

Hey there! At Magnolia Bible Church we are embarking on a journey through the book of Revelation. As we go through this book there are a few pointers that I would like to suggest as we jump into this life changing study. First, the best way to use this study is by joining a life group. Life Groups are key in spiritual development because it allows you to open to others and hear different life perspectives. Life Group also provides a community that can support you through all seasons of life. Join a life group! Second, as you study through the book of Revelation, realize that you may have more questions arise. This is key in discipleship! If you struggle with something during your reading or need some guidance, don't hesitate to reach out to your life group leader or the church office. Finally, this study is taking place alongside a sermon series. If you would like to listen to the corresponding sermon, please go to our [YouTube](#) page to be up to date with our series. Just realize that what is covered in the sermon may be slightly different than what is covered in these discussion guides.

To make sure we are all on the same page jumping into Revelation... I wanted to give some tips and information on the book of Revelation itself before we dive into the first chapter:

First: realize that the book of Revelation is a unique book! Throughout the book of Revelation, it comprises of three different literary genres. In Revelation we have apocalyptic writing, prophecy thrown in, and lastly it is all packaged as a letter to the early church from the author John.

Second: In verse 3 we are told twice that there is a blessing for those who read, hear, and keep the words of the prophecy that is relayed in the book of Revelation. As you read the book of Revelation, be comforted in that God intended to bless and encourage His people through the words in Revelation. This book is to be a blessing to the church of today as it was to the early church that John was writing to many years ago.

Finally: remember that Revelation is a book of visions and symbols. It is the only book in scripture that focuses on prophecy. The book of Revelation allows us to fully understand the grand redemptive narrative that started in the book of Genesis runs throughout the pages of our Bible and ends at the final sentence of the book we are studying. Revelation is the collimation of the cosmic battle between good and evil being waged on earth. The very nature of this book will bring questions and depending on your church background you may have more questions that arise during our study. Again, please don't hesitate to reach out to your life group leader or a Pastor on our staff at MBC.

Thank you for being willing to participate in this wonderful series at MBC. Our hope is that it draws you closer in your walk with Christ and with others as you study this book in a group. Revelation as the power to bless all who read, hear, and keep the words of prophecy. Be blessed as you engage and interact with John's words throughout the book of Revelation.

Blessings,  
Tyler Roberts  
Pastor of Discipleship

## Week 1

### Jesus Exalted in Revelation

#### Devo

The word “revelation” is the title of the book and it translates from the Greek word “apokalupsis,” which means to “reveal, unveil, uncover, or disclose.” Interestingly, in the opening verses of Revelation this is the only time the word appears in the entire book. John is setting up the book of Revelation in the opening verses by beginning with “The revelation of Jesus Christ.” The beginning of Chapter one God is giving us a backstage look at what goes behind the scenes in the realm of spiritual conflict. This book is all about revealing Jesus.

One of my favorite fictional characters comes from “The Lord of the Rings.” Aragorn starts off as a mystery character named Strider. He lays low among the shadows and seems like a reluctant hero at the beginning of the journey when he agrees to help the Hobbits. As the story progresses it is revealed that he is the true king, and it isn’t until the end of the journey that we see Aragorn shed his persona and take his rightful place as king of Gondor. His is revealed to all people as king.

What JRR Tolkien writes as fiction, John paints a portrait of reality that Jesus is the king. It is in the prologue of this book that we see Jesus is revealing to John the gift that comes to all when King Jesus is revealed in their life. As we start this book the first three chapters serve as an opening to all the prophecy and apocalyptic language that will be used throughout the rest of the book. As we study this book it is important for us to come back to what this book is all about: Revealing Jesus as the true king. The book of revelation starts with the promise of a blessing and ends with a blessing to all those who read the book. We are blessed because it is through this book that Jesus is revealed to us. Not only is he our king but he gives us the promise that he will return. So as Jesus is revealed to you throughout your reading remember that Christ will return. Remember that Jesus is “the First and the Last”; and the one who holds “the keys of death” because he conquered death.

#### Scripture – Revelation 1-3

Take some time and read the first three chapters of Revelation. Meditate, pray and seek God as you dwell on John’s words. Highlight anything that stands out to you. Lastly, get a notepad and jot down anything that is repeated and meditate on it. Take this time to talk with God as you read his word. If you are in a life group use your notes in your discussion.

#### Individual Reflection:

For John, seeing and hearing the exalted Christ led him to worship. Unfortunately, we don’t see or hear Jesus the way John was able to but we are still to worship him. How can you “see” and

“hear” Christ today? What personal experiences have you had that encourage you in worshiping Christ?

Group Discussion Questions:

Chapter 1:

- 1- How would you answer a critic of Revelation who argued that “soon” cannot possibly be stretched to cover the nineteen hundred years between John’s Day and ours, so Revelation must be patently false?
- 2- List and define the various names of God and Jesus used in the chapter.

Chapter 2:

- 1- How can a church today test those who claim to be apostles?
- 2- What are some practical ways that we can be overcomers today?
- 3- Which of these four churches would you most like to be a member of? Why? Which is your least favorite? Why?

Chapter 3:

- 1- The “open door” placed before the Philadelphian church has been applied in a variety of ways to the “doors” that a congregation may walk through. List some open doors that your local church should be aware of and walk through.
- 2- To what extent do you agree with the statements made in the opening of this chapter: *The description of Christ standing on the outside of the Laodicean church knocking for permission to enter should make us stop and think. This is not comforting but alarming. If the final description that we see of Christ in relation to one of his churches at the end of the first century is that of seeking entry, then we should view this as a warning to be heeded nineteen centuries later.*

Prayer

As I begin to study the book of Revelation, help me to see your presence throughout the book. Thank you for conquering death and that you are present now among my life and the church. I will faithfully obey the insights that I gain from studying this book. Give me the ability to be a blessing to my church, life group and everyone that I interact with. Amen.

## Week 2

### Praise the King on the Throne

#### Devo

Babies receive a lot of praise! First laugh, first cry, first time the baby rolls over, first time a baby crawls, the list goes on and on. I remember that my wife and I were even excited when one of our children pooped for the first time. Over time though, the praises come less and less and before long they seem nonexistent. The newness wears off and what seemed cute or amazing at first seems to become normal and even mundane.

Too many times this same thing can happen with our relationship with God. We are excited about any opportunity we can serve God through our church, so we join a ministry team. We are excited about the things that God is speaking to us, so we sign up to lead a small group. We even contact the Kids Pastor and sign up to volunteer in the kids' program because of how passionate we are about serving God. Over time though the newness or even the excitement of serving starts to wear off and we seem to fill our time with other things and stop serving altogether. Another area this happens is with our Bible reading and prayer time. What was once so exciting, and thrilling has become mundane and boring.

In Revelation 4:1-11 something incredible happens... Jesus takes John to the throne room of God. Jesus once again takes John on a tour and in chapter 4 we see that God in all that he does is holy, good, and above all worthy of worship and praise always and he will receive it forever. So how does this picture that takes place in Revelation 4 lead us today?

- 1) God's plan demands our worship. When we decide that our praise will not fizzle out and we live a life that is in a passionate pursuit of God we will start to panic less and less. If you think about it... Panic does not exist in heaven. If God's plan creates an atmosphere in heaven that is free of panic then that gives us confidence to live our lives in such a way that is free from panic. God's plan is great, and it demands our worship.
- 2) The power of God demands our worship. In verse five of Revelation 4, John is shown flashes of lightning and rumblings of thunder from the throne room of God. This is an image of Israel's descent at Mount Sinai and is symbolic of the power of God. If God's power can deliver his people from slavery, then his power can free all from bondage.

This passage in Revelation ends in a song. Not only does it end in a song but with 24 elders singing and casting their crowns before the throne in full worship to God. If God has given you breath this morning that means he has a plan for you. Praise him during that plan. Adrian Rogers said it this way, "If you woke up this morning and you are still here, then God still has a plan for your life." That alone makes God worthy of all our praise.

## Scripture – Revelation 4

Take some time and read the fourth chapter of Revelation. Meditate, pray and seek God as you dwell on John's words. Highlight anything that stands out to you. Lastly, get a notepad and jot down anything that is repeated and meditate on it. Take this time to talk with God as you read his word. If you are in a life group, use your notes in your discussion.

### Individual Reflection:

- 1) What aspects of God's character draw you to praise and worship Him? Where do you see these attributes in the Scriptures?
- 2) Why is it noteworthy that the elders cast their crowns, which the Lord gave them, before the throne? What has the Lord given you that you can use to worship Him?
- 3) What are you tempted to withhold from God that He is worthy of?

### Group Discussion Questions:

- 1) **(Revelation 4:2-11)**: What do these verses communicate about God?
- 2) How does God's providential plan for creation give you comfort in uncertain times?
- 3) What is shown about God's character by the creatures in Revelation 4:7? Why is it significant that they are worshipping the One on the throne?
- 4) Reflect on the truth that our existence depends on the will of God to sustain it. How does it make you feel? How does it lead you to worship?
- 5) This passage implicitly invites us to worship the One who is on the throne. The elders do so by bowing down. How do you express your worship to the King of kings?
- 6) **DIG DEEPER (5-11)**: Compare these verses with Ezekiel's vision in Ezekiel 1:4–28. What are the similarities and differences? What are some possible reasons why John made an intentional connection between these verses and Ezekiel's vision?
- 7) **APPLY**: How do these verses compare with the way you typically think about God?

### Prayer

Lord, you alone are worthy of all praise. Thank you for reminding me as I read through Revelation 4 that anything I accomplish on this Earth will be cast to your heavenly throne. As I go through the mundane of life, give me strength to never let my praise for you feel normal or mundane. I praise in the morning, I praise in the evening, I praise you in the good times and the bad times. Thank you for leading me on this journey and continue to show me your ways. Amen.

## Week 3

“He has the whole world in his hands...”

### Devo

Have you ever caught yourself saying, “How do people go through life without God?” Life is tough and full of pain and problems. It could feel hopeless and meaningless without the hope that we have in Jesus.

I remember hearing a story from a pastor who talked about a discussion he and a fellow student had with an atheist professor while they attended university. He tells of how his friend asked the professor, “What do you believe the future holds for mankind?” The professor thought for a moment then said, “I’m not very optimistic. When I look at history, I discover man has not treated man very well. When I look at the contemporary world, I discover not much has changed. I’m not hopeful. I believe that death and destruction and potential annihilation is what the future holds for mankind.”

Going back to what I said earlier... How do people go through life without God?” It can seem very bleak and hopeless, but this is where we are led to Revelation 5. In this chapter, we are shown a scene that gives us hope and certainty. God has the whole world in his hands. All is under the control of our amazing God! He is the lion, who is also the lamb, and he has the whole world in his hands.

One Bible scholar said it this way, “In the Old Testament we see the lamb on the altar and His blood on the Passover doorpost. In the Gospels, He is on the cross. In Revelation, He is on the throne.”

### Scripture – Revelation 5:1-14

Take some time and read the fifth chapter of Revelation. Meditate, pray and seek God as you dwell on John’s words. Highlight anything that stands out to you. Lastly, get a notepad and jot down anything that is repeated and meditate on it. Take this time to talk with God as you read his word. If you are in a life group, use your notes in your discussion.

### Individual Reflection:

- 1) **APPLY:** How does this chapter apply to you and your world today?
- 2) **WORSHIP (v8–14):** Praising Jesus isn't only for the future. Take a minute to write down every positive thing you can think of about Christ. Then pray through your list, praising him and praising what he has done.
- 3) This vision involves a great deal of anticipation. Do you look forward to the revelation of Jesus? How can you keep His future unveiling as a present hope and expectation in your life?

### Group Discussion Questions:

- 1) Go back and read Exodus 12. What does this tell you about how the lamb imagery would have been communicated to Jewish believers?
- 2) How do chapters 4–5 introduce the rest of the book of Revelation? What common themes do they share?
- 3) What is so sad about the scene in verses 2–4? Why do you think the scroll needs to be opened?
- 4) What is significant about the fact that the Lamb is standing? What significance does Jesus' resurrection have for our lives?
- 5) The people around the throne are from every tribe and people and language. What does this tell us about the nature of the church?
- 6) Why will worshipping God for eternity be a delight and not a chore?
- 7) How should Revelation 5:9–10 shape our missionary activity?

### Prayer

Worth is the Lamb, who is slain! Thank you for the reminder that you are worthy to be praised always! Thank you for reminding me that you have it all under control. I praise in always! You are worthy to be praised! Amen.

## Week 4

### Four Horsemen

#### Devo

Studying the book of Revelation, “end times”, “tribulation”, “judgement”, and other words may come to your mind. You may ask yourself, “how will all of this come to an end?” As we study the book of Revelation some things can be clear, and some things can be up for interpretation. Chapter six of our study makes it clear that a day of reckoning is coming. Looking at chapter six of Revelation we see that Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse represent the first harbingers of judgment but what insights and lessons does God have this current generation to learn and embrace?

- 1) Be aware of deception (White Horse): Going back to our last chapter we studied, we can be assured that God has everything under control. He has the whole world in his hands. In chapter six we see this continue because God allows the four horsemen to come. We must realize that even though there will be deception... God has it under control.
- 2) Be aware of War that is coming (red horse): The red horse represents war that comes only at God’s command. Destruction is inevitable.
- 3) Be aware of famine (black horse): After war, famine will appear as a result of the destruction taken place. The destruction from war will cause a famine and pain that is unstoppable.
- 4) Be aware of the weapon of death (pale horse): One Pastor says, “Thankfully death cannot act apart from the plans and purposes of the sovereign Christ. As with the three previous riders, this horse comes forth at the permission of the Lamb of God and with the command of one of the living creatures. Jesus reminds us in Matthew 10:28, “Don’t fear those who kill the body but are not able to kill the soul; rather, fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.” Death is God’s prerogative. He and He alone decides when it will come and how it will come.”

#### Conclusion:

Destruction, judgment, war, famine, and death are coming. We as Christ followers can be assured that The Lamb holds history in his hands. The lesson, conclusion, and question we must ask ourselves this week is this: Are we trusting God? God will bring everything in accordance with his will and perfect plan. God has a plan for the world, and he has a plan for you. Let God who is taking the world to its end do the same for your life. Trust God!

#### Scripture – Revelation 6:1-17

Take some time and read the sixth chapter of Revelation. Meditate, pray and seek God as you dwell on John’s words. Highlight anything that stands out to you. Lastly, get a notepad and jot down anything that is repeated and meditate on it. Take this time to talk with God as you read his word. If you are in a life group, use your notes in your discussion.



### Individual Reflection:

- 1) **APPLY:** Which seal opening described in this chapter made the biggest impression on you? Why?
- 2) **CONSIDER (v1–8):** What do each of these horses and riders represent? How have each of these forces operated throughout history?
- 3) **DIG DEEPER (v1–8):** Read Zechariah's vision of four horsemen in Zechariah 1:7–17. How is that vision like and different from these four horsemen in Revelation 6?

### Group Discussion Questions:

- 1) Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18 and 5:1–11. How do these passages fit into the messages and teaching of Revelation?
- 2) Read Matthew 24:1–8. What parallels do you see between Jesus' teaching and Revelation 6:1–8?
- 3) Why is it significant that the Lamb is the One who opens the scroll? Why would God unleash these judgments on the world?
- 4) How have you seen the Lord use evils like the ones in this passage for His purposes?
- 5) How can you see elements of the red horse already at play today?
- 6) How should Christians respond to the numbers of those who will die at the hand of the fourth judgment?
- 7) These verses reveal God's mysterious providence, even though judgment and trial. Are there any trials that God is leading you through? How are you trusting in Him?

### Prayer

I acknowledge that you are Lord of history, even when the world seems mad with political and military disasters. I acknowledge that you are Lord of nature, even when nature seems out of control. In Christ's name Amen.

## Week 5

### Revelation 7: A Glimpse of the Redeemed Community

In the book of Revelation, John is given a glimpse into the end times and the triumph of God's kingdom. One of the most impactful moments in this vision is found in chapter 7, where John sees a massive crowd before God's throne, worshiping Him.

This vision showcases the diversity of those who have turned to God, coming from all nations, tribes, ethnic groups, and languages, reinforcing the idea that God loves all people.

It also emphasizes the power of salvation, as the crowd is depicted as having washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb, symbolizing their purification from sin and their newfound holiness in God's eyes. This serves as a reminder of the transformative nature of salvation and the importance of pursuing righteousness in our own lives.

However, the main focus of this vision is worship. The crowd stands before the throne, giving praise and adoration to God, emphasizing the central role of worship in the lives of believers and reminding us that worship is a vital aspect of our relationship with Him.

The vision concludes with angels declaring peace to the crowd, symbolizing the peace and serenity that come from having a relationship with God. In a world that often experiences chaos and conflict, this declaration is a powerful symbol of hope and comfort that can be found in God, no matter what challenges we may face.

In conclusion, Revelation 7 offers an inspiring and uplifting vision of the beauty and diversity of those who know God, and the joy and peace that come from worshiping Him. Let us strive to embody this vision in our lives and worship God with confidence and exuberance.

#### Key Takeaways:

1. Embrace the transformative power of salvation and pursue righteousness.
2. Make worship a central part of your relationship with God.
3. Rely on God's peace and comfort, even in challenging times.

A modern example of the impact of worship and the peace that comes from having a relationship with God is Tim Tebow. Despite facing challenges and criticism in his football career, Tim never lost his faith and always expressed his worship through prayer and service. He used his platform to spread hope and encouragement to millions, and continues to make a positive impact through his charitable efforts. Tim's story illustrates the power of worship and the peace and comfort that come from having a relationship with God.

Scripture – Revelation 7

Take some time and read the seventh chapter of Revelation. Meditate, pray and seek God as you dwell on John's words. Highlight anything that stands out to you. Lastly, get a notepad and jot down anything that is repeated and meditate on it. Take this time to talk with God as you read his word. If you are in a life group use your notes in your discussion.

#### Group Discussion Questions:

1. What does the vision in Revelation 7 teach us about the diversity of the redeemed community and how does it reinforce the idea of God's love for all people groups?
2. How does the concept of worship play a central role in the lives of believers according to Revelation 7?
3. What does the image of the crowd cleansing their robes in the blood of the Lamb symbolize about the transformative nature of salvation?
4. What is the significance of the angels declaring peace to the crowd in this vision?
5. How can we apply the teachings of Revelation 7 to our own lives and worship practices?
6. In what ways has worship been an integral part of your relationship with God?
7. How can we strive for righteousness in our daily lives and embrace the transformative power of salvation?
8. How can we rely on God's peace and comfort, even in times of chaos and conflict?
9. Discuss the story of Tim Tebow and how it serves as an example of the impact of worship and the peace that comes from having a relationship with God.
10. How can we use our own platforms and experiences to spread hope and encouragement to others, as Tim Tebow has done?