Book By Book

Endings & Beginnings

WELCOME

WHAT ARE WE DOING AGAIN?

OUR GOAL

To give you the tools to study the Bible on your own with confidence, providing a better understanding of God and your relationship with him.

THE PLAN

Each month, we will introduce another book of the Bible and give you some guidance to help you study on your own.

BIBLE STUDY METHOD

- **OBSERVATION:**
  What does the text say?
  (who, what, when, where, why and how?)

- **INTERPRETATION:**
  What does it mean?

- **APPLICATION:**
  What did I learn that should affect my life?
  (Is there a behavior, attitude or understanding that should change in my life?)

INTERPRETATION

Ask, ”What is this book about?”

Consider the context. Pay attention to what comes before and after the passage.

Consider the culture. Customs and societal norms were different than ours. As much as possible, take that into account.

INTERPRETATION

Compare key words, phrases, and events that are mentioned in other parts of the Bible.

"Let Scripture interpret Scripture."

Don't look for hidden meanings.

REVIEW

REVELATION

HE'S COMING – BE READY

THE BASICS

Who wrote the book and who is it written to?

4 This letter is from John to the seven churches in the province of Asia.
Revelation 1:4

THE BASICS

Where, when and why was it written?

The Island of Patmos (1:9)

It was the Lord's Day (1:10)

Suddenly, I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet blast. 11 It said, "Write in a book everything you see, and send it to the seven churches in the cities of Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea." (1:11)



OUTLINE

Chapter 1	Jesus appears to John
Chapter 2-3	Messages to the Seven Churches
Chapter 4-5	Happenings in Heaven during the Tribulation
Chapter 6-19	Events of the Tribulation on the Earth & Armageddon
Chapter 20	The Millennial Reign
Chapter 21-22	New Heaven & Earth, Eternal State, New Jerusalem

GROUP TALK

Take a few moments to catch up or get acquainted with the people in your group.

Here's something to discuss:

Describe any interesting conversations you had over the holidays about the Bible or Christianity.

EPHESUS (2:1-7)

Commendations

I have seen your hard work and your patient endurance.

I know you don't tolerate evil people.

You have patiently suffered for me without quitting.

You hate the evil deeds of the Nicolaitans, just as I do.

EPHESUS (2:1-7)

Corrections/Warnings

You don't love me or each other as you did at first!

Look how far you have fallen!

Turn back to me and do the works you did at first.

If you don't repent, I will come and remove your lampstand from its place among the churches.

SMYRNA (2:8-11)

Commendations

I know about your suffering and your poverty—but you are rich!

I know the blasphemy of those opposing you. They say they are Jews, but they are not, because their synagogue belongs to Satan.

SMYRNA (2:8-11)

Warnings/Encouragement

Don’t be afraid of what you are about to suffer.

If you remain faithful even when facing death, I will give you the crown of life.

PERGAMUM (2:12-17)

Commendations

I know that you live in the city where Satan has his throne, yet you have remained loyal to me.

You refused to deny me even when Antipas, my faithful witness, was martyred among you there in Satan's city.

PERGAMUM (2:12-17)

Corrections/Warnings

You tolerate some among you whose teaching is like that of Balaam, who showed Balak how to trip up the people of Israel. He taught them to sin by eating food offered to idols and by committing sexual sin. 15 In a similar way, you have some Nicolaitans among you who follow the same teaching.

Repent of your sin, or I will come to you suddenly and fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

THYATIRA (2:18-29)

Commendations

I have seen your love, your faith, your service, and your patient endurance. And I can see your constant improvement in all these things.

THYATIRA (2:18-29)

Corrections/Warnings

You are permitting that woman—that Jezebel who calls herself a prophet—to lead my servants astray. She teaches them to commit sexual sin and to eat food offered to idols. 21 I gave her time to repent, but she does not want to turn away from her immorality.

THYATIRA (2:18-29)

Corrections/Warnings

… the rest of you in Thyatira who have not followed this false teaching ('deeper truths,' as they call them—depths of Satan, actually). … hold tightly to what you have until I come.

To all who are victorious, who obey me to the very end, to them I will give authority over all the nations.

They will have the same authority I received from my Father, and I will also give them the morning star!

SARDIS (3:1-6)

Commendations

... There are some in the church in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes with evil. They will walk with me in white, for they are worthy. 5 All who are victorious will be clothed in white. I will never erase their names from the Book of Life, but I will announce before my Father and his angels that they are mine.

SARDIS (3:1-6)

Corrections/Warnings

I know all the things you do, and that you have a reputation for being alive—but you are dead.

Wake up! Strengthen what little remains, for even what is left is almost dead.

I find that your actions do not meet the requirements of my God.

SARDIS (3:1-6)

Corrections/Warnings

Go back to what you heard and believed at first; hold to it firmly.

Repent and turn to me again.

If you don't wake up, I will come to you suddenly, as unexpected as a thief.

PHILADELPHIA (3:7-13)

Commendations

I know all the things you do, and I have opened a door for you that no one can close.

You have little strength, yet you obeyed my word and did not deny me.

PHILADELPHIA (3:7-13)

Commendations

Look, I will force those who belong to Satan's synagogue—those liars who say they are Jews but are not—to come and bow down at your feet. They will acknowledge that you are the ones I love.

PHILADELPHIA (3:7-13)

Commendations

Because you have obeyed my command to persevere, I will protect you from the great time of testing that will come upon the whole world to test those who belong to this world.

PHILADELPHIA (3:7-13)

Encouragement/Instruction

Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take away your crown.

PHILADELPHIA (3:7-13)

Encouragement/Instruction

All who are victorious will become pillars in the Temple of my God, and they will never have to leave it. And I will write on them the name of my God, and they will be citizens in the city of my God—the new Jerusalem that comes down from heaven from my God. And I will also write on them my new name.

PHILADELPHIA (3:7-13)

Encouragement/Instruction

I am coming soon.

LAODICEA (3:14-22)

Correction

You are neither hot nor cold. I wish that you were one or the other! 16 But since you are like lukewarm water, neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth!

You say, ‘I am rich. I have everything I want. I don’t need a thing!’ And you don’t realize that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked.

LAODICEA (3:14-22)

Correction

I advise you to buy gold from me—gold that has been purified by fire. Then you will be rich.

Also buy white garments from me so you will not be shamed by your nakedness, and ointment for your eyes so you will be able to see.

LAODICEA (3:14-22)

Correction

Be diligent and turn from your indifference.

“Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends.

LAODICEA (3:14-22)

Correction

Those who are victorious will sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat with my Father on his throne.

PROMISES

Promise (1:3)

God's blessing

To Whom

- the one who reads the words of this prophecy to the church
- all who listen to its message and obey what it says

PROMISES

Promise (2:10)

God will give you the crown of life.

To Whom

Those who remain faithful even when facing death

PROMISES

Promise (11:15)

The world will become the Kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ,
and he will reign forever and ever.

PROMISES

Promise (20:6)

the second death holds no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him a thousand years.

To Whom

those who share in the first resurrection.

PROMISES

Promise (21:3)

God will live with them, and He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever.”

To Whom

God’s people

GROUP TALK

Here's something to discuss:

Which promises you found in Revelation are most impactful to you and why?

GOD THE FATHER

"I am the Alpha and the Omega—the beginning and the end," says the Lord God. "I am the one who is, who always was, and who is still to come—the Almighty One."

Revelation 1:8

GOD THE FATHER

“It is finished! I am the Alpha and the Omega—the Beginning and the End.

Revelation 21:6

JESUS

He is the faithful witness to these things, the first to rise from the dead, and the ruler of all the kings of the world.

Revelation 1:5

JESUS

... loves us and has freed us from our sins by shedding his blood for us.

Revelation 1:5

HOLY SPIRIT

Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what he is saying to the churches.

Revelation 2:7,11,17,29

SEAL #1

Then I heard one of the four living beings say with a voice like thunder, “Come!” 2 I looked up and saw a **white horse** standing there. Its rider carried a bow, and a crown was placed on his head. He rode out to win many battles and gain the victory.

Revelation 6:1-2

SEAL #2

Then another horse appeared, a red one. Its rider was given a mighty sword and the authority to take peace from the earth. And there was war and slaughter everywhere.

Revelation 6:4

SEAL #3

I looked up and saw a black horse, and its rider
was holding a pair of scales in his hand. 6 And I
heard a voice from among the four living
beings say, “A loaf of wheat bread or three
loaves of barley will cost a day’s pay. And don’t
waste the olive oil and wine.

Revelation 6:5-6

SEAL #4

I looked up and saw a horse whose color was pale green. Its rider was named Death, and his companion was the Grave. These two were given authority over one-fourth of the earth, to kill with the sword and famine and disease and wild animals.

Revelation 6:8

SEAL #5

I saw under the altar the souls of all who had been
martyred for the word of God and for being faithful
in their testimony. [10] They shouted to the Lord and
said, “O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long
before you judge the people who belong to this
world and avenge our blood for what they have
done to us?” [11] Then a white robe was given to each
of them. And they were told to rest a little longer
until the full number of their brothers and sisters—
their fellow servants of Jesus who were to be
martyred—had joined them.

Revelation 6:9-11

SEAL #6

…there was a great earthquake. The sun became as dark as black cloth, and the moon became as red as blood. **13** Then the stars of the sky fell to the earth like green figs falling from a tree shaken by a strong wind. **14** The sky was rolled up like a scroll, and all of the mountains and islands were moved from their places.

Revelation 6:12-14

SEAL #7

…there was silence throughout heaven for about half an hour. [2] I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and they were given seven trumpets.

Revelation 8:1-2

TRUMPET #1

...hail and fire mixed with blood were thrown down on the earth. One-third of the earth was set on fire, one-third of the trees were burned, and all the green grass was burned.

Revelation 8:7

TRUMPET #2

…a great mountain of fire was thrown into the sea. One-third of the water in the sea became blood, [9] one-third of all things living in the sea died, and one-third of all the ships on the sea were destroyed.

Revelation 8:8-9

TRUMPET #3

...a great star fell from the sky, burning like a torch. It fell on one-third of the rivers and on the springs of water. [11] The name of the star was Bitterness. It made one-third of the water bitter, and many people died from drinking the bitter water.

Revelation 8:10-11

TRUMPET #4

...one-third of the sun was struck, and one-third of the moon, and one-third of the stars, and they became dark. And one-third of the day was dark, and also one-third of the night.

Revelation 8:12

TRUMPET #5 – THE FIRST TERROR

Locusts descended on the earth, and they were given power to sting like scorpions. [4] They were told not to harm the grass or plants or trees, but only the people who did not have the seal of God on their foreheads.

Revelation 9:1-12

TRUMPET #6 – THE SECOND TERROR

Horses and Riders

One-third of all the people on earth were killed by these three plagues—by the fire and smoke and burning sulfur that came from the mouths of the horses.

…

And they [the people who did not die] did not repent of their murders or their witchcraft or their sexual immorality or their thefts.

Revelation 9:13-21

TRUMPET #7 – THE THIRD TERROR

...loud voices shouting in heaven:
"The world has now become the Kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign forever and ever."

Revelation 11:15-19

But terror will come on the earth and the sea, for the devil has come down to you in great anger, knowing that he has little time.

Revelation 12:12

TRUMPET #7 – THE THIRD TERROR

5 Then I looked and saw that the Temple in heaven, God's
Tabernacle, was thrown wide open. 6 The seven angels who
were holding the seven plagues came out of the Temple.
They were clothed in spotless white linen with gold sashes
across their chests. 7 Then one of the four living beings
handed each of the seven angels a gold bowl filled with the
wrath of God, who lives forever and ever. 8 The Temple was
filled with smoke from God's glory and power. No one could
enter the Temple until the seven angels had completed
pouring out the seven plagues.

Revelation 15:5-8

THE BOWLS

1. Horrible, malignant sores broke out on everyone who had the mark of the beast and who worshiped his statue. 16:2
2. the sea became like the blood of a corpse. And everything in the sea died. 16:3
3. the rivers and springs became blood. 16:4
4. the sun scorched everyone with its fire. 16:8-9
5. Darkness 16:10-11
6. Three demonic spirits gathered all the rulers and their armies to a place with the Hebrew name Armageddon.
7. Earthquake/Hailstones 16:17-21

NEXT BOOK

GENESIS

Beginnings

All that was begun in Genesis is consummated in Revelation

- In Genesis, the creation of heaven and earth are described. In Revelation, the new heaven and new earth are described.
- In Genesis, God says, “Let there be light.” In Revelation, Jesus is the light of the new heaven.

All that was begun in Genesis is consummated in Revelation

In Genesis, sin is born.
In Revelation, sin is destroyed.

In Genesis, Satan makes his entrance.
In Revelation, Satan makes his exit.

In Genesis, death comes to humankind.
In Revelation, death dies.

FOUR EVENTS

- Creation
- Fall
- Flood
- Tower of Babel

FOUR PEOPLE

- Abraham
- Isaac
- Jacob
- Joseph

GOAL FOR THIS MONTH

Read at least two chapters of Genesis every day.

Be sure to make notes of any insights you gain as your read and study along with any questions you encounter.

WANT MORE NOTES?

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