

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 31 Vision, Chapter 3

This week is the third chapter of "Vision", the final book in the Royal series. Just like last week, this study 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. Review the sermon from Sunday, in Revelation 5 as a group, discussing new insights that were discovered. Use your lesson plan from Sunday if you have it available.
3. We will continue in our "Read, Reflect, and Respond" by using Revelation 21-22 as our text. This chapter describes the new heavens and the new earth as a result of the great victory Jesus has over evil.
4. We want to focus on two different points. First, why was this prophecy so encouraging to the churches that John wrote to? Secondly, why is this prophecy so encouraging for us today?
5. Finally, if necessary get others involved how we can apply 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. But of course for those of us that are not persecuted for our faith, heaven is a place we long for as a believer. This study should hopefully help us to experience what heaven may be like as penned by the apostle John.

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 30 Homework
- Small Group Sermon Discussion

Recap Week 30 Weekly Challenge

- 1. Recite Revelation 2:3.**
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**.

2. Review and discuss the Sunday message from Revelation 5, looking specifically at points 3-6 from your lesson plan.

1. Determine whether the images and/or characters are acting of God or Satan.
Answer: Jesus is acting on behalf of the Father (**Rev. 5:5**).
2. Describe (in your own words and without making comparisons to contemporary events or objects) what the images and/or characters are doing or accomplishing.
Answer: Jesus takes the scroll of **judgment** from the Father (**Rev. 5:7**).
3. How does this passage or scene fit God's overall story of eternal judgment and restoration?
Answer: God the Father has **delegated** eternal judgment to Jesus (**Rev. 5**).
4. How does the revelation impact your faithfulness to God?
Answer: Since eternal judgment is in the hands of Jesus, receive His loving offer of **forgiveness** (cf. John 3:16; 1 John 1:9).

Part 2: Read, Reflect, and Respond – Revelation 21-22

Read Revelation 21-22

Revelation as a whole deals with God's sovereign judgment of His creation. However, chapters 21-22 deal specifically with the aftermath of the war. And unlike most wars from human history, this aftermath is one of victory, glory, and honor toward our loving Savior Jesus Christ. The focus will be to put aside the worries of what the last days will look like in relation to the Apocalypse, but to keep focused on the end result of that time. The observation below will document the promises we should expect when that final war is won:

Revelation 21–22 The New Heaven and the New Earth

- ▶ The first heaven and the first earth passed away.
- ▶ The sea was no more.
- ▶ Jerusalem, a new holy city came out heaven, prepared as a bride (the Church), adorned for her husband (Jesus; cf. Eph. 5:23).
- ▶ Man's dwelling place will be with God, and His place will be with them.
- ▶ There will be no more pain, sorrow, pain, tears, and death.
- ▶ He will give from the water of life to all those that are His.
- ▶ But to the faithless, detestable, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and liars, will find their dwelling in the lake of fire.
- ▶ The new city will be on a high mountain. It will have the glory of God with the radiance like a most rare jewel. Like jasper, clear as crystal.
- ▶ The city had great and mighty walls and twelve gates with the name of the twelve tribes of Israel on it.
- ▶ The wall also had twelve foundations and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.
- ▶ 21:15-21 give details of the wall of the city (cf. Ex. 38-39).
- ▶ There was no temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty is the temple.
- ▶ The city has no need for sun or moon, because God is its light.
- ▶ The gates will never be shut, and there will never be a night.
- ▶ Nothing detestable will be in its gates, only those whose names written in the Lamb's book of life.
- ▶ Jesus assures John that the words of this prophesy is true.
- ▶ The words of this prophecy are to not be sealed up.
- ▶ Those that are righteous, continue to righteous. The evildoer is to still do evil, but to know that all will be judged rightly when He returns.

- ▶ Read Revelation 21-22 as a group.

Part 2: Read, Reflect, and Respond – Revelation 21-22 (continued)

Reflect Revelation 21-22

1. Why would chapters 21-22 be such a huge encouragement to the seven churches John was writing to?

- ▶ Review the status of each church in chapters 2-3 to gain insight as to why they would be relieved to read this.

Respond Revelation 21-22

1. How do these chapters encourage you in your faith right now?

2. What portion of the prophecy in chapters 21-22 is most encouraging?

- ▶ Examine the observation on the previous page in the "Read Revelation 21-22" section.

3. Does this prophecy encourage you to have more of a sense of urgency to preach the gospel to more people? If so, explain why?

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. (December 13 – December 19)
- ▶ **Scripture Memory:** “And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.”
Revelation 21:2 (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.

