Evangelism

- 1) There is no clearer separation between the eternal states than in the book of Revelation. We see a new heaven and a new earth or the lake of fire, eternal joy, or eternal separation. The day of Judgment must come, but until then anyone who is thirsty may come and drink.
 - (i) **Revelation 22:17** *"And the Spirit and the bride say, Come! And let him who hears say, Come! And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely."*

F) Stimulus For Worship

- 1) The Revelation is one of the loudest books in the Bible. It's full of worship, shouting, singing and lots of voices. There are at least 11 major songs of worship that exalt the Father, in the name of Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit.
 - (i) **Revelation 4:5** *"And from the throne proceeded lightings, thunderings and voices."*
 - (ii) **Revelation 14:2** *"And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps."*
 - (iii) **Revelation 19:6** *"And I heard as it were, voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns."*

G) It's A Cure To Worldliness

- 1) The Revelation helps us become heavenly minded and to think more about our resurrected bodies in the age to come than our present aging bodies in this age. It helps us think about our eternal home in the age to come, more than our ideal home in this age.
- 2) And it helps us to make wise decisions with our money, our time and our energy. It's has power to shift our thinking from the temporal to the eternal.

- (i) **Hebrews 11:8-10** *"By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose Builder and Maker is God."*

H) Motivation For Godliness

- 1) God's plan is for us to be holy in this age and happy in the age which is to come. But many want to be happy in this age and holy in the age to come. The Book of Revelation helps us survive present trouble, overcoming internal temptation and external trouble.
- 2) This book shakes us out of compliancy and indifference towards God and reminds us that God is three times holy.

- (i) **Matthew 5:4** *"Blessed are those that mourn, for they shall be comforted."*
(ii) **Revelation 4:8** *"And they do not rest day or night saying; Holy, Holy Holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was, and is and is to come!"*

I) Preparation For Persecution

- 1) Many see this point to be the central theme of The Revelation. Many call this book a manual for martyrdom. The message comes across loud and clear to those who are suffering that they would continue in the faith and overcome.
- 2) Jesus predicted a day of universal hatred of all believers. This prophetic insight gives us grace and wisdom to prepare for what's still yet ahead. Hardship, it not here now, will certainly come.

- (i) **2nd Timothy 3:12** *"Yes, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution."*
(ii) **Luke 9:23** *"If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me."*

J) It Gives Us Understanding Of Christ

- 1) Within this glorious book, our picture of Jesus Christ is clear and complete. Without this book, our picture of Christ is unclear and incomplete. If the Gospels present Him in His role as Prophet and the Epistles as Priest, Revelation clarifies His role as Bridegroom, King and Judge.
- 2) Within this glorious book we get to see the Christ the world has never seen, but one day will. And it's key that we grow to love (obey, trust and follow) the multifaceted man called Jesus Christ now.

- (i) **Revelation 19:11** *"Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war."*