

GETTING ACQUAINTED WITH REVELATION

INTRODUCTION:

A study of Revelation will give Christians a grasp of many doctrines besides that of prophecy. In fact, the chief doctrine of Revelation is that of Jesus Christ. In the Gospels His humility is shown, but in Revelation His glory is made known. Revelation glorifies Jesus Christ as the almighty God, the gracious Redeemer, the victorious Warrior, the truthful Judge and the world Ruler. He is the Hope of the believer, the Song of the redeemed, the Reward of the victorious. The book of Revelation is an indispensable book in the study of Jesus Christ. Other doctrines revealed in this book include the Bible, God, man, sin, angels, salvation, the church and future events. Believers are greatly impoverished without a good understanding of the book of Revelation. A special blessing is promised to those who know and keep the message of this book (Rev 1:3). A natural interpretation of the words in the prophecies will be used. That is the most reliable way to interpret the Bible.

AIM OF THE LESSON:

Motivate the students to know and keep the message of Revelation so the Lord can bless them.

Blessed is he that reads, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it, for the time is at hand (Rev 1:3).

OUTLINE OF THE LESSON (use the Study Notes to add to this lesson plan as the Spirit leads you):

I. Know the Doctrines in Revelation –This lesson will only consider the doctrines mentioned in the first chapter. As you study Revelation, look for these doctrines. The doctrine of future things is completed below. Use it as a pattern for the study of the other doctrines. Make a short statement for each verse that is given.

A. The doctrine of future events. In chapter one seven verses refer to the future.

1:1 – John was told about things that must shortly come to pass. That means these future events will happen quickly at any moment.

1:4 – God said that He is, was and is to come. He will be there when these future events happen.

1:6 – Jesus will have glory and dominion forever and ever; He will be King forever (see 5:12-13; 22:3).

1:7 – This verse reveals some things that will happen when Jesus returns to the earth (see 19:11-21).

1:8 – God the Father confirms that Jesus will come in the future.

1:18 -Jesus says He is alive forever in the future. He will never die again.

1:19 -John was told to write the things that would happen in the future.

B. The doctrine of God. Most of the verses will focus on Christ.

God, the Father, is revealed in verses 1, 2, 4, 8, 9.

God, the Son, is revealed in all verses except 3, 4, 8.

God, the Spirit, is revealed in 4, 10.

C. The doctrine of the Bible – verses 2, 3, 9, 11, 19.

D. The doctrine of man – verses 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 11, 17, 20.

E. The doctrine of sin – verse 5.

F. The doctrine of angels – verse 1.

G. The doctrine of the church – verses 4, 11, 12, 13, 16, 20.

APPLICATION: Knowledge of these doctrines will be a great blessing to you and to those that listen to you. Paul told Timothy to take heed to himself, and to the doctrine. He was to continue in them: for in doing this he would both save himself and those that heard him (1 Tim 4:16).

II. Know some Reasons for Studying Revelation. Here are seven reasons for studying Revelation:

A. It reveals God's prophetic program about the end-times. It is not a history of the early church or of the church age, nor is it an allegory of the warfare between God and Satan. It is a prophecy of things that will happen in the future (1:1-3, 19; 10:11; 22:10, 18-19).

B. It reveals who will receive God's blessings. He will bless those that read, hear and obey the words of His prophecy (1:3; 22:7, 14), those that die with faith in Him (14:13), those that watch for the return of His Son (16:15), those that are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb (19:9), and those who have part in the first resurrection (20:6).

C. It reveals Jesus as God. It reveals the supreme glory that He rightly deserves (1:9-18). Some say He is the highest of God's creation. Others say He is an angel or a great prophet, but this book reveals that He is God, the Son, and is worthy to receive worship with His Father (5:8, 9; 19:10; 21:22; 22:1, 3, 9, 12, 13, 20).

D. It reveals new truths about Jesus Christ. Prophecy is focused on Jesus Christ, because He is "the spirit of prophecy" (19:10). Prophecy is more than knowing events of the future; it knowing more about Jesus.

E. It reveals Jesus Christ's relationship to others. It reveals His relationship to the churches as their Lord (Rev 1-3), to God as His Lamb (Rev 4-5), to Satan as his Conqueror (Rev 6-19) and to all people as their King (Rev 20-22).

F. It reveals how His churches ought to conduct themselves. Jesus Christ's examination of the seven churches in Asia Minor (Rev 2-3) indicates how He will judge all churches. He also promises special rewards for those members that are overcomers. A wise pastor will give careful attention to the things that Jesus approved in these seven churches and what He disapproved. He also will tell about the rewards Jesus will give to overcomers.

G. It reveals rich information about many doctrines. Seven doctrines were discussed in the first part of this lesson, but the doctrine of salvation is seen in Revelation 2-3. The reference to "overcomers" in Jesus' examination of the churches is about those that are saved. A sinner is an overcomer when he is born of God by faith in Jesus Christ (1 Jn 5:4-5). Another reference for the doctrine of salvation is found in 3:20, where Jesus is knocking at the door of a sinner's life, seeking entrance to come in and have fellowship with him.

APPLICATION: The study of Revelation will reveal to you many events that will happen in the future, but more than that, it will reveal many things about Jesus Christ that will draw you close to Him.

III. Know the Outline of Revelation (1:19)

A. "Things which thou hast seen" refers to the vision of Christ (1:9-18).

John had known Christ in his humility, but now he needed to know Christ in His glory to fully grasp the message of Revelation that was about to be revealed to him. He fell on his face when he saw His glory.

B. "Things which are" refers to the condition of the churches (2:1 - 3:22).

John was instructed to write to seven churches in Asia Minor to comfort, warn and exhort them. These churches are like churches throughout the church age. Christ's messages to these churches are useful for pastors and members of churches in every culture anywhere in the world.

C. "Things which shall be hereafter" refers to revelation of future things (4:1 - 22:21).

John was told many details about the Tribulation that will follow the Rapture of the church-age saints (Rev 4-19). He was given new information about Christ's reign on the earth for one thousand years before Satan would be imprisoned forever in the lake of fire (Rev 20). Then he was told that God and the Lamb (Christ) would rule the new heaven and new earth forever from the New Jerusalem (Rev 21-22).

APPLICATION: A grasp of these events should sufficiently warn you and prepare you to watch for the return of the Lord. When you have this hope in you, it will purify you, even as Christ is pure (1 Jn 3:3).

FILL YOUR HEART AS WELL AS YOU HEAD WITH THE WORD OF GOD

Note to the teacher: Ask your students questions from the Student's Lesson and appoint different ones to read the Scriptures where the answers can be found. After a right answer is found, share other truths you have gleaned from your study of the Bible, from the Study Notes and from the Teacher's Plan. Make applications to the students' lives where they fit (some are found in the Teacher's Plan). This approach will keep the interest of your students.