

PROJECT “B.3”

Discussion Questions on Revelation

16 September 2012

Revelation 1

1. To whom is Revelation addressed, and what is its stated purpose?
2. Why will all the tribes of the earth mourn over the return of Jesus?
3. If the apostle John wrote this book, is it strange that he didn't seem to immediately recognize Jesus?

Revelation 2

4. What is your guess about the “first love” of the angel of the church in Ephesus?
5. The message to the angel of the church in Smyrna mentions the “synagogue of Satan” – to what does this refer?
6. What does Jesus mean by “the teaching of Balaam”? Is this teaching in today's world?
7. Jesus makes some pretty bold promises to the angel of the church in Thyatira – are these promises intended for all believers?

Revelation 3

8. Jesus says the angel of the church in Sardis is dead. What is the cure for such “death”?
9. Jesus promises to keep the angel of the church in Philadelphia from the “hour of testing” – what does this mean?
10. Does Jesus' description of the church in Laodicea remind you of our Western church?

Revelation 4

11. The scene in heaven describes 25 thrones, their occupants, and the four living creatures. Who are they and what are they doing?
12. How do you interpret the four living creatures and their apparent heavenly roles?
13. John tells of wonderful worship in heaven – can our worship reach this level now?

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Revelation 5-9

16-October – 27-November 2012

Revelation 5

1. What is the book[/scroll] that is held in the hand of the one sitting on the throne, and what do the seals represent to you?
2. Why does John weep over the scroll? Who consoles him? What is the response in heaven once Jesus comes forward to take the scroll? How should we respond?
3. Has the vision portrayed in v.13 been fulfilled yet? What event does it represent?

Revelation 6

4. Who is opening the seals? What does this say about who is really in control of this world? Do you find it hard to accept that truth, as you look at the chaos and destruction all around us? What does John mean by warning us to “not love the world or anything in the world”?
5. These are the famous Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse. Why do you think the Lord chose this particular imagery to begin painting the picture of all that has been, now is, and is to come?
6. Taken in order, what events do you believe are represented by the opening of these six seals?
7. The chapter ends with a world clenched in fear “from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb.” We don’t see the world in this state of mind today. Whom do we fear instead? What does this say about who is occupying our minds today?

Revelation 7

8. We are told that four angels are given power to “harm the land and the sea and the trees.” Does this text suggest a pending divine judgment of the living systems on earth?
9. We then first hear of the 144,000. When, in human history, does this “sealing” take place?

10. We then hear of a great multitude standing before the throne – clearly this group is distinct from the 144,000. Who do they represent? What are we to make of the reference in v.14 to “the great tribulation”? Is this THE great tribulation of which Jesus referenced in Matthew 24-25, and elsewhere in the Gospels?
11. There are some wonderful promises in v.15-17. How can we make these feel more real to us, as we await their fulfillment?

Revelation 8

12. We are now introduced to “the seven angels who stand before God.” They are about to swing into action. From a Big Picture perspective, what is the role of these seven angels?
13. The first two trumpet blasts initiate harm to the “earth, sea, and trees,” just as Rev. 7:1-3 had commanded this should be delayed until the sealing of the 144,000. What Old Testament story should be ringing in our ears as these trumpet blasts begin? What does this tell us about where the story is headed?
14. The third trumpet brings a star named Wormwood, which poisons freshwater supplies. What is the translation of the word “Wormwood” in Ukrainian? What does this imply as the probable fulfillment of this particular ecological disaster?
15. As we think about our answer to the previous question, what “man-made” catastrophe could lead to persistent (but not completely global) cloud-cover “foreshadowed” in the fourth trumpet blast?

Revelation 9

16. The fifth trumpet brings the first of the three woes. This is a terrifying time during which everyone that has not been sealed by God will suffer stinging torment for five months. Do you think new souls could be won during this period?
17. The sixth trumpet releases four angels bound at the Euphrates, who had been “prepared for the hour and day and month and year.” What is their role?
18. One might think that many left upon the earth after all of this blood had been shed would repent. But what do we read in v.20? What does this say about the human heart, apart from the Grace of God?

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Revelation 10-12

December 2012

Revelation 10

1. We are now introduced to the 7th angel, the only one receiving a description. What does this tell us about him? What is the little open book that is in his hand? What is the significance of him having one foot on the sea and the other on the land?
2. What is the essence of the message of the 7th angel?
3. Just as Ezekiel was instructed, John is told to eat this book. What is its effect on him?

Revelation 11

4. What is the significance of the measuring rod and instructions that are given to John?
5. Can we guess the possible identity of the Two Witnesses from the clues provided? What is their role?
6. At v.15 the scene shifts to heaven and the 24 elders worship god by saying (in part): “the time has come ... to destroy those who destroy the earth.” To whom does this refer?

Revelation 12

7. We see three characters: a woman, a dragon, and a son. Who are they?
8. We then see Michael and his angels waging war against the dragon and his angels. What happens to the dragon and his angels?
9. What is the dragon doing now?
10. What does the text mean when it tells us that the “earth helped the woman”?

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Revelation 13-16

January 2013

Revelation 13

1. What are we told about the “beast”? What does this beast represent?
2. What is the significance of the warning given in v.10?
3. How is the second beast different from the first beast? What is its purpose?
4. Any guesses on the calculation given in v.18? Hint: see attached “al-gore-ithm.”

Revelation 14

5. We now see another reference to the 144,000. Are these the same ones we first met in Chapter 7? How should we interpret what is said about them?
6. Several angels then make pronouncements from heaven. What do they tell us?
7. How literally are we to take the imagery of v.20?

Revelation 15

8. What is “great and marvelous” about the vision of v.1?
9. What is the main message of the song of Moses and the song of the Lamb?
10. Why do you suppose that no one is able to enter the temple until the seven plagues are finished?

Revelation 16

11. How would you summarize the impact of the bowls of wrath on the earth?
12. There is a parenthetical warning in v.15. What is its purpose?
13. Where is “Har-Magedon” (or “Armageddon”)?
14. Why would people continue to blaspheme God (see v.21), even after all this?

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Revelation 17-22

February-March 2013

Revelation 17

1. Who is the whore? What is she doing now, and what becomes of her?
2. Who is the beast upon whom she sits? Is this one of the beasts we have already seen?
3. What are the waters, the heads, and the horns?
4. In v.9 we see a phrase we have seen before “here is the mind which has wisdom.” What mystery is revealed here?
5. Can you think of a reason why so much mysterious imagery is used in this chapter?

Revelation 18

6. This chapter expands upon the fall of Babylon. Is this the same woman we saw in Chapter 17?
7. Why is Babylon being judged? Why do so many mourn over her?
8. Shall we take the “one hour” to refer to a literal period in time?

Revelation 19

9. This is the four-fold Hallelujah chorus. What is all the “hullabaloo” about?
10. What is the wedding supper of the Lamb?
11. We now see another white horse. Is this the same one that we saw in Chapter 6?
12. How does this final(?) war end?

Revelation 20

13. What does the “thousand year” period represent? What is the “first resurrection”?

14. What do you make of the war referenced in v.7-10? Is this another war, or simply a re-iteration of what we have already seen?
15. What happens at the “great white throne judgment”?

Revelation 21

16. What features distinguish the “new heaven and the new earth” from what we now see?
17. What do you make of the warnings in v.8?
18. How are we to interpret the various details of the “New Jerusalem”? Who may enter it?

Revelation 22

19. What Biblical images come to mind when we read of the “river of the water of life” and the “tree of life”?
20. How do you interpret the instruction given in v.11?
21. Jesus describes Himself in v.12-16. Is there anything new here that we haven’t read elsewhere in scripture? What catches your eye?
22. What is the essence of the warning in v.18? What is the promise of v.20?