Revealing Christ

Christ Revealed in the Book of Revelation

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An Introduction

Few books in the Bible have attracted as much attention as the book of Revelation. This book attracts the intense scholar as well as the curiosity seeker. Why is this book so popular?

1.	People are curious about the	
2.	People are attracted by the use of	and the
3.	The book has a wonderful	·
4.	The book is different in	than the rest of scripture.

Other people have a difficult time with the book. People have mixed feelings. The book is confusing so some may avoid it. The book is scary so some may not feel comfortable reading it. For other is has little or no attraction.

What is your basic feeling about the book of Revelation? If you are particularly attracted to the book, what is your reason? What draws you to the book? If you have stayed away from Revelation, what is your reason? Elaborate on your feelings:

Approaching the Book of Revelation

There are many ways to approach the book of Revelation. Over the years new ideas have come and some have gone. Still, what remains is a platter full of ways to study this book.

Our approaches toward this book are called "Theology." Theology as defined by Fisher Humphries is "man's thinking about God." It is a collection of man's thoughts on a spiritual subject. God's subject matter, the Bible is perfect, our thoughts Theology: Man's thinking about God on it are less than perfect.

This means that there are many approaches to Revelation. None is perfect because it is a human approach. Over the years views such as amillennialism, premillennialism, postmillennialism, dispensationalism, and so on, have been developed and taught.

Not only are there various viewpoints there are various ways to handle the book of Revelation in a study. The most popular way is a chapter by chapter study. The chosen method for this study is a topical study in which we focus on some major topics of discussion found in Revelation. Our topic will be:

- Setting the stage: Chapter 1 overview
- The Person of Christ in Revelation
- The Church in Revelation
- Worship in Revelation
- Judgment in Revelation
- Heaven and Future Glory in Revelation
- Daily Living and the Book of Revelation

Our purpose is to see Christ as he is revealed in	Revelation. This book is an
exciting book but never forget that	$_$ is the true focus of the
book. The key to Revelation is the first verse:	

The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, who testifies to everything he saw-- that is, the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Revelation 1:1-2

This book is the Revelation of <u>CHRIST</u>. If you walk away from this book and miss Christ then you have missed the point.

I hope you enjoy this user-friendly approach to the book of Revelation. It has been a joy writing this study.

Let's get to know our Savior better through this study.

SETTING THE STAGE

Chapter 1 Overview

Chapter 1 provides the backdrop for the entire book. This book is unique in comparison to other scripture texts. This chapter helps set the stage for the chapters that follow.

THE SOURCE OF THE BOOK verse 1
This is the revelation of
This is the Word of God though His Son Jesus. The is the authoritative account of what will take place. This is not fairy tale, mythology, fiction, but this is the true, reliable, inerrant word of God.
• THE RECEPIENT OF THE WORD verse 1 and 2
John was the of God.
He was the chosen vessel by which the word of God would become known. He sent an angel to John to deliver the message. Angels have often been used to deliver important messages from God to man.
John makes it clear that this is the true world. He give his word as testimony. He makes it clear: this is God's Word.
• THE PROMISE OF THE BOOK verse 3
This book contains a promise to the reader. This book is not to be The promise is for those who:
WHAT AN INTRODUCTION verse 5a

John then gives us an introduction of the Savior. He describes the Christ in vivid terms.

FAITHFUL WITNESS- witness of the truth of God

- FIRSTBORN FROM THE DEAD- paid the price, fought the fight, raised to life, the greatest, the rightful heir.
- RULER- A rightful kingship, both by lineage and by earnings

THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF CHRIST verse 5b-8

	 He
	THE BEGINNING OF THE EXPERIENCE: verses 9-20
•	 JOHN'S RESUME A brother in suffering and a companion in ministry. In exile on Patmos "because of the
•	JOHN'S EXPERIENCE On the In the like a"
•	JOHN'S ASSIGNMENT • "Writesend"

John was given a profound opportunity to see what would take place and was also given the responsibility of passing it on to the churches. The following pages are a study of the message given to John for us to hear.

• To the seven churches

The Image of Christ in Revelation

Jesus Christ is the central focus of the book of Revelation. His actions and His work compose the main content of the book. Christ is the main character of the entire book. Chapter by chapter His work is seen. What are the image of Christ seen in this book?

ALPHA AND OMEGA

- This means that Jesus is the beginning and the end; the first and the last.
- Alpha is the first letter of the Greek Alphabet and Omega is the last.
- He is the first: he has been from the beginning. John 1 and Colossians 1:15 echoes this theme. Jesus is God and is eternal meaning that he is from the beginning. He is the creator of all things meaning he is also our beginning.
- He is the last: he will have the last word. He will continue to exist after time has stopped. Even after being crucified he showed that he would continue on. Nothing can stop his existence or his power.

FIRST BORN FROM THE DEAD

- Jesus has a unique place in that he is the first to die and live again for eternity. Jesus is described as the first born from the dead.
- This means several things for the Christian:
 - He tasted death
 - He won a victory over death
 - By being the Firstborn from the Dead means that others will follow. He is not the "only born" he is the "firstborn."
- Jesus made a way for us to overcome the power of death. He
 died for us that we might live. We taste death for only an
 instant. Just a split second after death we find life in his life.

HEAD OF THE CHURCH

- Revelation shows Christ as the Head of the Church. He is the one who moves among the church.
- What do we see about Christ as the Head of the Church
 - He _____ the church

	He
D	He
•	The church is
•	He will
•	Не

After these years the fact still remains; this is Christ's church. He
died for it, He founded it; and we are to be submissive to his will.
 Today Christ has an opinion about our church. He has a right to
make known his feelings to our church.

THE LAMB THAT WAS SLAIN

- The most common reference in Revelation to Christ is as the Lamb that was slain. We are introduced to this powerful image in Chapter 5.
- This image is vital for several reasons:
 - The lamb was a symbol of sacrifice and forgiveness of sin in both the Old and New Testaments.
 - Jesus established his role as the Good Shepherd.
 - Isaiah told of the Lamb being taken to the slaughter in Isaiah 53.
 - He was slain for his transgressions.
 - He was worthy because of his shedding of blood.
 - He is the only one worthy because of his work.
- Through the remainder of the book, in most places he is referred to as the Lamb.
- The idea of being the Lamb is one that is key in all of scripture. Jesus place from the beginning was to take the place of the sacrificial lamb. He took his role and he fulfilled his task and secured our salvation.

KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS

- Because of his work as the Lamb he earned a new title. He became the King of Kings. He was called this in 19:16.
- Philippians teaches that he took the role of a servant; was obedient and died. This gave him an exalted name.
 - He is the rightful King.
 - He is the mighty King leading his people into battle.

- He wins the victory.
- He will spend eternity exalted and praised because of His finished work.
- He is our King of Kings and Lord of Lords. We use this phrase in our prayers and songs but the truth is that he is the rightful king.
 The earliest prophecies told that he would take the throne of David. He came from that line but he also paid a price to take the throne.

JESUS

- I like the way the book of Revelation concludes. Wee return again to see Jesus; the name we most frequently use to describe our Savior.
- We see the words of Jesus spoken in several places in the last verses of Revelation.
 - Jesus reminds us on several occasions that he is coming soon!
 - Jesus tells us the difference within heaven and those who are not in heaven; the contrast is evident.

Jesus concludes with a testimony that things in the book are true.

Friday Morning Quiet Time

PASSAGE: Revelation 1:9-18

MEDITATE: Envision the moment when John encountered Jesus.

WRITE: Think about the names that Jesus used in verses 17-18. Write each one down on paper and then write beside each what that name means to you.

PRAY: Thank God for each name and how it has effected your life.

The Church In Revelation

Reading these letters is like reading Philippians or Colossians; letters to real churches containing timeless truths.

The church is a major focus of the book of Revelation. This book contains specific letter delivered to actual New Testament churches.

9	THE CHURCH IS REFFERED TO
	Chapter 1, the churches are referred to as Verse 20 gives the interpretation of this symbol.
	 This symbol shows that the church has the responsibility to be a light in its place. The church is never given permission to hide or douse its light; even in a day of difficulty. The church at the time of Revelation was under intense persecution but they were still to be a light.
	 In chapter 2 each church is judged by the Head of the Church to see it they indeed were being light.
)	ARE ADDRESSED
	 The book of Revelation is like other books in the New Testament in that it is written to real churches in real situations.
	Each church mentioned was anin real places with real needs.
	ARE EXPRESSED
	 While these letters are written to specific churches; the core principles are eternal truths. Reading these letters is like reading Philippians or Colossians; letters to real churches containing timeless truths.
	 There are lasting lessons for in these letters. Churches need to heed the call given in 1:3 and take these truths to heart.

• This church had made some progress. Christ	ł
was pleased to see some things: Perseverance	1
Hard workNo tolerance for wicked leadersEndurance under trial	
 There was still a major problem in the church; "you have forsaken you first love" 	
 This church had lost its focus on the Savior. Yes, even church that has done so much for the Savior can loose focus on the Savior. 	
 I believe they had become consumed with and stopped loving had replaced trudevotion. 	 J∈
 The remedy was two fold: <u>Reflection</u>: "Remember the height you have fallen <u>Repentance</u>: Start fresh; do what you used to do, 	11
How can the church fall prey to this today? How can we as individuals?	
SMYRNA: The church filled with riches	
 A Paradox- This church was impoverished. The word poverty was use to describe their social and financial status. The word affliction we used to describe their problems. Yet Christ called them rich. They ha remained faithful and had found the riches by being a church faithf to the cause of Christ. 	as id
 Continued Persecution- Verse 9 indicates persecution has bee ongoing. Now there is a promise of A warning- persecution and suffering are coming 	÷N

EPHESUS: Loss of focus; loss of love

Prison

Possible death

An intense period of persecution

	omise- If they remain faithful to Christ during the difficulty, would receive a rich blessing.
Does the mo	dern church face persecution? What are the greatest church today?
	· 有异型 "我们是这些种是是不是一个人,这是有有意思,你们也不是一个人,我们也是不是一个人,我们也是有是一种人,也不是一个人,我们也是有一个人,也不是一个人, "我们就是一个人,我们就是一个人,我们就是一个人,我们就是一个人,我们就是一个人,我们就是一个人,我们就是一个人,我们就是一个人,我们就是一个人,我们就是一个人
PERGAMUM AN	ND THYATIRA: The cancer of compromise
Both	n of Compromise churches experienced the same basic problems; they promised on the basics of Christian faith.
Pergo	Even with complements on being faithful there was a glaring problem; they had accepted some of the teachings of an ancient religion. This was contrary to the truth of God. They had also accepted the false teachings of the Nicolaitans which was a dangerous false belief system.
What can happ	oen when a church compromises the truth of God's Word?
Thyati	ra: compromised
•	This church made improvements but still struggled with a moral problem. Like the Corinthian church they immorality with in the church. The presence of immorality had been in the church for some time. The problem was so bad that Christ was promising judgment against those involved. When immorality strikes a church it has a devastating effect on the church and to the reaches of that church. We live in an age of increase immorality in society and it is an ever increasing risk to the effectiveness of the church.
Picture yourself	

SARDIS: A church caught napping

This church did not match its reputation. They were known as a good church; alive and strong but Christ saw the church as There were still some signs of life within the church but something needed to be done. The command from the Lord was to strengthen what remains and is about to die. This church was on the edge. They had forgotten what the Lord had called them to do. It was time for repentance. Repentance is the cure for a church that is dying. It is the cure for a church that is asleep. Repentance is a return to the desires of the Lord. When does a church need to repent? What are signs that a church is sleeping? PHILADELPHIA: The church with an open door This church was looking at a door opened by the power of Christ. Notice the promise: this door ____ • Christ had given them an opportunity and even in difficult days the door was wide open and would not be closed. The door of opportunity is before the church today. Each church, in each location looks at a door of opportunity. That door will remain open. The church must be _____ and go though that door and take the opportunity given. What might happen if a church does not go though the open door of opportunity given to them?

LAODICEA: the lukewarm church

- This church was neither hot or cold. It had found a place somewhere in the disgusting middle.
- This church had reached a point of self-satisfaction and had become _____ of its need.

 Wretched, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked are words used to describe the true condition of the church.
 They bragged at being rich. Their had blinded their eyes and they could not see their need.
 Christ urged their purification:

What happens to a church when pride prevents a church from seeing its need?

POINTS TO PONDER

- 1. Revelation has a clear message to the church, both in John's day and to our church today.
- 2. Christ is the center of the message to the churches. He is the judge of the actions of each church. He has the authority over the churches.
- 3. The remainder of Revelation is a message to the churches about what is to come.

Saturday Morning Quiet Time

PASSAGE: Revelation 21:9-27

MEDITATE: Envision the beauty of heave as described in this chapter.

WRITE: Write down what excites you most about what us described in this passage.

PRAY: Thank God for heaven and offer Him your reasons for thanks.

WORSIP IN REVELATION

A clear theme echoed throughout the book of Revelation is the theme of Worship. From chapter 4 forward in the majority of the chapters there is a glimpse of worship in heaven.

Worship in Revelation is the fulfillment of Philippians 2:9-11. This passage give us the promise that Christ was given the name above all names and that every person will bow and worship in His presence.

Philippians 2:9-11

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

WHAT DOES REVELATION TEACH US ABOUT WORSHIP?

- The is a clear reason for worship in the book. There is a focus on the Savior.
 - Why should Christ receive worship in heaven?
 - He is worthy.
 - He is holy.
- The focus defines an activity as worship. When we focus on God with our words, activities or with our hearts we have begun to worship.
- Worship INVOLVES many things: songs, scripture reading, drama, preaching but worship REQUIRES one important ingredient:

•	WORSHIP	IS	•	_
	** • !!	•••		

- Often in the book of Revelation there are moments when the hosts of heaven begin to worship because of an event or activity in heaven. This has not been planned or orchestrated, it is a _____.
- Worship can happen under planned circumstances.

- Recognize that at any time under any circumstances you can respond to God's moving in your life. Any moment can become a time of worship.
- We do not have to wait until worship is on the scheduled for us to worship.

WORSHIP IS ______.

- In Revelation we see that worship is a continual act. In Revelation 4:8 we see just one act of continuing worship.
- Worship should not be limited to time; it should be a continual act in our daily lives.
- If we worship continually through our lives we will not have to
 when we come to a scheduled time of worship.
- Each day we are given the opportunity to worship God. We choose how we spend our time. The more time we are willing to spend focused on God the more we will understand the concept of continual worship.

WORSHIP IS ______.

- Worship in the book of Revelation is deep; filled with meaning.
- It is clear that in each time we get a glimpse of worship in heaven we see the participants reaching deep for their expressions of praise and worship.
- Worship is more than reciting, repeating, vocalizing and singing.
 All the acts of worship can be done out of habit or repetition.
- Worship is an expression of the deepest feelings.
- Worship is an opportunity to share your feelings with God. It is an opportunity given to each Christian but the content of your worship is up to you.
- Find ways to express your feelings to God. When you begin to deepen your expression to God you will notice a difference in your worship.

WORSHIP IS _______.

- Feelings must be balanced with truth. The worship in Revelation is not only an expression of truth it is a confirmation of the truth. There is truth at the core of the content in the worship we see in this book.
- A team with an 0-11 record can cheer "were number one." The enthusiasm may be there but the truth is absent.

	 Worship is more than a pep rally. True worship is
	 Truth must be evident in all facets of our worship practices. It should be in our songs. It should be to our practices. It should be the of the proclaimed word.
•	 In the heavenly scenes of Revelation there are various numbers of those sharing together worship. From the 24 elders to the countless thousands, worship can involve many people. Worship in group of people is an interesting dynamic: We can find in being with others who are redeemed. We can find in the presence of many focused on God.
	POINTS TO PONDER
1.	Christ has given us a powerful reason to worship.
2.	Worship is an expression of our heart to God.

- 3. Worship is an opportunity of which we must take advantage.
- 4. Worship is very much a choice.
- 5. Purity of my heart and life will make it much easier for me to spend time in worship.

Judgment In Revelation

The book of Revelation gives us a glimpse into the unfolding of God's judgment. Scripture plainly shows that our time here is limited. In God's own timing a plan of judgment will be implemented and all will be effected in some way. From a distance one my struggle with the pattern and means of God's judgment as seen in Revelation. Our aim in this chapter is to understand the structure and plan of God's judgment as revealed in this book.

GOD'S JUDGMENT IS ETERNAL

- As you think about this statement you may thing that this is a reference to the length of the payment for God's judgment. This actually refers to the way that God's judgment has been planned all along.
- God's judgment is not an instant emotional reaction. God put together this plan and began to unfold it along the way.
- In the New Testament Jesus spoke through various means of the judgment that would happen. He used parable as well as straightforward teaching as found in Matthew 24.
- Even the book of Revelation was revealed to John around 90
 A.D. Note that the full details of God's judgment, right down to
 some of the most minor details are revealed 2000 years before
 our time.
- God gave us fair warning about his judgment. He has given us a clear picture of what will come to be. Again, we are advised to take these words to heart. It is foolish to think that God will not judge. We have His word, we can read His plan, we can see it plainly and now we must respond to it.

GOD'S JUDGMENT IS WELL ORDERED

Our God is _______. As you read in Genesis 1 you find a clear pattern of the process of creation. God does not act out of His self-imposed order. There is a plan to creation, a plan for redemption, a plan for the incarnation, a plan for the people of Israel in the Old Testament, there was order to the Tabernacle;

the list could go on. God's plan of judgment is no exception to this pattern. God established a plan and in this book He carries it out with order and precision.

- The judgment in this book is _____. Piece by piece we see the next part of God's judgment
 - The suspense of Chapter 5
 - The opening of seals in Chapter 6
 - The pause before the 7th seal is opened with Chapter 7
 - The trumpets in Chapters 8 and 9.
 - The pause with Chapters 10 and 11 before the 7th trumpet at the end of Chapter 11
 - The seven bowls of God's wrath in chapter 16
- No action is taken without planning and no action happens without determined consequence.
- It is possible that someone could view the actions of Revelation as senseless or cruel. I see a plan of God, given to us before it will happen, telling us exactly what will happen. God has revealed his plan to us.

GOD'S JUDGMENT IS INCLUSIVE

- Hebrews 9:27 Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment.
- One fact remains for all who live; there will be a time for judgment. Hebrews demonstrates that no one will escape judgment.
- The book of Revelation supports this fact. God's judgments in this book are inclusive. Through the unfolding of the events God leaves no stone unturned. Notice the inclusiveness of his judgment:
 - even in this book there are current judgments. Each church was viewed by God and was judgment accordingly. Some were in good shape, others were given a warning of judgment. Remember, God also judges in this time. He requires holiness and righteousness and when we move from it God can rightfully judge us.

- 1 Corinthians 3:10-15 tells us about what will happen when the redeemed are judged. We will be seen as covered by the blood of the Lamb. Our service for the King will be judged by fire. The testing of what we have done and the motives for our actions. Our names are written in the Lambs Book of Life.
- ______: The lost are judged in Revelation 20:11-15. Here we see they are judged according to the lives that were lived. Notice the most critical element in this judgment. The Book of Life is opened and those whose names do not appear are case into the lake of fire. The lost will answer at some point for the lives they lived apart from God.
- One powerful result of God's judgment is the collapse of the world's system and order. Chapter 18 gives a vivid description of the symbolic Babylon. This is representative of the fall of the world order and system. From the earliest days the world's system has been set up against the way of God. Babylon was an Old Testament power and a place filled with unrighteousness. In Revelation this shows the ultimate doom and judgment against the world system. 2 Corinthians 10:5 We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.
- Revelation also spells the end for Satan, the commander of the world's system. During the Millennium, Satan will be bound. After that he will be release for a short time. He will then face his doom. He will be thrown into the lake of fire and he too will be tormented there. Satan will not be a problem for believers for the remainder of eternity. We will not live under his system, be tempted by his ways, and we will not be bothered by his power any longer. All his plans will be dashed. On the cross the victory was won and at this point of judgment it will all be complete.

Describe	e your fee	lings knowing	that Satan w	ill no longer l	be a factor?
	•.				· .
GOD'S J	UDGMENT	IS FINAL			

- God's judgment is serious business. When it is complete, there will be no turning back the clock, no second chances, no time for appeal. When God's judgment passes, it is finished.
- Revelation teaches us about two ways that God's judgment will end. There are only two choices.
 - First, _______. After the dead are judged; and the lost are put in the lake of fire there are these words "The lake of fire is the second death" Revelation 20:14b. This judgment is described as death; a final state. This is the end for those who rejected Christ. Once a name has not been found in the book of life the final, and eternal judgment comes.
 - Second, _______. Revelation 21:4 shows this is new life. Revelation 22 teaches us about a river of eternal life. For those who know Christ as Savior, there is a promise of eternal life. This is also a final state. There is not change here. Since there is no sin or death in heaven there will be way for this to end.
- God will render final judgment. The result of God's judgment comes during our lives now.
 - We choose to accept or reject Christ
 - We choose to live for Him.
 - We chose to serve or not to serve Him.

Make your choice now. The choices you make will effect your place in God's judgment.

Heaven and Future Glory In Revelation

What a wonderful subject! I am grateful that God gives us an opportunity to see a glimpse of heaven and the future glory that awaits us all.

Revelation 21:2-3

I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.

•	JUST	Α	GL	IM	PSE	IN	CHA	PTER	4
---	------	---	----	----	-----	----	-----	------	---

, 102	I A GLIMPSE IN CHAPIER 4
	 Revelation gives us a glimpse in chapter 4. What did he see in
	heaven:
	•
	•
	•
	•
Δ C	LEARER PICTURE IN CHAPTER 21
~ ~	ELANER FICTORE IN CITAL IER 21
	 John gets a unique vision in Chapter 21. He is given the opportunity to see the real heaven with his eyes. His accoun gives us a glimpse into the glory that awaits us beyond this life. A very different from our world today. A with God, in the presence of his glory. A a life free from fears, pain, tears death, and the old system that Christians lived in. THE : Jesus promised that he would prepare a place for us and in 21:6 we see it is done.
•	JOHN SEES A CLEAR PICTURE OF THE NEW HEAVEN
	 Shone with the Revelation 21:23 teaches us there is not need for other lights because the glory of God is the light. Shone like a

•	Had with 12 gates	
0	The walls were made with jewels	
•	The gates were made from a	
•	The city was long and high; an enormous place	ce!
	There was because we will be in	
	direct presence of the Lord.	
•	There will be nothing in the city. Only the	ose
	who are redeemed will be there.	

The purpose of this part of revelation is to give us a taste of what we can look forward to in the future. Christ made a promise to prepare a place for us. This shows us in almost the closing moments of the Bible that he has kept his promise.

Daily Living and the Book of Revelation

Where does Revelation find a place in our daily lives?

- **Encouragement**: Know that the battle has been fought on the Cross and a victory has been won. Revelation reminds us that even when we are discouraged about what we see around us; we still know what the outcome will be!
- As an aid for our worship: We can read Revelation and find many passage to help us with our daily worship. Worship is a focus in this book and can be used easily to aid our worship.
- **Study Aid**: Through this book we can learn many valuable lessons about the person of Christ, judgment, the church etc. This book is good to read and study alone as well as in a group.
- **Evangelism**: Let this book inspire you toward sharing Christ. God has a plan that includes judgment. We have a role to fill by sharing Christ.
- A final word: This is a great book and we need to spend time studying it.
 - Do not ignore this book: No matter what your feelings may be, spend time in this book. It has a powerful message for your life.
 - **Strive for balance**. Remember the other extreme is to spend more time here than in any other book of the Bible. Remember that we must have balance in our study. The end of times are fascinating but do not exclude the other books of the Bible.
 - **Don't miss the Savior**: This book is still about Him. When you read Revelation: Worship Him.