

Spring 2010
Study Questions for Revelation Series

Preaching Date: January 31, 2010

Key Sentence: The one who rose to reign makes the future sure.

Outline:

- I. The Vision of one who Reigns (Revelation 1:11-16)
- II. The Word of one who Rose (Revelation 1:17-18)
- III. He Holds the Future (Revelation 1:19-20)

NOTE: There are several different small groups doing different kinds of studies of Revelation that follow Bob's preaching scheme. This study guide includes:

- I. A list of basic inductive study questions, for those who study the text on their own.
- II. A section of questions pursuing specifics of this text.
- III. A section of questions pursuing personal reflection and application.

The first section will remain the same each week, while the last two sections will be tailored to the specific text.

I. Inductive Study

Pray: seek God's direction and wisdom. Make the study a conversation with God.

Read: Read the passage several times in different versions.

Write down what stood out to you from this initial reading.

Observation:

What is the context? What came before? What follows?

Who is mentioned in the passage? Who is the audience?

Mark the key words and phrases; study them using dictionaries or computer tools.

Mark statements that teach using comparison/contrast, metaphor, or cause/effect.

Break the section into logical pieces and write the main thought of each piece.

Interpretation:

Look for promises that are made, commands that are given, examples that should or should not be followed.

Pursue cross references on specific words and Biblical concepts. Carefully record what you learn from other Scriptures about these key words or ideas.

Summarize the section in one good sentence.

Where does this section fit in the big idea of Scripture: God's redemption plan.

Application:

Are there any commands that you need to obey; sins that you need to avoid; promises that you need to claim; examples that you need to follow.

Write a specific response to this passage, applying the teaching to your own circumstances and relationship with God.

II. Study Questions

1. In many ways this section starts at chapter 1, verse 9. (I extended last week's sermon to verse 11 in order to be able to do more of the background to the book.) What has John experienced so far, prior to verse 12?

2. Probably the key descriptor in these verses is 'one like a son of man.' Read and study Daniel 7:1-14 and comment on what you learn about the 'son of man' from those verses.

3. Beginning at verse 12 the section is full of symbolic images and words. Some of these images are relatively new to Revelation, but most have Old Testament precedents: even these are often used in slightly different ways than their Old Testament counterparts. Look up the following references and comment on what you learn about the symbol, and how it is being used in Revelation compared to the Old Testament reference.

seven lampstands: Exodus 25:31-37, Zechariah 4:1-6

appearance of the Son of Man: (Daniel 7:1-14 above) Ezekiel 1:26-28, Daniel 10:1-18, Matthew 17:1-6

Son of Man: Revelation 14:14,

His sash: Exodus 28:6-8, Isaiah 11:1-5

His voice: Ezekiel 43:1-4

stars: Genesis 26:4, Daniel 12:3, Philippians 2:15

4. How do the actions and words of verses 17 and 18 convey the identity of the speaker?

5. What do the following cross references confirm about the speaker: Revelation 1:8; Revelation 22:13; Isaiah 41:4; 44:6; 48:12

6. What central truth does Jesus use to re-assure John?

7. What do the following cross references add to your understanding of Jesus' words: Luke 24:1-8, Acts 2:22-33, Hebrews 1:3, 7:25, 12:1-2, 1 Timothy 3:14-16.

III. Application Questions

1. What does it take to make you sure that a promise made to you will be kept?
2. What do you look for in someone who makes you a promise?
3. What characteristics of Jesus make the promises of Revelation (and other Scriptures) trustworthy?
4. What are some specific (or even general) promises of Scripture that you long to see fulfilled?
5. What difference would it make to your life (and your daily attitudes) if you trusted more in the surety of Christ's promises?
6. List some specific behaviors that you could do that would show you believe the promise?