

18. What does the return of Christ tell us about Jesus?

19. What implications does Christ's return have for us and for others? Why will the tribes of the earth wail (or mourn) on account of Christ?

In verse 4 we see the first set of sevens in Revelation. You might like to keep a list of these as we go through. If so, don't forget those at the end of chapter 1 and in the seven letters. In the Bible seven is often a number that speaks of completeness and perfection reflecting God's complete and perfect work of creation before the Fall.

Pray

Pray that God would help us as a Church to see our weaknesses and failings in order that we might better serve Him. But that we might also "hold fast" to what we have.

Pray for the following part of our Church vision:

"To win people for Christ - praying that the Lord would open the hearts of many to believe; equipping and enthusing one another to share our faith;.."

Pray for the Introduction to the Bible Course beginning on 23 September, for the leader (me) and that those who attend will be helped and encouraged.

David Phillips
September 2014

The Apocalypse

Week 1 - the revelation of Jesus



"To win people for Christ and to build them up in Christ."
www.stjameschorley.org Registered Charity No. 1130725

The last book of the Bible is introduced as "the Apocalypse of Jesus Christ" meaning the unveiling or revelation of Jesus Christ.

*If possible in preparation read **Revelation chapters 1-3.***

John's Vision

Verses 1-8 are John's preamble to the Book which he was to send to seven churches. The vision itself begins in verse 9.

Read Rev 1.9-20

1. When and where was John given this vision?

John describes what he saw and heard and there are many intriguing details here and elsewhere in Revelation. We will look at some of these as we go through but don't get bogged down - some are clear but others are not, and people disagree about their meaning.

2. The first thing John sees are seven golden lampstands. What do these represent and how do you know?

3. What do you think is meant by the three expressions used to describe Jesus in verse 15? (Keep this in mind as we will come back to two of them.)

4. What would it be like to see something like this whilst praying or worshipping as John was doing (v9)? What would you have felt? What did John feel and what was his response?

5. In the first verse of Amazing Grace John Newton included the phrase “ ‘twas grace that taught my heart to fear”. How can grace (God’s free gift and goodness to us) cause us fear?

Seven Letters

We will only look at one letter but in preparation you might like to compare them: What is said about Christ? What is said positively and what is said negatively about each church? How are they warned and encouraged? How does the letter close? I will put a blank and completed chart on the church website for those who are interested.

Read Rev 2.18-29

6. What three things are said about Jesus in verse 18? Where have you seen two of these before?

7. What positive things are said about this church in verse 19?

8. What do you think each thing means in the life of a church - of our church? Are there things here that the Spirit is saying to us and which we therefore need to hear?

9. What failings does Jesus find with this church in v20-23?

10. How would you react to such error? How did Jesus react?

11. What warning is given to the Thyatira, and therefore to other churches?

12. What encouragement is given from verse 24 onwards?

13. What is said about Jesus in these final verses?

14. Summarise briefly what we are told in this letter about Jesus and about the Church in Thyatira. Is there a link between the two?

Christ is coming

Read Rev 1.1-8

15. What is said in these verses (and the letter to Thyatira) about the return of Jesus?

16. How does this compare with what is said elsewhere, for example by Jesus in Luke 21.27-28 and by the angels in Acts 1.9-11?

17. Is the teaching about Jesus’ return just for enthusiasts or is it something that is important for the life of all believers?