

Sermon Discussion Curriculum Week 1 - Revelation 1:1-20 - Jan. 3, 2021

Helpful Resources for Studying Revelation

Revelation for You by Tim Chester — https://bit.ly/RevForYou
The BibleProject Videos — Rev. 1-11: https://bit.ly/Rev1-11 Rev. 12-22: https://bit.ly/TriumphOfGod
Revelation: by William Subash — RightNow Media — https://bit.ly/williamsubash

Admittedly, Revelation can be an intimidating book to study. As you begin this endeavor, we want to encourage you to set aside the charts, movies, books, or sermons that claim to unravel its mysteries. It's better just to read it. Allow God to speak to you through his written Word.

The goal of this time is to have quality connection and time together. Choose questions from Know, Grow and Show that will best help your group discuss the passage and take their next steps of faith. Don't feel like you have to use all of the questions. Feel free to add your own too! We are praying for you as you lead your D-Group this week!

- 2020 was a tumultuous year in many ways. Take a moment to reflect on the year. What was the hardest part of 2020 for you? How did you grow?
- What are you looking forward to in 2021? What are your hopes and fears for the future? How do they impact the way you live here and now?
- Revelation can be very intimidating, confusing, or scary. Why do you think it is important that we read and study this book? Are you excited to start this study? Are you nervous? What questions do you have entering a study in Revelation?
- A revelation is something disclosed, exposed, understood or made known. What are you expecting or desiring God to reveal to you in this study thru the Book of Revelation?



- Read Revelation 1:1-20 out loud as a D-Group. As it is read aloud pay attention to any phrases or words that stick out to you. Circle, highlight, or underline them. Discuss as a group what portions of this chapter grab your attention.
- John is writing a letter to Christians facing the threats and seductions of life in and under the Roman Empire. In this first chapter, where or how do you see John encouraging the believers to remain faithful?
- John shares his inspiration for writing the letter of Revelation in verses 1 and 2. Try to put yourselves in the shoes of the 1st century Christians. How would this encourage or inspire you as you read these words?
- Which description of Jesus in verses 4-8 is most personally meaningful to you? Share why with the group.
- As you read verses 9-20, John's vision of the risen Christ, what aspects bring comfort to you? Is there anything that is disturbing or challenging for you?

္**ဓ** စ-စ SHOW:

- In all you have read and experienced in reading this chapter of Revelation, what pictures or images do you have of Jesus? Are there any words that stand out to you in particular? Write these down and see how they grow or change as this study progresses.
- Worship is a natural response to reading about and seeing Jesus in Scripture. What would it look like for your D-Group to worship Jesus together right now? (singing, prayer, writing personal letters to Jesus, dancing, etc.).
- Revelation was written to churches being persecuted under a totalitarian regime. Today, our society seems more friendly; yet it remains hostile to us both morally and spiritually. How can this vision of Jesus encourage us to resist the seductions of our society?
- The title for this teaching series is "Soon". Why do you think it was given that name? In what ways does the truth about Jesus' imminent return shape your life here and now? How does this challenge you to live differently this week?



Sermon Discussion Curriculum Week 2 - Revelation 2:1-7 - Jan. 10, 2021

Helpful Resources for Studying Revelation

Revelation for You by Tim Chester — https://bit.ly/RevForYou
The BibleProject Videos — Rev. 1-11: https://bit.ly/Rev1-11 Rev. 12-22: https://bit.ly/TriumphOfGod
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- There is something special about feeling known by others. Share about a time when you felt particularly known and loved by someone through their words, actions, or through a gift they gave you.
- We all grow best in community with others. Who are the people in your life who help you see when you are getting off track? How do you respond to their "constructive criticism"?
- Are there times in your life where you feel as though you are doing everything you can, yet it doesn't seem to ever be enough? Maybe it's your job or a relationship. If you are willing, share an example with your group.
- Think about the quote "Delight shapes desire" (coming from Psalm 37:4). How does this affect the trajectory of your spiritual life (positively and negatively) and how can you intentionally use this concept to strengthen your desire for God?



- Read Revelation 2:1-7 aloud in your group. According to this passage, what are the things that the church at Ephesus is doing well? What are they not doing well? What is the change that Jesus is calling them to make?
- Why would forsaking "your first love" be so tragic for this church?
- The church body in Ephesus was comprised of former witches, sorcerers, and pagan god worshippers. After their conversion, they placed a high value on right doctrine and teaching, and tested apostles to identify false teachers. However, Jesus rebukes them because their love for truth began to supersede their love for God. What is the danger in this?
- In verse 5, Jesus says that if they do not "repent and do the works" they did before, he will "remove your lampstand from its place". The lampstand represents the credibility and authority of the Ephesian church as a witness to the world. How would their lack of repentance result in losing their ability to be a credible witness?
- Look back at Paul's letter to the Ephesians (Eph. 1:15-23). We see echoes of the same strengths and weaknesses that John is writing about in Rev. 2. What did Paul want for the Ephesians? What phrases from this passage do you need to remind your own heart of this week? Write them down and think on them this week.

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- Imagine that you are this church, hearing John communicate these things to you. How do you think you would have felt? How do you think you would have responded?
- The church at Ephesus is told to "remember" in verse 5. How does remembering what God has done in our lives strengthen our heart and faith? Think back over the past weeks and months what is something you can remember that God has done that you would be willing to share with your group?
- There is a tendency for most of us to lose the initial enthusiasm and excitement we had when we first came to know Christ. If we have lost our first love, what steps can we take to renew our commitment to Jesus?
- Examine your own life. Is there anything in your life (habits, priorities, pride, etc.) that could be damaging your witness to others, or worse, damaging your relationship with God and quenching your love for him? Confess those to God and ask for a new, fresh love for him.
- Spend time in prayer as a group, repenting of the ways in which you have lost your first love or allowed the distractions of the world to pull you away from your commitment to Jesus. Ask God to strengthen and encourage your group to be the kind of Biblical community that helps one another grow in their love for Jesus and desire to follow Him wholeheartedly.



Sermon Discussion Curriculum - Week 3 Rev. 2:8-11; 3:7-13 - Jan. 17, 2021

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The BibleProject Videos — Rev. 1-11: https://bit.ly/Rev1-11 Rev. 12-22: https://bit.ly/TriumphOfGod
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- Think about some of your favorite stories or movies that portray great acts of human heroism (LOTR, Selma, Braveheart, Hidden Figures). Why are these stories inspiring to us?
- Spiritual growth often occurs in our lives during times of suffering or in the hard seasons of life. Would you be willing to share about a hard season in your life? What did you learn about God and his character in those hard moments?
- What Scriptures do you go to during difficult times? Take a few minutes to encourage one another with your favorite verses or passages. Share how these truths encourage you in hard times.
- How have the last few months of COVID, political tension, racial tension, natural disasters, and
 everything else that has come in the last year caused you to function in fear or dread? If you are
 willing, share those things with your group.



- Read Rev. 2:8-11 and 3:7-13. Both churches are facing extreme persecution. How would Jesus's descriptions of himself have been an encouragement to them? What other words of encouragement and hope does He offer to them?
- The BibleProject has a phrase they use to describe the purpose of the Bible, "One story that leads to Jesus." Where and how do you see Jesus in these passages? What do you learn about his character? How would this motivate those reading this letter to press on?
- List the things you find in these two passages that God promises to the believers who remain faithful. How do these things encourage you to remain faithful today?
- Jesus calls the saints in Smyrna and Philadelphia to remain faithful in the midst of suffering. Read Romans 5:1-5. What does Paul tell us will be the result of suffering for the sake of Christ?
- Only the letters to Smyrna and Philadelphia mention no problem and give no warning. What role does affirmation play in helping Christians who are under spiritual pressure?
- As you read Rev. 3:7-13, what symbols does the author mention? What do each of these symbols represent? How does it encourage you to know that Jesus has authority over both the life we live now and the life that is yet to come?

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- In Rev. 2:1-7, we were challenged to remember our first love Jesus. How does remembering, repenting, and returning to Jesus help us in times of suffering and opposition? How can you love Jesus more this week?
- Many of our brothers and sisters around the world face severe physical persecution for their faith in Jesus. Spend a few minutes as a group and pray for them to be strengthened through the power of the Holy Spirit and to remain faithful to Jesus. During this time, remember to also pray for the global mission partner that your group has adopted.
- Revelation 2:11 encourages the believers to "listen to what the Spirit says to the churches." What
 would it look like for you to be more attentive to the Holy Spirit? How can you practice this listening
 skill on a regular basis?
- Are you under pressure to compromise your beliefs in order to fit in, or be accepted in your family, workplace, or elsewhere? How do these verses remind you that God is in control even when it doesn't feel like it? Pray with your D-Group that God will give you the strength to continue in the truth and hope of Jesus.
- Take time to worship the One "who died and came to life" (through prayer, song, serving, giving, reading of Psalms, etc.).



Sermon Discussion Curriculum Week 4 - Rev. 2:12-29 - Jan. 24, 2021

Helpful Resources for Studying Revelation

Revelation for You by Tim Chester — https://bit.ly/RevForYou
The BibleProject Videos — Rev. 1-11: https://bit.ly/Rev1-11 Rev. 12-22: https://bit.ly/TriumphOfGod
Revelation: by William Subash — RightNow Media — https://bit.ly/williamsubash

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- What is the difference between joy and happiness?
- Has something ever happened to you, whether good or bad, that has caused you to think of yourself in an entirely different way? What was that thing and how did it shape your identity and your thinking?
- What are some thoughts or sayings growing up that you thought were Bible verses that weren't?
- At what point does a good thing become a bad thing?
- Take a moment to think about yourself. Do you have a teachable spirit? Are you willing to listen when someone brings encouragement or correction to you? How do you usually respond?



- Take time to read Revelation 2:12-29. What stands out to you from the text? Was there something you haven't noticed before?
- In verse 16, Jesus says "Repent". This is not just a suggestion but, rather, a command. What is the difference between true repentance and false repentance? What is Jesus asking of this church?
- These passages repeatedly use the phrase "I know" when levying charges against the churches. What is the point of confession and repentance if our sins are already known? Why are we not able to just change our actions and move on?
- How is Jesus described to each of these churches? What do these descriptions say about his character?
 Do these descriptions challenge your view of Jesus at all?
- There is an imperative to stand against the false teachers who stood among the believers. What kinds of things were the Christians called to stand against?
- Both churches have a reference for the "one who conquers". How would this be encouraging to the readers?

့ e-e SHOW:

- Revelation 2 talks about the victory and blessing of those that conquer. These are people who believe in Christ and hold fast to Him. What are steps in your walk you need to take to help you cling to the Lord and endure until the end?
- Are there areas in your life that the Lord is calling you to repent? Is there something that you feel led to step out in faith, but have been apprehensive?
- The believers in Pergamum have held fast against many pagan practices but were still influenced by some sinful practices. In what ways do you see this at play in your own life? What temptations lure the church today?
- Jesus charged the church of Thyatira with being too tolerant of evil. In what areas are Christians today too tolerant? What areas of sin in your life do you gloss over or make excuses for? Are there ways that our D-Group can work toward challenging each other in repentance in our own ongoing walk with Christ?
- How might we care for someone who is under pressure to compromise their beliefs? Pray for someone you know who is under that pressure.



Sermon Discussion Curriculum Week 5 - Rev. 3:1-6; 14-22 - Jan. 31, 2021

Helpful Resources for Studying Revelation

Revelation for You by Tim Chester — https://bit.ly/RevForYou
The BibleProject Videos — Rev. 1-11: https://bit.ly/Rev1-11 Rev. 12-22: https://bit.ly/TriumphOfGod
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- When you go to Starbucks, how do you decide between a cold drink or a hot drink? Have you ever requested a new drink because it wasn't hot enough? What is it about a lukewarm drink that causes you to want to send it back or even spit it out?
- Describe a time in your life when you became complacent? What things changed around you due to your complacency? How did your complacency affect those around you?
- Is there a difference between discipline and punishment? How would you describe the difference? Share a story of either from your past with the D-Group.
- Digital marketing experts estimate that most Americans are exposed to around 4,000 to 10,000 ads each day. Which advertisements on TV are the most memorable to you right now? What advertisements have caught your attention today, that may be a bit more subtle?



- Read Revelation 3:1-6 and 14-22. What is similar about these two churches? What is different?
- As you read the opening description of Jesus to each church, how does this description match the specific message to the church?
- What would you say was the biggest concern Christ had for the church in Sardis? What does Jesus call this church to do?
- What would you say was the biggest concern Christ had for the church in Laodicea? What does Jesus call this church to do?
- Revelation 3:20 is a verse that is often taken out of context and used by itself in evangelism. Go back and read the verses before and after. To whom is Jesus speaking in this verse? After reading the verse in context, what new insight do you have about this verse?
- As you think through all seven of these churches that Jesus addressed (Rev. 2-3), what have you learned about Jesus? What have you learned about how he views the church? What have you learned about your own heart?

့ 6-9 SHOW:

- One of the challenges facing the seven churches was the pressure to conform to the Roman culture, its
 traditions and its religious views. The argument could be made that the 21st-century church is also
 facing similar pressure to conform to today's culture. What you say are some of the things that the
 church today is being pressured to conform to? How should we address those issues? And how can we
 address them in a way that is loving and God-honoring?
- Have you personally become spiritually complement? Confess this with your D-Group. Ask the D-Group
 to support you in this way. What are some behaviors or patterns in your life that help you recognize
 that in yourself? What are some practical steps to help you move away from complacency?
- Christ commanded the church in Sardis in Revelation 3:1-6 to repent and remember. As you seek to grow in Christ, what verse of scripture could you study this week to remind you of who God is and what He has done for you?
- Which of these messages to all seven churches do you most identify with? How has this message impacted you?
- If Jesus were to direct John to write a letter to Fellowship Bible Church, what might he say? Think about your campus, how might his message be more specific to you? Pray, confess, and repent as a D-Group.



Sermon Discussion Curriculum Week 6 - Rev. 4 & 5 - Feb. 7, 2021

Helpful Resources for Studying Revelation

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The BibleProject Videos — Rev. 1-11: https://bit.ly/Rev1-11 Rev. 12-22: https://bit.ly/TriumphOfGod
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- How curious do you think our culture is about the afterlife? The possibility of heaven? What books, television series, or movies give you that impression? How about you how curious are you?
- Do you like to sing? Are you a fan of karaoke? Or are you more of an in the car, radio only singer? What do you sing?
- We live in uncertain times, plagued by fear of nuclear war, climate change, a pandemic, and economic downturns. How do you see people dealing with those challenges? What people or resources are they counting on to help them cope with these challenges?
- The beauty of nature often inspires the praise of God (sunrise/sunset, mountains, oceans...) Do you have a favorite setting or place that makes you feel this way? Where do you go to see God's glory?



- These two chapters give us a close look at God and the Lamb, Jesus Christ. Read Revelation 4 and 5 out loud together. Don't rush through it. As someone reads, take notes on what impresses you.
- John was literally invited to view heaven through an open door. What did John see as he stepped through that door? How does this view of heaven conflict with your own view of heaven? What are some responses you might have if you were seeing God's throne room?
- These chapters begin and end with worship. The word worship comes from a root word meaning "worthy." Where in these chapters do you see God's worthiness of worship?
- The descriptions we see of God in Revelation 4 and 5 are consistent with other Scriptures (Is. 6:1-3; Dan. 7:9-10; Ez. 1:26-28). Describe the response of everyone who steps into His presence. How do these accounts, written over a span of 1500 years, encourage your view of the inspiration of scripture?
- Being in God's presence elicits praise from a growing choir with hymns of creation (4:8-11) and redemption (5:9-13). What is it about God that causes them to praise Him (holiness, power, etc.)?
 Share some of His attributes seen in these chapters that cause you to praise Him.

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- God's glory is magnified through the death of the Lamb. How does Revelation 4 & 5 increase your view of redemption?
- Chapter 4 gives image of God as Creator, while chapter 5 reveals Christ the Redeemer. Both chapters show the response of those present as whole-hearted worship. What is one way you need to worship him whole-heartedly?
- The worship of God is tied directly to the revelation of God it is not experienced in a vacuum. Share a time (worship service, conference, retreat, study, etc.) when your vision of God overwhelmed you and drew you closer to him. What step will you take to see Him that clearly again?
- C.S. Lewis, the Christian writer, said "You cannot be a disciple without an eternal perspective." We live
 in a culture that bombards us daily with the need for temporal things. What resources has God
 provided you with to help you break free from the world's priorities and to cultivate an eternal
 mindset?
- Coming face to face with Jesus in these chapters elicits a response. How do you need to respond after seeing a clear image of God and the Lamb?



Sermon Discussion Curriculum Week 7 - Revelation 6 - Feb. 14, 2021

Helpful Resources for Studying Revelation

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The BibleProject Videos — Rev. 1-11: https://bit.ly/Rev1-11 Rev. 12-22: https://bit.ly/TriumphOfGod
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- Share a time in which you have experienced what felt like "the end of the world." What was an event that stopped you in your tracks when you heard about it? Describe what it felt like to know you were safe again.
- Have you or someone you know ever experienced an earthquake? If so, describe what it was like (how
 intense, length of time, damage, emotional impact, etc.). If not, describe what you have observed
 watching footage of one in movies or on the news.
- Have you ever been selected to serve on a court room jury? What was that experience like? Describe some of the challenges you faced in pursuing justice or in judging things fairly.
- Pablo Picasso created the art piece, *Guernica*, in 1937 (http://bit.ly/PPGuernica) in response to the suffering of people and animals brought on by the violence and chaos of war. What do you see when you look at it? What emotions does this image invoke in you?



- We have encountered quite a bit thus far by reading the book of Revelation. It may be good
 to pause and take a moment to refocus on the purpose of this book before we read chapter six. Watch
 this video on how to read Apocalyptic Literature: http://bit.ly/ApLit.
- Read Revelation 6 out loud. It may be helpful to read it in three parts. Read 6:1-8 first, then read 6:911, and finish with 6:12-17. As you read this chapter, don't separate it from what is written in chapter
 five. Who is the one opening these seals? Why is it important to remember who is opening the seals?
- The four-horseman described here represent the devasting impacts that sin has (both at the time of writing and now) on our world. Seals 1-4 (6:1-8) symbolize war, conquest, famine, and death. They are a portrayal of the horrors that the first century Christians were living under. How have you seen or experienced some of these personally? How have you witnessed these effects on the larger scale of the whole world? Compare with Matthew 24:3-8.
- What is the significance of the fifth seal (6:9-11)? Describe what is being portrayed. What are the two reasons that these martyrs have died? What was the response to the cry of the martyrs?
- The "Wrath of the Lamb" (6:16) is a deliberate paradox. What does this imagery show about God? Describe the sixth seal and what is taking place. How does the experience of the unbelievers in the sixth seal contrast with the experience of the saints in the fifth seal?
- How does this chapter help shape the image of Jesus in your mind?

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- While we wait "a little longer," we continue to pray. How does this passage encourage you to pray? How do these images from chapter 6 fit in God's redemptive story?
- As Christians we are told not to fear or to be dismayed. How then should we respond to what we have learned in Revelation 6? What sense of urgency does knowing that God is the judge of all the earth bring to you? What encouragement does it bring?
- As we face persecution in our lives, how can we find confidence and encouragement in the image of the Lamb that opens the scroll and brings wrath against the evil and sin of our hearts?
- In what way does this chapter provide you with a heavenly perspective on your earthly circumstances?
- Martyrdom is still occurring in numerous places around the world today. Download a global prayer
 guide at: https://www.persecution.com/globalprayerguide/. Spend some time praying as a group for
 our brothers and sisters in Christ who are facing persecution and even death in other countries.



Sermon Discussion Curriculum Week 8 - Revelation 7 - Feb. 21, 2021

Helpful Resources for Studying Revelation

Revelation for You by Tim Chester — https://bit.ly/RevForYou
The BibleProject Videos — Rev. 1-11: https://bit.ly/Rev1-11 Rev. 12-22: https://bit.ly/TriumphOfGod
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- The relative peace that the western world enjoys is exceptional in the scope of human history. What's the worst thing that has ever happened to you because of your faithfulness to the word of God or your commitment to Christ?
- The term "thin places" comes from Celtic history and describes the experience one may have of sensing the spiritual realm as close as one's breath. Have you ever been overcome with God's presence? How so? What was your response?
- Have you ever gone on a mission trip overseas? Was it what you expected? Tell the group about the mission and your experience.
- Share with your D-Group about an experience you have had that has broadened your reality of the experiences of Christians in other parts of the world (feel free to share books, movies, or other resources you have encountered as well). What persecutions did they face? How did they see God in their circumstances?



- Read Revelation 7 together as a D-Group. Is there anything that happens in this chapter that grabs your attention? What verses stir your heart?
- Imagine this chapter as a two-part experience. From the first part (7:1-8), describe the scene and some of the characters that John writes about. In the second part (7:9-17), who are the characters and what is the setting?
- Have you been in a setting that reminds you of the vision from Revelation 7:9-10? Believers of all races, languages, ethnicities, and nations are gathered around the throne and worshipping the Lamb. When you read about this scene, what effect does it have on you? How can your worship continue to stretch toward the worship described in this vision?
- The elder tells John (v. 14) that the ones in white are those that have come out of the tribulation. It is almost a picture of warriors coming home from battle and receiving a bath, a meal, and a robe to remind them they are home and can rest from their strife. What about the world we live in makes it a battle to follow Jesus?
- This chapter (continued vision of John) takes place between the revealing of the sixth and seventh seal. Why do you think God ordered this in-between the last two seals? What is the importance of this chapter in respect to everything we have read in chapters 1-6? Keep in mind that this is one continuous vision that John is experiencing.

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- How does the worship of Revelation 7:9-17 give you encouragement in the midst of your current circumstances?
- Grab a pen and paper. Meditate on Psalm 23 in light of Revelation 7:17 and write a description of what it means for Jesus to be your Shepherd and you to be a sheep in His flock. Write at least three thoughts that come to mind as you reflect on these two passages. Share one of them with your D-Group.
- Have you thought about going on a mission trip soon? God is drawing men and woman from every tribe, tongue, and nation to Himself. What would it look like for you to be a part of that? Explore the possibility of going on a mission trip as a D-Group in the next year or two (http://www.fellowshipar.com/missiontrips/).
- Read Revelation 7:15-17 together. This intimate relationship with God is the reason we exist. How can you share this good news with someone in your life that needs to hear it?



Sermon Discussion Curriculum – Week 9 Tribulation/Antichrist – Feb. 28, 2021

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The BibleProject Videos — Rev. 1-11: https://bit.ly/Rev1-11 Rev. 12-22: https://bit.ly/TriumphOfGod
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- The unknown can be scary. It is often said, "People fear what they don't understand." Do you find yourself afraid of topics like beasts, tribulation, and "the end times"? Why or why not?
- What is the knowledge and understanding of those in your D-Group of the antichrist? What have you learned? Where have you learned it from?
- What is the best fictional story you've ever read, heard, or seen in a movie? What was the basic plot? What did you think the story was attempting to communicate, and why do you think it resonated so much with you?
- Who is the best leader you've ever observed? Why did you follow him or her? What characteristics made them so easy to follow for you and for others?



- Read Revelation 13. It's okay to take it slow, there is a lot of imagery in this chapter. The beasts are an image of the Antichrist. He is pretending to be Jesus. Circle, underline, or highlight anything in the chapter where the beasts seem to be imitating Jesus.
- As observed in this chapter, what impact do "the end times" have on a Christian's personal relationship with Jesus? How is this impact different for a non-Christian?
- Compare the similarities between the beast in Revelation 13 and Paul's description of the "man of lawlessness" in 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12. What are common characteristics? What do you think this means for believers facing the end of human history? (Revelation: The Triumph of God by R. Paul Stevens, pg. 46).
- Watch the video linked above from the BibleProject (Rev. 12-22) giving particular attention to the description of chapters 12-13. The power of the first beast requires that we patiently endure his attacks (vs. 10), but the power of the second beast requires wisdom (vs. 18). What subtle lies, in our lives and in our culture, are we susceptible to that we need to actively push against? How can we exercise wisdom against the lies of Satan so that we are not deceived?
- 2 Corinthians 11:14 tells us that Satan "masquerades as an angel of light." In what ways do we see the beasts tempt and deceive those described in Revelation 13? Compare this with your own life. How have you felt Satan call the darkness, light?
- Compare the mark of the beast (Rev. 13:16-18) with the commands that God had for the Israelites (Deut. 6:1-9). What are the similarities and differences between these two kinds of marks?

e ••• SHOW:

- Remember that some of the letters to the churches (Rev. 2-3) describe those who endure with patience and who will not deny the Lord in spite of persecution. What does it look like for you to live with patience and endurance in your every-day life? How can you express faithfulness in the face of political, social, and future uncertainty?
- Though it's not pleasant imagery, we are shown that the Church is at war with Satan and his forces. Satan's desire is to destroy the Church (Eph. 6:12). What can you do each day to both recognize this war, and fight this battle in a loving and healthy way?
- In the story of Jehoshaphat in 2 Chronicles 20 (read it if you have a chance), worship is used as a weapon of warfare against God's enemies. That's given rise to the phrase, "worship as warfare." How can you worship God through both singing, and in the way you live your life to combat Satan and his forces who come against us as Christ's Church?
- In Revelation 13: 3-4, John writes that there will be wonder (v. 3 marveled) and worship of the beast. Why is it that people, and even Christians, can be so easily distracted from the authentic Christ, Jesus? In what ways should Christians live their lives to prevent being deceived by enemies of the gospel? How do you maintain your own worship of Jesus in the midst of these trials?



Sermon Discussion Curriculum - Week 10 Second Coming of Christ - Mar. 7, 2021

Helpful Resources for Studying Revelation

Revelation for You by Tim Chester — https://bit.ly/RevForYou
The BibleProject Videos — Rev. 1-11: https://bit.ly/Rev1-11 Rev. 12-22: https://bit.ly/TriumphOfGod
Revelation: by William Subash — RightNow Media — https://bit.ly/williamsubash

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- Talk about the best day you've ever had in your life. Where were you? What were you doing? Why is it your #BESTDAYEVER moment/experience?
- Some research has shown that looking forward to a vacation can offer almost as much of a mood boost as actually going on the vacation. Why do you think looking forward to something can impact attitudes?
- Share some of the chores that you had in your house growing up. If you have kids, do they have chores? Are the kind of person that would have all the chores done early, or would you wait until the last minute, right before mom/dad comes in the door?
- Have you ever heard predictions of the end of the world? Some people have tried to predict the day
 that the Lord will return. How do you interact with these predictions? Did you believe any of the
 predictions that didn't pan out?



• When it comes to the event known as the rapture, theologians often disagree on how to interpret some of the biblical passages. Here are three main views of when the rapture will take place:

<u>Pre-tribulation</u> – some anticipate the rapture prior to the tribulation so that the people of God are rescued from the great tribulation.

<u>Mid-tribulation</u> - some believe that the church will endure the first part of the tribulation (3.5 years) and then be raptured before the final half of the tribulation (3.5 years).

<u>Post-tribulation</u> – some see the church continuing on the earth to the end of the tribulation when the rapture will then take place.

- Which of these views are you most familiar with? Were you raised in a church that taught a specific view over another? When do you believe that God's people will be taken out of the world? What do you feel rise up inside when someone has a different view of the tribulation than you do?
- One thing is certain, the Bible promises a day when Jesus will return! Read the following passages about the return of the Lord: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 24:29-51; 1 Corinthians 15:20-24; Acts 1:11; John 14:2-3. What are some of your observations about these passages?
- 1 Thessalonians 4:18 says, "Encourage one another with these words." Based on the passages read above, how are these words still an encouragement to share with one another?
- What is the intent of phrases that Christians often say, such as, "This world is not my home" or "I'm living in light of eternity"? Are there any other encouragements or phrases that you have heard Christians say?
- Read Romans 8:28-29. How do we make sense of suffering and the coming time of suffering? How are we told to wait for the certain return of our Lord?

e ••• SHOW:

- Are you excited for Christ's return? Why or why not?
- If you knew that Christ's return was tomorrow at 12pm, would you live any differently until then? How about a month from now? A year?
- What makes someone ready for Christ's return? Are you ready? What is your next step? How can your D-Group help or support you in this step?
- Read Hebrews 10:23. What encouragement does the promise of Christ's return give you? How can you share this encouragement with others?
- Where do you need hope today? Where do you need the truth of Jesus' return to transform your emotions? Let the truth of Christ's return dwell in your heart. Allow it to heal any place that feels hopeless.



Sermon Discussion Curriculum - Week 11 The Bema Seat - Mar. 14, 2021

Helpful Resources for Studying Revelation

Revelation for You by Tim Chester — https://bit.ly/RevForYou
The BibleProject Videos — Rev. 1-11: https://bit.ly/Rev1-11 Rev. 12-22: https://bit.ly/TriumphOfGod
Revelation: by William Subash — RightNow Media — https://bit.ly/williamsubash

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- What is the most embarrassing thing you've ever been caught doing? Are you willing to admit it out loud to your group of friends?
- When you are in conversation with a friend and they reference a word, name, or topic that you are unfamiliar with, how do you proceed? Are you the type to stop and ask about it or do you play it off like you know exactly what they are talking about? Does the situation change at all if you are talking to someone else (boss, stranger, significant other)?
- Would you go back and relive high school? Why or why not? What is a significant memory from high school that you would love to redo if given the chance?
- If your life were made into a movie, who would you want to play you? What parts of the movie would make you proud? What parts would make you cringe?
- As you think back over your life, what is the best reward you have received from something you did?



- Scripture teaches of two coming Judgements of God.
 - o The first is the judgement of believers, known as the "Bema Seat".
 - o The second is the judgement of unbelievers, known as the "Great White Throne".
- What feelings arise in your heart when you think about the judgment of God? Why do you think you feel this way and what does it reflect about your view of judgment?
- Read through these passages as a D-Group and then answer the following questions. Look for connections as they are being read. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your heart and mind as you search and read. Revelation 20:12-15; 1 Corinthians 3:10-15; 2 Corinthians 5:9-10; Romans 14:10-12
 - O Why are believers brought before the Bema Seat?
 - What do you learn about God from this passage? What do you learn about man (yourself) from this passage?
 - If the works of believers will be judged in the end, even if they are not a basis of our salvation, why does there seem to be a stigma in many circles against talking about the importance of doing good works?
 - What does the Bema Seat teach us about how we are called to live as Christians? What are the purpose of the rewards?
- Read 2 Timothy 2:15. What is the difference between working to earn your salvation and doing your best to "present yourself to God as one approved? Do you struggle more with either accepting God's salvation by grace or with doing good works for God?

e e-e show:

- Given the topic this week, take a moment to examine your life and ask yourself: have I been living in a
 way that honors God and brings glory to Him? How can I better reflect the light and love of God to the
 watching world through my good works?
- David E. Garland (Baylor University) wrote in his commentary on 2 Corinthians, "What humans do in the body has moral significance and eternal consequences. Everyone who is mindful of their mortality must therefore be mindful of their morality." What does it look like to be "mindful of morality"? Paul was writing to a church community, what does being mindful of our actions and intentions look like as a D-Group? How do we go about holding each other accountable without straying into legalism?
- As you think about the Bema Seat, does it comfort you or make you cringe? Are you intimidated by the thought of the Bema Seat or excited about it? Why?
- How does knowledge of the Bema seat change your day-to-day life? What are some things you can do right now to prepare for the Bema seat?
- How do we encourage each other with these truths? What are you struggling to believe? How do you need encouragement from your D-Group this week?



Sermon Discussion Curriculum - Week 12 Armageddon - Mar. 21, 2021

Helpful Resources for Studying Revelation

Revelation for You by Tim Chester — https://bit.ly/RevForYou
The BibleProject Videos — Rev. 1-11: https://bit.ly/Rev1-11 Rev. 12-22: https://bit.ly/TriumphOfGod
Revelation: by William Subash — RightNow Media — https://bit.ly/williamsubash

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- Share about a time you felt victorious. Maybe it was a championship game, completing a big project or overcoming a difficult struggle. How did you feel in that moment? How does that time echo in your life now?
- What are your plans for Easter this year? What family traditions do you have to celebrate Easter?
- Who is your favorite sports team? Have you ever watched a game on DVR where you already knew the outcome? How did you feel watching that game compared to a game where you didn't know the outcome?
- How would you define hope? What gives you hope?



- When you hear the word Armageddon, what comes to mind? What has helped shape your perception of this event?
- Read and discuss Joel 3:12-14; Zechariah 14:2-3; Revelation 16:12-16 and Revelation 19:11-21. What is encouraging to you? What is concerning to you?
- Revelation 19:11-16 is a description of Jesus. What are some of the words or phrases used to describe
 Jesus? Refer to the notes in a study Bible for help understanding these descriptions and their
 significance.
- In Revelation 19:17-22 the deceivers are judged and destroyed. How does this passage help strengthen you as a believer?
- Revelation 16:7 says the judgments of the Lord God Almighty are "true and just". Talk together about how God is true and just in judgement and also true and just in salvation.
- How does the event of Armageddon fit into the revelation of Jesus Christ (Rev. 1:1)? What does this event mean in light of the rest of the book?

e ••• SHOW:

- This passage is a stark reminder that those who trust in Jesus will share in His victory and those who oppose Him will perish. How does this message make you feel? What step of faith do you need to take to respond to this message?
- Share the names of people that you are currently praying for and sharing the gospel with. Take some time as a D-Group to pray for those people and an urgency to share the gospel with the lost.
- Either as a group or on your own this week listen to the songs Battle Belongs by Phil Wickham:
 http://bit.ly/BattleBelongs and Blessed Assurance by Elevation Worship:
 http://bit.ly/BlessedAssuranceElevation. Let the truth of the victory of Jesus in these songs breathe hope and build confidence in your heart, mind, and soul.
- Jesus is coming back! Jesus will defeat sin and death once and for all! How does this cause you to live intentionally?
- What are some of the ways that you have seen God triumph in your life? Do you find yourself identifying health triumphs, spiritual triumphs, or something else? How can you encourage others by what you have experienced?



Sermon Discussion Curriculum – Week 13 Revelation 19:1-10 – Mar. 28, 2021

Helpful Resources for Studying Revelation

Revelation for You by Tim Chester — https://bit.ly/RevForYou
The BibleProject Videos — Rev. 1-11: https://bit.ly/Rev1-11 Rev. 12-22: https://bit.ly/TriumphOfGod
Revelation: by William Subash — RightNow Media — https://bit.ly/williamsubash

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- Have you ever been to an unforgettable wedding? What was it about the location, ceremony, or reception that made the event so memorable?
- What is your favorite restaurant? Is it in Arkansas or another place? Why is that restaurant so memorable for you? Was it the food or the environment?
- Have you ever been left off a guest list or simply not invited to a large party or event in which you wished you'd been included? How did it feel to miss out on the fun?
- When you attend a wedding, who do you enjoy watching the most? Do you like to watch the groom as he sees his bride, or do you enjoy watching the bride enter and walk toward her groom?
- Do you long or yearn for anything? This is a feeling that often comes from the depths of our souls. Maybe it is a person, job, experience, or even a vacation. Try to describe your yearning and what it feels like to the group.



- Read through Revelation 19: 1-10 out loud. Make notes on what stands out to you personally. How does this passage fit with the rest of what we've read in Revelation?
- Once again, as we read Revelation, our focus is directed to Jesus. Watch this video from Paul David Trip on the Marriage Supper of the Lamb: http://bit.ly/MarriageSupper. What stirs in your heart as you meditate on these thoughts?
- Verse 1 reads, "Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, for his judgements are true and just..." Do you have a hard time believing God's judgements are true and just? Why or why not?
- Throughout this passage, many multitudes worship God. How is this passage similar to the other passages of worship in Revelation?
- Each day we are tempted to direct our worship to places other than God. We can be guilty of
 worshiping ourselves, others, possessions, accomplishments and the list could go on. In your
 experience, what are the idols that you are tempted to worship and why are you so easily tempted?
 What does the Bible teach us about why we are tempted to worship other idols?
- Take another moment to read verse 9. Are you on the invitation list to the marriage supper of the Lamb? What does it take to be invited? How does this verse impact how you live now?

e e-e SHOW:

- How can we ready the bride (the Church of Christ) to be beautiful for the wedding day?
- Why do you think the image of a wedding comes up repeatedly in scripture? Is this a hard metaphor for you? Why or why not?
- We should not wait until heaven to commit our lives to worshiping God. Take a moment to write down five opportunities that you have to celebrate and worship God throughout each day.
- With this marriage supper in sight, how should we live our lives differently here on earth?
- As you reflect on this passage, ask God to reveal the longings of your heart. Maybe your longings are misguided confess those longings and ask the D-Group to pray with you. Maybe your longings are true pray with your D-Group asking God to use your longings to be an invitation to others.



Sermon Discussion Curriculum – Week 14 Revelation 20:1-6 – April 11, 2021

Helpful Resources for Studying Revelation

Revelation for You by Tim Chester — https://bit.ly/RevForYou
The BibleProject Videos — Rev. 1-11: https://bit.ly/Rev1-11 Rev. 12-22: https://bit.ly/TriumphOfGod
Revelation: by William Subash — RightNow Media — https://bit.ly/williamsubash

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- Which of these phrases or quotes have you heard before or used yourself? In what context have you heard or used them?
 - A picture paints a 1000 words.
 - o A journey of a 1000 miles begins with a single step.
 - o I'm batting a 1000.
 - o No, no, 1000 times no.
- Describe an experience when you did the right thing (even though it was hard) and received a reward for it. What stands out about that experience?
- What comes to mind when you think of this word "deceived"? Have you ever been deceived by someone? If so, share how that experience impacted you.
- Tell a story about a task that took a long time to complete (a home improvement or craft project, schoolwork, job responsibilities). If you are having a hard time thinking of something, ask your roommate or spouse . How does it feel when you finally finish that project?



- Read Revelation 20:1-6 out loud as a group. If you have time, ask another person in your group to read
 this passage a second time from a different version. As you read or listen, what stands out to you?
 What are some of your observations?
- In this passage, we see a strong contrast between Satan and Jesus. What happens to Satan? What is he not allowed to do? What role does Jesus play in these verses? What authority does he have?
- John sees the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony about Jesus, and had not worshiped the beast, its image, or received its mark. What is their reward? Read Hebrews 12:1-2. How do these words fit with Revelation 20?
- Consider verses 4-6 in light of the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples in Matthew 6:9-13. How might these verses be an answer to that prayer?
- There are three main thoughts when it comes to studying the millennial reign of Christ. Which view (if any) do you think best fits this passage and the book of revelation? For further reading, check out this article from The Gospel Coalition: http://bit.ly/ViewsOfMillennium
 - o Amillennialists This view expects no literal reign of 1,000 years.
 - o Premillennialists This view sees Christ returning before the millennium rule takes place.
 - Postmillennialists This view believes that Christ will return after the millennium.

e e-e SHOW:

- The book of Revelation is a revealing of Jesus Christ. What have you learned about Jesus from this passage? What is your biggest take away from studying this passage together?
- Take time to share needs and struggles with your D-Group. Get in groups of three or four and pray together as you seek to fight sin and remain faithful and obedient to Christ.
- Write down three ways you can become a more faithful follower of Christ. What are three ways you can outwardly encourage other believers to become more faithful followers of Christ? Share your ideas with your D-Group and pray over one another in these areas.
- Satan is a deceiver. He deceived Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden (Gen. 3) and even Jesus acknowledges that Satan works to steal, kill, and destroy (John 10:10). In what ways do you think you have been deceived by Satan? Have you believed lies or been deceived about God's character?
- As you finish your group time, listen to the song Day After Day by Kristian Stanfill: http://bit.ly/DAfterD. Spend time in prayer giving thanks to God that He rules and reigns today and forevermore.



Sermon Discussion Curriculum - Week 15 Revelation 20:7-15 - April 18, 2021

Helpful Resources for Studying Revelation

Revelation for You by Tim Chester — https://bit.ly/RevForYou
The BibleProject Videos — Rev. 1-11: https://bit.ly/Rev1-11 Rev. 12-22: https://bit.ly/TriumphOfGod
Revelation: by William Subash — RightNow Media — https://bit.ly/williamsubash

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- Who was your most hated rival when you were in high school? How did you feel when you beat them? What if you lost to them?
- What was something you did as a teen that your parents still don't know about? What would have happened if they found out? How did you get away with them never knowing?
- Do you prefer DC or Marvel Comics more? Think about the villain in your favorite movie. What happens to them in the end? What is their demise?
- Share about a time you were in a contest that had judges. What was the scenario? Were you nervous? What happened?
- Think back to your graduation, your first real job, your wedding, the birth of a child, or some other definitive moment in life. Describe the anticipation that you had leading up to that event. How did it impact your life?



- Read Revelation 20:7-15 out loud together. What main themes do you see? How do these themes fit with the rest of Revelation?
- Reflect on Revelation 20:10 with your group. Knowing that Satan is ultimately judged by God, what kind of hope does this verse give you? How does the victory of Christ impact you?
- In verses 7-9, what words or phrases jump out at you regarding Satan's plan or goals after being bound for a thousand years? Why do you think God allows this brief parole by Satan? Compare this with the earlier passage in Revelation 20:1-6.
- J. Scott Duvall writes in his commentary on Revelation 20, "The unrepentant will face God's just judgment and will suffer eternal death as a result". What do these verses teach us about the character of God? How does the justice of God, demonstrated in this vision of John, land with you? What does this teach us about both the power of God and the inescapability of God's judgement?
- As you read verse 12, what thoughts come to mind? Does it give you hope or stir more questions about what is portrayed? How does this passage impact how you view your relationship with Christ?

e e-e SHOW:

- This sermon series on Revelation has taught and reminded us that everyone will die, and everyone is appointed to be judged for sin. Discuss your passion for or confess your apathy about evangelism. How can we spur one another on to share the good news of the gospel?
- Meditate on Revelation 20:15 for a few minutes. How does this verse impact you? Stop right now and pray for people you know that are not written in the book of life. Ask God to move in their hearts this week!
- Repentance is an important factor to consider in this week's passage. How have you seen repentance play a key role in your relationship with God? Why is repentance necessary in obeying God?
- As you consider this passage, who do you know that comes to mind? What can you do this week to make a connection with them? What would it look like to share the gospel with them?
- What do you look forward to most about Christ's return? Why?



Sermon Discussion Curriculum - Week 16 Revelation 20:1-22:5 - April 25, 2021

Helpful Resources for Studying Revelation

Revelation for You by Tim Chester — https://bit.ly/RevForYou
The BibleProject Videos — Rev. 1-11: https://bit.ly/Rev1-11 Rev. 12-22: https://bit.ly/TriumphOfGod
Revelation: by William Subash — RightNow Media — https://bit.ly/williamsubash

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- Tell everyone about a time that you broke something and tried to fix it so no one would notice. How did that go?
- What is the most awkward thing that has happened to you in a store? Did you knock something over, get in an argument, have a difficult child, or maybe something else? How did you get out of that situation?
- What do you think has been the most important invention or technological advancement of your lifetime? What advancement has been most impactful to you personally?
- Maybe there was a period of time that you put up with something in your apartment, house, or vehicle
 that just wasn't working correctly. What was it like when you finally got it replaced? Describe how you
 felt both in the anticipation phase of wanting it and when you got the new item.
- When you think of heaven, how do you picture it? Don't be afraid to say things you were taught growing up, or things that might seem silly just lay out your mental picture of what heaven might be to your group.



- Read this full passage out loud with your D-Group. Revelation 21:1-22:5. This is a beautiful passage with many different references. What stands out to you as you read it? Are there any specific emotions you feel when reading this passage?
- How does this passage fit with the rest of Revelation? How about the rest of the Bible? Before moving on, take a few minutes to catch up on the greater story at play by watching these videos: http://bit.ly/Heav-Earth and http://bit.ly/Heav-Earth and http://bit.ly/New-Humanity.
- Take a moment to reflect on Rev. 21:3. What does the phrase, "The dwelling place of God is with man", mean to you? What other passages come to mind when you think about God's dwelling place? How is God's dwelling place revealed throughout Scripture?
- Based on Revelation 21:22-27, eternity will consist of believers from all nations. How does that impact
 how you view the global Church across all nations? Is there something you, your family, or your DGroup can do to better keep the nations in mind?
- How does your personal view of heaven compare with the description of the new heavens in these
 chapters? Is there anything that you need to adjust for your view to be more consistent with what the
 Bible portrays? Don't be afraid to reference other passages throughout the Bible as well.
- A very comparable passage is Isaiah 65:17-25. As you look at these verses, what stands out to you the most?

ဓ-ဓ SHOW:

- Rev. 21:5 tells us that God is making all things new. And while there is a future sense to that, there is also the present work that God is doing right now, today, in our lives (Is. 43:19, 2 Cor. 4:16-17, 2 Cor. 5:17). What is one thing you most want or need God to "make new" in your life right now?
- Considering Revelation 21:22-27 has the nations in mind, take time to pray for a certain nation with your D-Group. Ask that God will strengthen the believers in that nation and that the Gospel might spread deeper there. Pray for your D-Group's global mission partner.
- Eternal worship of God in Heaven is a beautiful picture portrayed at the end of Revelation. What does having a mindset of worshiping God in our day-to-day lives look like?
- Revelation 21:4 suggests that the new heavens and new earth will reverse the effects of the fall. In what ways does this inspire hope and peace into your life? How can you share this with others?
- At one point or another, every element of our legacy will either burn up or be part of eternity. How does this impact how we steward our time, resources, and relationships today?
- What response does Jesus want from us as we read this passage today?



Sermon Discussion Curriculum - Week 17 Revelation 22:5-21 - May 2, 2021

Helpful Resources for Studying Revelation

Revelation for You by Tim Chester — https://bit.ly/RevForYou
The BibleProject Videos — Rev. 1-11: https://bit.ly/Rev1-11 Rev. 12-22: https://bit.ly/TriumphOfGod
Revelation: by William Subash — RightNow Media — https://bit.ly/williamsubash

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- Can you think of a time where you procrastinated in making a decision and, in essence, not acting ended up making the decision for you and you missed your opportunity?
- What are you most looking forward to in the next year? What are you looking forward to in the next 10 years?
- If you had to come up with a song title to describe the book of Revelation, what would it be?
- As you have read and discussed the book of Revelation over the last couple months, what is the most important theme that has developed for you? What have you found confusing or scary? What questions do you have after reading through it?
- Sometimes people will make a statement along the lines of, "I hope Jesus doesn't return until I am able to experience ______". Have you ever thought or said that? How would you fill in the blank?



- Read through Revelation 22:5-21. What do you see about God's character in this passage? What do you learn about God?
- As you think about chapter 22, go back and read Revelation chapter 1 again. What similarities do you see? Are there any patterns that you see in how John starts and ends this book?
- Consider verses 11 and 15. How do these verses fit into the context of this passage? How about the larger context of the whole book?
- Keep in mind that John was writing this revelation to the churches. What warnings do we find in this final chapter of Revelation? How do they fit in with his message to the churches in chapters 2 and 3? Are there any warnings that seem to be particularly significant?
- In this passage, Jesus twice says that he is coming soon. What does "coming soon" mean in this context? Are there any other passages in the Bible to consider that also speak to this idea of soon?
- What do we learn about Jesus in this passage of Scripture? How does Jesus describe himself in these verses? How does this speak to who he is?

,e •-• SHOW:

- As you think back over the book of Revelation, do you feel fearful about the future, or have you
 developed a greater confidence in what is to come? If you remain fearful, you're not alone!
 Share that with your group and pray that as believers we will be strengthened in a culture that is
 growing more hostile to God and His Word!
- On a scale of 1-10, how strongly would you say you feel the urgency of Christ's return? Does it impact your motivation to share the Gospel with others? What is one step you could take to increase your awareness and urgency to share with people around you?
- If you had to choose one word that describes how you feel or how you think about the book of Revelation at this point, what would that word be? Explain your answer to your group. What is one thing God has taught you about himself that you want to remember from the book of Revelation?
- What questions have been answered during our time studying Revelation? What questions do you still have about the book of Revelation and Christ's return?
- Consider your action steps coming out of a study in Revelation. Rather than merely closing the book and moving on to something else, what do you need to do as a result of this study? Are there specific people you need to talk to? Is there further reading or study that you need to do? Do you need to allow the Holy Spirit to examine your own life and motives?