

the Royal

MAKING SENSE OF THE BIBLE

"But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light." 1 Pet. 2:9

Week 29 Vision, Chapter 1

This week is the first chapter of "Vision", the final book in the Royal series. These next three weeks will focus on apocalyptic literature. Apocalyptic is from the Greek word apocalypso, which means to uncover and reveal what has been veiled or covered up.

What we will focus on this week are the following:

1. Examining the 5 vision observations as stated by Pastor Miles in the lesson plan this week.
2. We will continue in our "Read, Reflect, and Respond" by using Isaiah 65:17-25 as our text. This is a simple example text of apocalyptic/prophetic literature to understand. This will assist in getting our feet wet with the often complexity of apocalyptic language.
3. We will examine how Israel would've read Isaiah's prophesy, then we will look at Revelation 21:1-8 and see how John viewed Isaiah's prophecy, and how John explains his vision to the seven churches.
4. Finally, we will examine this for us today. Is there a call to action for us today? If so, what is it?

The passages we are examining this week are really very encouraging for us today. These passages highlight the hope for all of us that are believers in Christ. They are even more encouraging to those that were and are being persecuted for their faith.

We hope you have a great discussion and will continue to grow in your faith with the study of this genre.

Isn't it fun studying Scripture!!!!

In Him,

Rock Church Small Group Team

Part 1: Opening/Recap Weekly Challenge/Small Group Sermon Discussion

Opening

- Open in Prayer
- Worship (optional)
- Recap Week 28 Homework
- Small Group Sermon Discussion

Recap Week 28 Weekly Challenge

- 1. Recite 1 Peter 1:3.**
2. Discuss experiences practicing them Study.

Small Group Sermon Discussion

1. Review the 5 Vision Observations

1. Apocalyptic language was written to give persecuted people **hope** and encourage them to persevere.
2. Apocalyptic language is a **symbolic** representation of what God is doing and will do in the spiritual realm and not a videotape of what will happen.
3. Old Testament Apocalyptic language provides background to the symbolic meaning of the images in Revelation (or New Testament) Apocalyptic language.
4. Apocalyptic language uses symbols to describe the final **battle** in the war of good and evil; between God and Satan.
5. Apocalyptic language illustrates God's final actions of judgment and restoration, and in the end God **wins**.

Part 2: Read, Reflect, and Respond – Isaiah 65:17-25

Read Isaiah 65:17-25

In this study of Isaiah 65:17-25, we will look at the apocalyptic aspect of this prophecy as opposed to the entire contextual aspect of it. Below will give an overview of the book's prophecy to understand how Isaiah gets to mentioning the vision that he sees. It usually helps to look at the outline of an Old Testament prophetic book, to see the train of thought that the author had. It makes it easier to keep up and understand how this affects us as Christians almost 2500 years later.

Book of Isaiah Outline

I.	Warnings for Israel	(1:1-6:13)
II.	Predictions of the Messiah	(7:1-12:6)
III.	Predictions of Destruction for Sinful Nations	(13:1-23:18)
IV.	Warnings of Woe for Israel	(24:1-33:24)
V.	Warnings of Destruction for Gentiles and the Unfaithful	(34:1-35:10)
VI.	Judah Spared from Defeat	(36:1-39:8)
	A. God refuses to let Assyria take His people	(36:1-37:38)
	B. God has mercy on Hezekiah	(38:1-39:8)
VII.	Messages of Comfort	(40:1-66:24)
	A. God's goal of peace	(40:1-48:22)
	B. The "Prince of Peace"	(49:1-57:21)
	C. God's plan to restore His people	(58:1-66:24)

- ▶ Read Isaiah 65:17-25 as a group.

Notice we are now at the part of the prophecy that is dealing with God's plan to restore His people. Keep that in mind when reading and discussing this passage.

Reflect Isaiah 65:17-25

1. Go around and discuss all the different images that Isaiah is describing in his prophecy.

- ▶ Refer back to the Vision Observations from the Sunday Sermon if needed to remember how we are to read and interpret such events.

Part 2: Read, Reflect, and Respond – 1 Thessalonians 1 (continued)

Respond Isaiah 65:17-25

1. Read Rev. 21:1-8 as a group. Identify and list the similarities between Isaiah and Revelation.
2. Based on what Isaiah wrote in his prophecy (Is. 65:17-25), and also what John wrote in Revelation (Rev. 21:1-8), what can we receive from these visions? Is there a call to action found in these passages?

Part 3: Weekly Challenge

- ▶ **Scripture Reading Guide:** Go through the devotions that correspond with each day. These are given to everyone in their lesson plan every week. (November 29 – December 5)
- ▶ **Scripture Memory:** “For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind.” **Isaiah 65:17 (ESV)**
- ▶ **Bible Study Tool:** Navigate through www.blueletterbible.com and discover the great resources available for free for your personal gain.
- ▶ **Spiritual Formation Practice:** Each week we will introduce a “spiritual discipline” that each person can try to adapt to their personal devotion. This week is the **Discipline of Study**.

The discipline of study has been repeated week after week because in order to understand anything in its entirety, the discipline of pursuing it has to become an essential habit. Scripture is no different, and studying the various parables is even more crucial to study. Author’s intent of writing a historic document is always hard to grasp, but is possible to get to a clear understanding of.

So for “Vision”, the final part in the Royal series, we are going to really focus on study. We really want to challenge you to grow in the study and knowledge of the Word, so we can grow closer to Him.