

Thursday Evening Bible Study

Series: the End Times – Bible prophecy about future events and periods

Teaching Summary for Week 53

The Tribulation Period

Part 4. The Book of Revelation

Scenes in heaven and scenes on earth

Last week we worked on the homework exercise. Recall what it was:

To prepare for this study of Revelation:

1. **Read the book of Revelation 2-3 times** between now and next Thursday.
2. Then go through the book and write down which scenes occur **in heaven** and which occur **on the earth**.

There are extra homework sheets to take notes on if you need one. <1st **handout** >

This exercise is designed to give you an overall understanding of the flow of the book of Revelation.

Last week, we made it all the way through chapter 11.

So tonight, we pick things up in **chapter 12**.

As we go through the chapters 12-22, I want you to be on the lookout for any connections between scenes in heaven and scenes on earth.

[complete this homework exercise]

Group Discussion

Let's now discuss what we have learned.

<2nd handout – Discussion Guide>

Introduction to the Book of Revelation

A few points to get us started:

1. The book of Revelation is about the Revelation – unveiling - of **Jesus Christ at His Second Coming as King of Kings and Lord of Lords**. Rev 1:1-7, 19:16. The central figure throughout the book is **the Lamb in the center of the Throne**; Rev 7:17.
2. Revelation is a book of **apocalyptic prophecy**. It consists of a series of visions given by the LORD's angel to His bond-servant John. "things which must soon take place". Review the handout "Interpreting Biblical Prophecy" on Apocalyptic Literature. <3rd handout>
3. The visions move back and forth between scenes in heaven and scenes on earth.
4. The book does not proceed in chronological order. For example, in Rev 6:12-14, the 6th seal is broken. The events which occur at this time match precisely the signs that Jesus prophesied would mark His Second Coming. See Matt 24:29-30. But we also find the Second Coming described in much more detail in Rev 19:11-21.

5. The book of Revelation deals with **Israel and the Gentile nations** in the run-up to the Second Coming of Christ, followed by the Judgments of Israel and the Gentile nations, the Millennial Reign of Christ, the Judgments of satan and unbelievers (Lake of Fire), and the New Jerusalem in the Eternal State.
6. The entire book is **prophecy**, Rev 1:3; 22:18-19..
7. The entire book is addressed to the seven assemblies in Asia; Rev 1:4; Rev 22:16.
8. These seven assemblies bear little or no resemblance to the body of Christ in Paul's epistles. (make sure you do your homework assignment this week – see below!)
9. The Rapture is not included in this book of prophecy.
10. As you proceed through the seven assemblies in Rev 2-3, the Second Coming of Christ appears more and more imminent.

| | | |
|--------------|---|--|
| Ephesus | Rev 2:5 or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place | |
| Smyrna | {none} | |
| Pergamum | Rev 2:16 or else I am coming to you quickly, and I will make war against them | |
| Thyatira | Rev 2:25 hold fast until I come. | |
| Sardis | Rev 3:3 I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come to you. | |
| Philadelphia | Rev 3:11 ' I am coming quickly; | |
| Laodicea | Rev 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock; | |

Homework for this week

Read through Revelation 1 – 3 a few times.

Then go through it again twice, doing this exercise:

1. Write down any reference you find to the nation of Israel, the Jews, the Second Coming, and the Day of the Lord. (first read-through)
2. Write down any references you find to the unique features of the body of Christ – the Church. (see **4th handout** for a list) (second read-through)

Creative activity

<5th handout – Screenplay>

I have decided to make this **a group project**.

We will brainstorm together a little bit.

Then you can take this home with you and get ready for doing more work on this next week.

Next week, we will head to chapter 1 as we continue our study of the book of Revelation.