

Acts 2 Study and Discussion Questions

Lesson Eight: Jesus' Revelation to John, Part 1 – Revelation 1-4

Overview

- 1) Compare and contrast the opening verses of the book (1:1-4) with the closing verses of the book (22:18-21.)

- 2) Find the word or theme that is repeated throughout the book of Revelation in the following verses:
 - a) 1:4, 11, 12, 16, 20; 2:1; 3:1; 4:5, 5:1, 6; 8:2; 10:4; 12:3; 15:6-8; 17:9-10

 - b) 1:3; 14:13; 16:15; 19:9; 20:6; 22:7; 22:14

 - c) 5:6, 8, 12, 13; 6:1, 3, 5, 7, 16; 7:9, 10, 14, 17; 12:11; 13:8, 11; 14:1, 4, 10; 15:3; 17:14; 19:7, 9; 21:9, 14, 22, 23, 27; 22:1, 3 (a name for the central figure of the book)

 - d) 4:8, 11; 5:9-10, 12-13; 7:10, 12; 11:16-18; 15:3-4; 16:5-7; 19:1-4, 6-8

- 3) According to Revelation 1:10; 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22; 4:2 and John 16:13, how does God reveal truth today? What do you hope to learn from this book? Will you ask Him now to teach you as you study it?

Read Revelation 1.

- 4) What keys to the identity of the one who was “like a son of man” (1:13) are given in Revelation 1? Record additional insights from Daniel 7:9, 13-14 and Ezekiel 1:24-28 (John would have been well acquainted with the Old Testament).

- 5) Consider the history of John’s relationship with Jesus by reviewing the following passages: Matthew 4:21-22, Luke 8:51-56, Matthew 17:1-8, Mark 14:33-43, John 13:21-26 (John is “the disciple whom Jesus loved”), John 20:2-5, 8, and Acts 1:2-3, 9. Try to imagine yourself in John’s place in Revelation 1:9-18. What thoughts and feelings might he have had?

- 6) Spend a few minutes worshipping the Lord Jesus in a prostrate position (lying face down on the ground) and then record anything about this experience that you may want to share with your study group.

Read Revelation 2 and 3.

7) Use summarizing words or phrases from the seven letters in Revelation 2-3 to fill in the chart below.

Name of Church	Description of Christ	Commendation (if any)	Condemnation (if any)	Exhortation/Warning	Reward

- 8) Based on these letters, what is Jesus Christ looking for in His church?
- 9) The congregation at Ephesus was indicted for having “forsaken their first love.” They were exhorted to repent and do the things they had done at first. What kinds of things indicate that a believer has a love for Jesus that is unchanged from when they first loved Him? See Jeremiah 2:2; Matthew 22:36-39, 24:12; John 14:15; 1 John 4:20-21; and Revelation 3:20. Does this describe you?

From Revelation 2-3

- 10) Using words or phrases from your chart above, how would you describe the church of Jesus Christ in the region in which you live?
- 11) According to Revelation 1:20, the seven churches were represented by lampstands in the vision John was given. Why would the churches have been represented by lampstands (1:20)? See John 8:12 and consider the purpose of a lampstand.
- 12) John found Jesus standing among the lampstands (1:12-13, 20). Recall John 8:12 (Question 11) and read John 15:4-5. What will you do this week to encourage your own local congregation to represent Christ better or depend on Him more completely (take care not to speak disapprovingly of your local church in your sharing)?

Read Revelation 4.

- 13) Jesus called John to the throne of God in heaven to see “what must take place” (4:1).
- a) Note the fluctuation between locations in the scenes of Revelation by contrasting 4:1 and 7:1 (other examples are in 7:9-11; 8:1, 7-12; 9:13-15; 10:1-2; 11:12; 12:7-9; 13:11; 14:1, 8, 14-16; 15:1; 16:1; 17:1-3; 19:11, 19; 20:1-2, 7-8, 11). The drama of Revelation takes place in _____ and on _____.

- b) Consider this constant shift between the two locations in the context of God sitting on His throne. What do the following verses reveal about the significance of a dignitary sitting on his throne (in other words, what executive role does the throne symbolize?): Psalm 9:4, 7, 11:4, Daniel 7:9-10, Matthew 19:28, 25:31-33, Revelation 6:10 with 6:16-17, and 20:11-13? (This fact is central to the drama in Revelation.)
- c) How would this reminder have encouraged believers who were enduring persecution (2:13, 3:10) at the time John received the Revelation (the end of the first century)?

14) How are God and His Son Jesus Christ portrayed in Revelation 1-4 (include any names given to them)?

15) In light of God's vigilant watch from heaven over all that occurs on earth, which of the descriptions or names of God that you listed in Question 14 encourages you about His involvement in your own life today and why is it especially encouraging?