

REVELATION

A Message to God's Church

Week 2: Revelation 1:9 – 20

“Jesus came the first time in humiliation; He will return in exaltation. He came the first time to be killed; He will return to kill His enemies. He came the first time to serve; He will return to be served. He came the first time as the suffering servant; He will return as the conquering king. The challenge the book of Revelation makes to every person is to be ready for His return.” —John MacArthur

1. Read through Revelation 1:9 – 20 aloud together as a group. In your initial reading, what pops out at you? Discuss. Why is this significant to you?
2. The vision of Christ among the lampstands (1:12-20) is much different than the Carpenter-Teacher who walked the roads of Galilee and Judea. Why? What overall emotions is this vision of Jesus among the lampstands designed to evoke in the reader? Why is this understanding of Jesus important to a balanced faith?
3. Read Philippians 2:5–11 together. What does this passage say about Christ's past humiliation and its relationship to His present and future exaltation?
4. Read Matthew 24:29 – 30 and 25:31 – 46. Matthew paints a powerful image of Jesus at his second coming!
 - a. What do these passages add to your understanding of the second coming of Christ?
 - b. In this passage we see how he come as king and judge. We also see/hear that a result of the Gospel is how we treat/view others until he comes again. How would you respond personally and as a Missional Community to his criteria in Matthew 25:35 – 36?
5. What was John's response to seeing Jesus face-to-face (vs. 17)? Does his response correspond to your response to Jesus when he reveals himself to you through the Word? Worship? Nature? Community? Etc.?
6. How would Jesus' response in Revelation 1:17 – 18 comfort John? What in His response personally reassures you?

Revelation was written to a discouraged and persecuted church in Asia Minor, but Revelation still speaks clearly and loudly for the Church today!

7. What do you know about the persecuted church? In what countries are Christians presently experiencing tribulation or persecution for the faith? **[Check out <http://www.persecution.com/> for more information about the presecuted church!]** How can the Book of Revelation be a comfort and encouragement to them? How can we as the body of Christ (Hebrews 13:3) be an encouragement to them?
8. Missio Dei Church financially and prayerfully supports John and Missy Camiola who are in Jos, Nigeria. They are located in the crossroads of the Muslim north and the Christian south where Christians are being persecuted for their faith. How can you pray/support them as a Missional Community?

Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body. - Hebrews 13:3