

- A. **Big Picture View** of End Time Prophecy (10 min)
"Who is John? Purposes of Book of Revelation"
Question break (1-2 questions)
 - B. **Specific Focus** *"Introduction to John's Vision"* Revelation 1:1-8 and 1: 9-20 (30 min)
 - C. Reading assignment for June 20 - *"Eternal Kingdom"* (Revelation Chapters 21 and 22)
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A. **1. Who is John?**

John the Revelator; "Beloved disciple" - disciple whom Jesus loved; One of the "Sons of Thunder" One of the Inner Circle of Jesus. Father Zebedee, Mother Salome, Brother James
Known for new commandment that is old, "That you love one another" I John 2:7-8
Author of Gospel of John, 1,2,3 John, Revelation
Contemporaries: Jesus, Pilate, Herod
Was at cross during crucifixion. Jesus entrusted his mother to John
Was at tomb of Jesus on Resurrection Sunday with Peter (John first in)
Asked for special position in Jesus' Kingdom; outbursts of selfishness and anger
90% of Gospel of John is unique; does not include genealogy, temptation, nothing of appointment of disciples, transfiguration, ascension or the great commission.
Gospel of John is powerful argument for Jesus as incarnation of God as heaven-sent son of God.
Goal to reveal Jesus' deity.
1 John - presents God as "light", "love" and "life"
2 John - warning to watch out for false teachers
3 John - extending hospitality to true teachers to show love
Revelation – John's vision of glorified Christ. Reveals Christ's true identity and gives warning and hope to believers Rev 1:3

2. What is the Purpose of Revelation

Book of hope for believers. Warning call to righteousness. Comfort and challenge God's people
God's wondrous plan is revealed. Root out anything that blocks relationship with Christ.
Be filled with hope knowing God is in control. Christ's victory is assured
All who trust him will be saved.

B. Revelation Chapter 1

Rev 1:1-8 Prologue

Book about future and present for believers. Graphic pictures.

Written in Ephesus 96 AD (to a 66-year-old Church) after release from Isle of Patmos

Take homes: 1) Jesus is coming again 2) evil will be judged

3) dead will be raised to eternal life or eternal damnation

God gave plan to Jesus Christ who revealed it to John

Focus less on timetable or details of events in John's imagery than on message of infinite love, power and justice of Christ Jesus

Apocalyptic (uncovered, unveiled, revealed. Spectacular and mysterious imagery.) Other apocalyptic books by Jewish authors or ancient heroes.

John is not a psychic trying to predict the future, but a prophet of God describing what he had been shown by God. What he saw often was indescribable, so often John uses symbolic language, "it was like".

We don't have to understand every detail. Take Home: Christ is glorious victor and Lord of all.

Rev. 1:3 Blessed is he that reads. Then and now, The Word is central. See Rev 22:7

1: 4-5 The Holy Trinity is telling John to write in a book

Sevenfold spirit = Holy Spirit

One who is, who always was and who is still to come = God

The beginning and the end! = Jesus

1:5 Christ freed us from sin and death, washed in blood of the Lamb (themes throughout)

1:6 "To him be Glory and Dominion forever" Book filled with doxologies of Praise to God

1:7 "He comes in the clouds. Every eye shall see Him."

Coming Christ: Rev 2:25, 3:3, 3:11, 16:15, 22:7, 22:12, 22:20

This is what Jesus said: Matt: 13:42, 50; 24:30, 51; 26:64; Luke 21:25-28 Acts 1:9

The time is at hand. The time is near. Rev 1:3

Rev. 1:9-20 *Vision of the Son of Man*

John sets the scene of the vision. Explains what happened to him

1:9 "on Patmos"

1:10 "The Lord's Day" on first day of week, fresh reminder to believers of the Resurrection from the dead of Jesus.

1:10 "in the Spirit" faculties were wholly taken over by the Spirit of God

1:11 "Write in a book" God commanded that the book be written. Told John what to write to the seven churches (believers)

1:13-18 John's vision of Christ - a Conquering Warrior - ready for battle. Glorious in peace

1:17-18 while our sins convicted and sentenced us to death, Jesus holds the key to death and the grave in his hands. He alone has Power to set free from Satan bondage. We only have to

turn from sin and believe. We cannot control our lives, but are made free when we turn our life over to God through Jesus. Restores us now and resurrects us later to eternal peace with Him.

1:20 Angels (messenger) dictated the book. Angels seen throughout Revelation. 27 different times in 36 verses. Defined as Supernatural Personalities of the Unseen World employed as messengers in the service of God or Satan.