

Sunday, January 15, 2023 - "Revelation - Week 1 - Introduction" - Doug Kempton

Key Passages: Revelation 1:1-4, Daniel 7-12

- Feel free to read the passage(s) out loud as a group
- Allow the group to share freely about what stood out to them from the passage or from Sunday's message

Main Ideas

- Revelation 1:1-4
- Revelation is a letter to 7 specific churches encouraging them in their faith
- Chapter 1: prologue
 - An idea of what the letter was all about
 - Revelation = apokalupsis (Greek) = apocalypse
 - What comes to mind?
 - What emotions are stirred on you?
 - Could be titled "The Apocalypse of Jesus Christ"
- Apocalypse = to uncover, unveil, or reveal → removing the veil to see Jesus is in all of his glory
- The letter was meant to **inspire the church to passionate worship** (not gloom and destruction to Christ followers)
- What if apocalypse was a good thing and we looked forward to the days talked about in Revelation?
- We should approach the letter as a catalyst passionate worship
- The letter is different (so we have to read it different)
 - Metaphors and symbols
 - Not necessarily a historical document
 - Like Psalms is poetry and not meant to be taken literally
 - Different than Jesus healing in the new testament (actual account of historical events)
 - Apocalyptic literature (revelatory literature)
 - Prophetic pronouncements in picture form
 - Strange/ghastly figures
 - Lots of metaphors
 - Descriptions of events that signal the end as we know it
 - Action that leads to judgment and a new world
- v4: John the the 7 churches in Asia
 - Oppressive rule of the Roman empire...if they refused to worship emperor as divine → persecution (rounded up and killed)
 - "The Beast" = The Roman Empire
- Revelation is not meant to draw conclusions or say that now is "the last days" (it has been "the last days" since Jesus rose again and ascended to Heaven)
- We should not force-feed current affairs and events into the context of Revelation...don't read something into it that isn't there
- "The book of Revelation blesses us by teaching us to see beyond the immediate and live for the eternal" - Doug Kempton
- 3 Questions as we read and study Revelations
 - 1) What did this letter mean to the 7 churches (original context)?
 - 2) What does this have to with Jesus?
 - 3) How are we to apply this in our lives today?

Questions (Feel free to use all of these, some of these, or none of these)

1. What emotions does the word apocalypse stir in you? What comes to mind?
2. When was a time that you realized there was more going on around you than you could see with "natural" eyes?
3. Have you read or studied Revelation before? What was it like? What did you learn?
4. How does the idea that Jesus will return "like a thief in the night" impact the way you think and live each day?
5. When was a time that you were inspired to passionate worship of God? What happened or what was going on in your life at the time?
6. What is God inviting you into as a result of this message or passage?

Songs from the weekend:

[The Way - *Pat Barrett*] - [Revelation Song - *Gateway Worship*] - [Psalm 46 (Lord of Hosts) - *Shane and Shane*] - [Living Hope - *Phil Wickham*]