

# Correspondence Bible Study

## Lesson #50 – Revelation

### ***PRAYER:***

Father of my Lord Jesus Christ, I thank You for enabling me to read and study Your holy Word. You have taught me things that I could not have learned anywhere else. Let the completion of this study just be the beginning of a life-long walk through the Scriptures. As I look at this book of Revelation, I especially am in need of Your guidance and wisdom. Help me to keep focused on Christ. Enable me to glean from this book the insights and strength that You intended. Until You, Christ, come in glory, I am Your servant. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

### ***Notes on Revelation:***

The last book of the New Testament is much different from all the others in form and content. It is accepted that John, the same writer of the Gospel of John, 1, 2 & 3 John, is also the author of Revelation.

Most scholars would date the book toward the end of his life, around 95 A.D. chronologically, this makes it the last book to be inspired by the Lord and given to us. The form and style of Revelation follows an accepted and traditional type of religious literature called apocalyptic writing. The symbolic use of numbers, images and events might seem strange to us, but the first century reader understood. In some ways, the books of Ezekiel, Daniel and Joel will help you better understand this form of writing. Revelation has many references to the Old Testament. The form and content of Revelation is unusual, yet I feel much can be gained by careful study.

There are a number of things to keep in mind as you read Revelation. Remember those people of the first century to whom it is addressed. (Chapters 2 & 3) The apostle had them in mind as he wrote. It had to be meaningful to them. Apparently, they were under persecution by Rome and perhaps the Jews also. The letter was primarily for their comfort and assurance. They were to know for sure that no matter what happened, their eternal destinies and victory were assured already because of Christ's death and resurrection. The book also speaks to us today about our assurance of ultimate victory because of Jesus. I'll try to explain some of the imagery used as I ask the questions. I do feel that some authors go too far when they try to explain current historical happenings and personages by using specific references from this book as if John were writing only to explain our day and age.

I think that you will be able to understand the over-all theme of Revelation if you can see that basically the age-old conflict of good (in Christ) and evil (the devil) is depicted on these pages.

The outcome is already decided. Christ has the victory. The devil may yet fret and fuss, but he knows he is doomed.

Your favorite verse from Revelation:

## Questions on Revelation:

1. Chapter 1 – The Lord God and Christ refer to themselves as the Alpha and Omega, First and Last, etc. What do these references mean to you?

2. Chapter 2-3 – List the names of the 7 churches.

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|----|----|
| 1. | 5. |
| 2. | 6. |
| 3. | 7. |
| 4. |    |

Which description fits you and your spiritual life? Why?

3. Chapter 7 – The famous number of 144,000 to be saved comes from this chapter. It is tied to the 12 tribes of Israel.  $12 \times 12$  will give us the 144. It is often thought that 10 represents completeness.  $10 \times 10 \times 10$  then would symbolize the total completeness. How can we tell by the immediate context (7:9) that the 144,000 is not to be taken literally?

4. The number 7 is used over 50 times in this book. 4 is to represent the 4 corners of the world. Man, the world, all of creation can be symbolized by 4. The Triune God's number, of course, would be 3. Add the two together and 7 would stand for God's interaction with the world. List a few of the times 7 is prominently used in Revelation.

5. The devil and his agents are described by a number of names. List some of those names and what they tell you about their evil work.

6. Chapter 19:11-16 - In what ways can you see that the rider of the white horse is Jesus Christ?

7. Chapter 20 – The 1,000 years here can represent the total (10 x 10 x 10) amount of time between Christ's first and second comings. Other interpretations that look for a literal 1,000 year period force the text to mean something I believe was not intended.
8. Chapters 21 – The symbolic pictures of heaven here is beautiful. What in particular is comforting to you in this chapter?
9. Chapter 22:20 – Jesus says, "Yes, I am coming soon." How can we best be ready?
10. I finished with the last words of the Bible, "The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen."

Your questions on Revelation ...

Parting Remarks...

Our time has been well spent. The only thing I can think of that is more God-pleasing than studying the Word is putting the truth of the Word into action. If you know of someone else who may benefit from this type of study – share with them how they too can get started.

I pray that your faith will continue to grow as the Lord continues to shower His blessings upon you.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Glen W. Borhart, December 2018

Parting remarks you may have...