

The Revelation of Jesus.

Week #1: Introduction to Revelation
2023

January 8,

The Book of Revelation describes the end of God's story. It is a book full of imagery that has caused much speculation, confusion and division in the Church. But at its very core, Revelation carries a simple and powerful message: "I, the Risen Christ, am returning soon - so be ready for my return." Of course, within that message is an equally powerful one that keeps our commitment to Jesus strong during times of great uncertainty: Christ has defeated death, and upon His return will end the madness of our world as we know it. So until then, we wait, but do so knowing fully that Christ's victory is assured ... and His victory is also our victory.

As we study the first chapters of Revelation, I ask you to prayerfully study and pray each week in order to be assured that the Risen Christ whom we worship is on the move. And be ready.

Study Questions: #1 - Introduction to Revelation

1. If you are doing this study in a group setting, discuss together for a moment your thoughts up to now on the Book of Revelation.
 - How many times have you read it?
 - What are your thoughts on what it's trying to say?
 - Does it intrigue you? ... bore you? ... frighten you?
2. When you read a mystery novel, you treat it differently than reading the newspaper, and as Ken said, we must read the Revelation of Jesus in the manner it is meant to be read.
 - How should you read a letter?
 - How should you read a prophecy?
 - How should you read an apocalypse? (unveiling)
 - Since The Revelation is all three, how must you decide when to treat it one way, and when another?
3. Read Revelation 1:1-3 & 22:16-19
 - If this book is so important, why are we not more diligent in studying it and applying its message to our lives?
 - When have you seen folk fixate themselves on this book, to the detriment of the rest of the Bible, and especially the gospel?
 - Why does the Revelation of Jesus cause so much division within God's Church?
 - The final verses of the book are both inviting and sobering. They remind us of what we are dealing with in terms of our lives, and Who is dealing with us!
 - o What issues is the Risen Christ dealing with in your life today? How is He calling you to pay attention to this issue, so that you will experience new life in His grace and goodness?
 - o Where are you thirsty for God? How can you drink more deeply from the water of life?
4. Ask God to prepare you for your study of this book.
 - Pray that God will open your life to its truths.

- Now, read the first chapter, and reflect upon John's encounter with our Lord, the Risen and Ascended Jesus.
- Keep in mind that Who John sees is Who Jesus is today!