

# COVER TO COVER

## THE BIBLE IN 10 MINUTES, 5 DAYS PER WEEK



10:5

We created this plan to capture the **highlights** of Scripture over the 22 weeks of the “Cover to Cover” sermon series. While this plan will not cover everything, it will give you a holistic perspective on the story of the Bible and what that means for your life today. Week 22 of the plan is below.

### WEEK 22

Welcome to week twenty-two of the “Cover to Cover” Bible reading plan. Last week, we looked at excerpts from letters written by the Apostle Paul, John, Jesus’ disciple, and James, Jesus’ brother. This week, we conclude our reading plan by examining the book of Revelation. Revelation was written to seven churches in Asia Minor who were experiencing intense persecution under Roman rule. The book’s purpose is to encourage them and challenge them to remain faithful in following Jesus. Revelation is written in an ancient genre of literature known as apocalyptic literature, which was common in the first century. This type of literature used vivid imagery to show the intended audience the power of the spiritual world and give them a glimpse of the future. The book of Revelation gave these first-century believers a look at the world’s end, the future judgment, and the forever home with God awaiting those who faithfully follow him.

**DAY 1** Revelation Chapter 1 serves as an introduction to the book of Revelation. The opening words indicate that this is a vision Jesus gave to John to give directly to the seven churches mentioned above. This chapter sets the stage for the visions and messages that will follow. Today, **read Revelation 1.**

**DAY 2** Revelation Chapter 2 contains the first four of seven letters from Jesus to the churches in Asia Minor. Each letter follows a similar structure: Jesus first identifies Himself, then commends the church for certain behaviors, points out areas for improvement, offers a warning or encouragement, and concludes with a promise for those who overcome. As you read today, consider where you see yourself in these letters from Jesus. Today, **read Revelation 2.**

**DAY 3** Revelation Chapter 3 contains the final three letters from Jesus to the churches in Asia Minor, following the structure of commendation, rebuke, exhortation, and promise. Again, as you read today, consider where you see yourself in these letters. Today, **read Revelation 3.**

**DAY 4** The book of Revelation is full of complicated and disorienting imagery. While its whole meaning may not be as clear to us today as it was to John’s original audience, we can understand the key components clearly. As we fast forward today toward the end of the book, we find in Chapters 19 and 20 that Jesus returns

in glory, defeats the evil forces in the world, and judges all people. After this, those who belong to Christ are separated from those who do not. This section concludes with the promise of eternal judgment on evil and the ultimate victory of God. Today, **read Revelation 19-20**.

**DAY 5** Welcome to the final day of the reading plan. Today, we conclude by reading the final two chapters of the Bible. Just as the first two chapters tell of the Creation of the Heavens and the Earth, these chapters tell of a new Heaven and a new Earth where those who belong to Jesus once again dwell with God as Adam and Eve did in the beginning. These chapters and the book of Revelation as a whole remind us that, ultimately, Jesus will return victorious someday. They encourage us to remain faithful to Him and to look forward to the day all who have followed Jesus will live in eternity together with God. Today, **read Revelation 21-22**.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Florence Chadwick gave up her swim across the Catalina Channel because she couldn't see the shoreline due to fog. How does this story resonate with your own experiences of feeling overwhelmed or lost? Have there been moments in your life where you felt like you were "swimming in the fog?"
2. Read Revelation 1. How does John's reaction to Jesus challenge or inspire your own understanding of who Jesus is?
3. Revelation 2-3 contains specific messages to seven churches. Which of these messages resonates most with your personal spiritual journey or view of the church? Why do you think these messages are still relevant today?
4. We believe the hope of heaven is a place where the best parts of this world carry over with none of the bad. How does this vision of heaven affect your perspective on life and your daily decisions? Does it bring comfort, challenge, or perhaps a bit of both?
5. Pastor Brian challenged us to live in a way that reflects our readiness for Jesus' return. What practical steps can you take this week to live with an eternal perspective? How can your small group support each other in staying focused on the "shoreline"?

## READ THE ENTIRE BIBLE IN 6 MONTHS!

Looking for a challenge? Follow the YouVersion "Read the Bible in Six Months" reading plan. You'll read through the **ENTIRE** Bible over the course of just six months. That works out to six chapters of reading each day a commitment, but certainly manageable, and one that's well worth making. Scan to start.

