

NT365

The New Testament in a Year

Read the entire
New Testament in a year.

- *One Chapter each day, Monday-Friday.*
- *Daily reading notes & reflection questions.*
- *Excellent for Small Group discussion.*

Guide #13

Weeks 49-52

**Revelation Chapter 3 to
Revelation Chapter 22**



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UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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WELCOME TO NT365

As you read this week...

- *What stands out as remarkable, intriguing, or challenging?*
- *What did you discover that you've never noticed before? What raises questions?*
- *In what ways do you feel God is speaking to your heart?*

WEEK #49: REVELATION CHAPTER 3-7

Chapter 3

1. *"I know your works. You have the reputation of being alive, but you are dead. Wake up..." (vs.1-2).* Even if your public life reflects Christian values, is your heart aligned with God? Was there a time in your life when you were more committed to Christ? What steps must you take to return?
2. Vs.8 is a promise for those who are faithful in walking with Christ: *"Behold, I have set before you an open door which no one is able to shut."* No power on earth or in hell can close the door between you and God. In what way does this promise encourage you today?
3. Caution! In our affluence, we can underestimate our need for God (vs.17). What evidence of this truth do you see in today's culture? In your own life?

Chapter 4

1. John's vision of the Throne in Heaven is filled with images that are both beautiful and terrifying. How do these contrast with the way you imagine heaven?
2. In the vision, the "elders" fall before the throne of God saying, *"Worthy are you, our Lord and God to receive glory and honor and power..." (vs.11).* God is worthy of our very best. In what ways do you feel your life, words and deeds glorify God?

Chapter 5

1. In vs.9-10, the "creatures" and "elders" in Heaven fall before Jesus and sing, *"...by Your blood You ransomed people for God... and You have made them a kingdom and priests to our God..."* Christ has purchased us for God's purposes. In what ways is God achieving His purposes with your life?
2. John has a vision of the angels in Heaven and every creature on earth praising Jesus (vs.11-13). How often do you give praise to Jesus for Who He is and what He has done? How might you give praise to Jesus right now?

Chapter 6

Chapter 6 uses illusive imagery in describing God's judgment upon the earth. Notice the manifestations:

Vs.4—a lack of peace and an escalation of violence.

Vs.6—economic collapse.

Vs.8—war, famine and plague.

Vs.13—cosmic anomalies.

- How does it strike you that God would initiate or permit such atrocities?
- How does this help you understand the consequences of our sin?

- How does this help you understand our need for Christ's forgiveness?

Chapter 7

1. There has been great speculation throughout Christian history about the meaning of the 144,000 people in vs.4-8. We may not understand until we meet them in Heaven. Are you able to live with such ambiguity and unanswered questions from Scripture? In what ways are you having to trust God today even though you don't fully understand all the details?
2. Before Christ's return, many believers will face tremendous persecution. Yet in the end, *"God will wipe away every tear from their eyes"* (vs.17). In the challenges you face today, are you able to believe that God will ultimately bring you through? How does this promise change your perspective as you struggle?

WEEK #50: REVELATION CHAPTERS 8-12

Chapter 8

1. Vs.3-4 is a vivid image of our prayers rising before God. How might you pray differently after reading this powerful portrayal?
2. In vs.6&ff, trumpet blasts from God's angels bring devastation to the earth with promises of worse yet to come. In what ways does this description of God's judgment inform your understanding of His righteousness and holiness?

Chapter 9

1. Although the demons of hell are loosed upon the earth, God places limits upon their power and authority (vs.4-5). In what way might the enemy of our souls be attacking our world today? How is your perspective changed knowing that God limits the wicked one's powers?
2. Even after witnessing these plagues, the survivors still don't repent and turn to God (vs.20-21). Why do we often refuse to acknowledge God? When do you struggle in this regard?

Chapter 10

1. Many scholars believe that John was forbidden to write what he heard from "the seven thunders" (vs.4) because his vision is incomplete. We are not capable of understanding everything that will take place. What are some things you don't fully comprehend about God?
2. John, as a prophet, is called to "eat" a scroll (vs.9-10). It is "sweet to his taste, but sour in his belly." Many scholars John is being called God's message to people who don't want to hear it. Who do you know who is unwilling to listen to God's message? When have you refused?

Chapter 11

1. Throughout the Bible, Jerusalem is the center of great spiritual activity (vs.8), and stands for the intersection of nations of the world (vs.9). Why do you suppose the gathering of the nations results in spiritual turmoil?
2. At the sound of the trumpet, "loud voices in heaven" announce: *"The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He will reign for ever and ever"*

(vs.15). A day is coming with Christ will overthrow the treacherous kingdoms of this world and reign over the nations. How will our world be different when Christ reigns as King?

3. The coming of Christ's reign is awe-striking (vs.16-19). In what ways does this portrayal challenge your walk with Christ?

Chapter 12

In chapter 12, some scholars see John using metaphors from Greek mythology as he describes a scene depicting God's salvation work across the entire scope of human history.

1. The devil, who is cast out of heaven, is described as *"the accuser of our brothers who accuses them day and night before our God"* (vs.10). When do you sense the devil's accusations in your life?
2. Vs.11 strengthens us to stand against the lies and the attacks of the evil one: *"They overcame him by the Blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony."* Although our own strength is no match for the wicked one, he has ultimately been defeated by Christ's Cross. In your spiritual battles, how does Christ secure you and come to your side? What testimony can you give of your spiritual victories through Christ?
3. The "woman" in this chapter is presumably the Christ-followers throughout all generations. Notice the wicked one's hostility towards them (vs.17). Simply by virtue of aligning ourselves with Christ, we become mortal enemies of God's enemy. In what ways do you sense this is true in your life? What battles are too big for you to fight in your own strength? When has Christ fought your battles for you?

WEEK #51: REVELATION CHAPTER 13-17

Chapter 13

1. In this cryptic vision, a "beast" rises out of the sea (vs.1). Although we can only speculate details, we learn the beast will blaspheme God and (vs.6) and put saints to death (vs.7). Our hope and confidence is having our names written in "the Lamb's Book of Life" (vs.7). Do you have assurance that, by faith in Christ, your name is in Christ's Book? How does this assurance help you read and process these prophecies?
2. *"This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of the saints"* (vs.10). Our faithful endurance is key to navigating the challenges of our daily lives. What must you endure today?
3. There is tremendous speculation regarding the "mark of the beast" (vs.16-18.) The point is clear, however. There will come a day when allegiance to Christ will cost people their lives. How does your allegiance to Christ cost you today?

Chapter 14

1. In Chapter 14, we get another glimpse into the throne room of God. The heavenly host offers God a bold and magnificent song of worship (vs.2-3). How does this perspective of communal worship challenge or encourage your participation in church worship?
2. Three angels appear and pronounce the coming judgment (vs.6-10). Consistently throughout Scripture, God announces before He acts. He graciously warns before He judges. In

what ways has God lovingly made you aware of sin and disobedience in your life? To what extent have you heeded or ignored God's voice?

3. Vs.14&ff reveal the coming of a God's swift and decisive judgment upon the earth. The Book of Revelation has helped us see the extreme contrast between God's holiness and humankind's wickedness, and the Lamb of God Who provides forgiveness for all who will receive. How is the Gospel of Christ becoming more and more clear and critical as you grow in your faith and understanding?

Chapter 15

1. In vs.2, the vision depicts people—*"those who had been victorious over the beast and his image and over the number of his name."* We are not without hope and help even in the most extreme circumstances. How does this truth encourage you as you face particular challenges today?
2. In vs.3, the heavenly host sings *"the Song of Moses and the Song of the Lamb."* As you read and meditate on the lyrics of this song, what stands out to you? How might you offer God praise as you read of His worth and greatness?

Chapter 16

1. In vs.5 & 7, heavenly beings declare that God is "just" in His judgments. He is not hasty, He is not vindictive, He isn't partial. And, He grieves. In what ways have you experienced God's justice in your life, even with difficult consequences?
2. For all their suffering, the wicked ultimately refuse to repent and turn to God (vs.11 & 21). When have you failed to learn from your mistakes? When do you blame God rather than take responsibility for your own poor decisions?

Chapter 17

Chapter 17 & 18 seem to combine and form a unit describing the "great prostitute" and "Babylon." Many scholars believe John was speaking of the Roman kingdom of his day.

1. *"With her the kings of the earth committed adultery and the inhabitants of the earth were intoxicated with the wine of her adulteries"* (vs.2). In a figurative sense, what "adulteries" and "intoxicants" are luring the cultures of our day?
2. Ultimately, Christ, the Lamb of God, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, will be victorious over the evils of our world (vs.14). How does this truth offer you hope and courage as you face personal challenges today?
3. Even in the great turmoil depicted in this vision, God remains sovereign and in control, and in the end will accomplish His purposes (vs.17). From your experience, what are examples of God patiently working in and through the natural circumstances of your life?

WEEK #52: REVELATION CHAPTERS 18-22

Chapter 18

"Babylon" is a metaphor for all that is detestable in God's sight among humankind. The graphic and lurid account depicts our temptations and God's judgment. It is global and epidemic.

1. Vs. 4 warns, *"Come out of her, My people, lest you take part in her sins, lest you share in her plagues."* In what ways are you drawn and tempted? From what temptations and behaviors is God calling and warning you personally?
2. Babylon will be met with judgment in "one hour" (vs. 10, 17 & 19), suggesting God's swift and complete action. In what ways does the severity of this warning sober you? In what ways are you able to sense God's loving correction in this warning?

Chapter 19

We are heading towards a dramatic conclusion of the Book of Revelation and the entire New Testament.

1. In the midst of great judgment upon the earth, there is great rejoicing in heaven—God is ultimately prevailing over all that is evil in our world. How does that prospect strike you? Do you have assurance you are on the prevailing side in this battle?
2. Vs.7 alludes to the marriage of Christ and His followers. In what ways do you sense the passionate love of Christ as He defends believers and overcomes wickedness and evil?
3. In dramatic fashion, Christ arrives on a white horse and ultimately defeats the enemies of God (vs.20). In what ways does His entrance and victory move your heart?

Chapter 20

The chronology and symbolism here is cryptic and draws various interpretations. Yet we learn of God's ultimate judgment and victory.

1. Satan is described as a "deceiver" (vs.3, 8, 10). In what ways have you been deceived by sin and temptation?
2. Every human soul will be judged personally and individually (vs.13). Does this prophecy raise your sense of urgency for yourself or others? How would God have you respond?

Chapter 21

Here we get a taste of the amazing future awaiting Christ's followers.

1. Vs.3 may be the greatest declaration in all of Scripture. How are you struck by the prospect of God living among men?
2. Vs.27 describes the atmosphere of heaven. How have you discovered that purity rather than sin brings the greatest joy?

Chapter 22

1. As the New Testament ends, Christ declares, *"I Am coming soon!"* (vs.7, 12, 20). Do you sense Christ's joy and anticipation? Do you share these emotions with Him?
2. A powerful truth concludes the Bible: *"Whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life"* (vs.17). This is our invitation, and the invitation that we extend to others. Have you accepted God's invitation by faith in Christ? Are you willing to become more deeply involved in helping others receive?

Congratulations on your completion of NT365 and the New Testament! It is our hope that your journey has grown your faith and daily commitment to Christ. May you discover all God has for your life!