



Revelation
seeing Jesus

A Bible class at Peace Lutheran

Lesson 1 : Introduction

Each of the Gospels – Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John – give a slightly different picture of the very same, one-and-only Savior. Identify:

Why that's confounding :	Why that's comforting :	Why that's worth considering :
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Matthew (often icon-ed as a *man*) stresses the Messiah's *lineage*

Mark (often icon-ed as a *lion/bear*) stresses the Messiah's *power*

Luke (often icon-ed as an *ox*) stresses the Messiah's *sacrifice*

John (often icon-ed as an *eagle*) stresses the Messiah's *divinity*

They all stress the Savior; but they all stress a different aspect of him. Could say, in their own special way, they all *reveal* the Son of God!

"Revelation" is used 22x in the New Testament. Determine how the word is used in each passage below; then comprise a working definition.

Revelation
(apocalypsis)

Luke 2:32

Luke 10:22

Romans 8:19

Galatians 1:12

Ephesians 1:17

working definition: "Revelation" means . . .

"The noun (revelation/apocalypse) is singular, describing the entire Book as a unified revelation from and about Jesus. However, John also describes distinct experiences of what he 'saw' which divides the Book into scenes. Understanding the relationship between these scenes is essential to understanding the book."

- Lutheran Study Bible footnote

Revelation is all about Jesus; but he's not always what first comes to mind. List other facets that glimmer in initial consideration.

-
-
-
-

Read Revelation 1:1-3. Organize the truth it conveys to celebrate:

† "the One made known" : _____ !

† the procession relayed : _____ → _____ → _____ → _____ → _____ !

† the purpose of the Revelation :

† the result of the Revelation :

Clarify:

Is this breath of the Spirit Inspired meant to *comfort* us or intended to *confuse* us?

In love, God lets us know both who is coming and what is coming. Comfort & grace! In doing so, he underlines two sub-themes for us:

- 1) Acts 14:22b : 1st half of book . . .
- 2) Matthew 16:18 : 2nd half of book . . .

Why might "church militant" need that?!

BIG "Revelation reminders"

(adapted from Prof. Tom Kocks's Bible study: Jesus Has – and Will – Win!)

It's unwise to separate the Book from its purpose, and/or to divorce it from its sub-themes.

Scripture interprets Scripture; let's see how it agrees.

Some prophecy/visions give pictures of a truth (not literal/figurative descriptions of a truth). Symbolic images/numbers need to be taken symbolically.

The symbolic use of numbers appears consistent :

- **3** – God (1:4, 5; 4:8; 12:10; 14:1; 19:1)
- **4** – created world/people (4:8; 6:1-8; 7:9 11:9; 7:1; 21:13)
- **6** – evil/deception/imperfection (13:18)
- **7** [3+4] – God's gracious interaction w/ world (1:4; 4:5; 5:6, 2, 3; 5:1; 5:12; 7:12; 8:6)
 - **3.5** (42 months [11:2], 1260 days 11:3], 3.5 days [11:9, 11])
- **10** – completion (2:10; 5:11; 12:3, 13:1; 17:12; 20:2-7)
- **12** – the church, God's gracious work among people (4:4; 19:4, 7:4-8; 21:12-21; 22:2)

Seibert Becker's big, beneficial outline (that we won't discuss thoroughly)

(NPH *Revelation* commentary, page 23)

Introduction (Revelation 1:1-20)

Seven Letters	Seven Seals	Seven Trumpets	Seven Visions	Seven Vials	Christ & Antichrist	Christ & Satan
Ephesus (2:1-7)	White horse (6:1, 2)	Hail and fire (8:7)	Woman clothed with sun (12:1-17)	Sore/ulcer (16:1, 2)	The Power (17:1-18) and Destruction (18:1-24) of Antichrist and the Final Victory of Christ (19:1-21) – the destruction of Satan's earthly agents	The Victory over Satan, the Last Judgment, and the Triumph of Christ and his Church (20:1-22:7) – the destruction of Satan
Smyrna (2:8-11)	Red horse (6:3, 4)	Blood (8:8, 9)	Beast from sea (13:1-10)	Bloody seas (16:3)		
Pergamos (2:12-17)	Black horse (6:5, 6)	Bitter waters (8:10, 11)	Beast from earth (13:11-18)	Bloody rivers & fountain (16:4-7)		
Thyatira (2:18-29)	Pale horse (6:7, 8)	Darkness (8:12, 13)	144,000 in heaven (14:1-5)	Burning heat (16:8, 9)		
Sardis (3:1-6)	Souls under altar (6:9-11)	Smoke obscuring sun-locusts (9:1-12)	Flying angels (14:6-13)	Darkness (16:10, 11)		
Philadelphia (3:7-13)	Last judgment (6:12-19)	Army from east (9:13-21)	Last judgment (14:14-20)	Army from east (16:12-16)		
Laodicea (3:14-22)	Interlude: church (on earth: 7:1-8; in heaven: 7:9-17)	Interlude: witnessing church in its suffering (10:1-11:14)	Angels with 7 vials (15:1-8)	End of the world (16:17-21)		
Interlude: prelude to 7 seals (4:1-5:14)	Vision of trumpets introduced (8:1-6)	End of the world (11:15-19)				

Conclusion (Revelation 22:8-21)

Your Assignment this week . . . read & self-study Revelation 1:1-20.

comprise

one summary statement for each major section

- 1:1-3 →
- 1:4-8 →
- 1:9-11 →
- 1:12-20 →

compare

titles for Jesus used; which ones emphasize him as

- Anointed :
- Almighty :
- Always :
- Authoritative :

celebrate

the specific activities of Jesus done "for us"

- past activities :
- present activities :

contemplate

the words of another pastor, Professor Tom Kock, in his study on Revelation. How might you answer his thoughts?

- 1) Remember the context – the church is struggling, both because of Domitian’s persecution from the outside and because of internal struggles. What truths in these first 11 verses will be of particular encouragement for the believers? Why?
- 2) Given the context, the people probably didn’t much feel like a ‘kingdom’ and ‘priests,’ yet they were. What are some ways in which Satan tries to hide from us the truths that we, too, are a ‘kingdom’ and ‘priests’? What truths in these first 11 verses remind us that we ARE a ‘kingdom’ and ‘priests?’
- 3) God, through John, reminds the people that their pastor shares in the same ‘suffering, kingdom, and patient endurance’ as they. For what reasons is that an important reminder for the pastor? For the people? What important reminders does that give us as we move towards the future?

comfort

specific gospel encouragements intended for strugglers

You have the privilege of reading this with eyes of faith and hearts of grace. What words, concepts, sections might you ring to the individual who – like the original readers – is enduring hardship for the sake of Christ. Remember, Revelation is written from captivity to those persecuted.

consider

“The beloved bride needed to hear from her Bridegroom. She needed assurances that he was still in charge. She needed reminders of his real and unfailing love. She needed to hear that she was his precious possession and possessor of all that was rightfully his. She needed his comfort in the midst of conflict. And that is what he, graciously and generously, gives her. We need to hear his voice too. We need comfort in the midst of our conflicts. Our prayer is that we would hear just that as we study this beautiful Revelation of Jesus.”

– Pastor Tim Westendorf (Forward In Christ Article)

What ways can we find this week – and in worship on Sundays – to ponder, celebrate, and share the “comfort in midst of our conflicts” so evident in the book of Revelation?



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Lesson 2 : Seven Letters

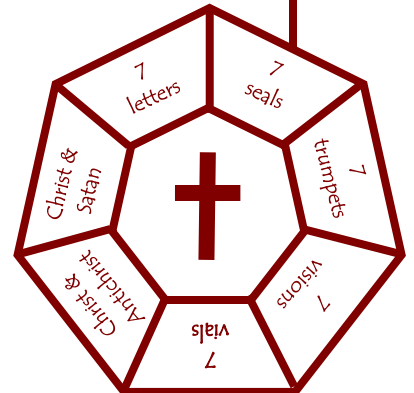
Revelation review . . .

Revelation means :

Revelation is all about :

Revelation has two sub-themes :

- Acts 14:22b →
- Matthew 16:18 →



Paul's letter to the Ephesians may seem like a strange place to begin a study on *Revelation*. And maybe it is. Still, let's take a skim-through look at *Ephesians 5*. As we do, let's be sure to identify clearly . . .

- ❖ who Christ is in connection to his Church :
- ❖ who the Church is in connection to Christ:
- ❖ how that's relationship on display (here) :

Like e-mails of our age, letters were effective & enduring ways to communicate admonitions & administrations, encouragements & instructions, doctrines & directions. In fact, that official format was used in the Old Testament (*prophets*), throughout the Intertestamental period (*Apocrypha*), and well into the New Testament era (*epistles*). Those things, too, find a place in the book of *Revelation*.

But, before we get there, look again at *Revelation 1:12-20* . . .

- identify what /who John saw : (Ephesians 5!)
 - what vision-imagery is emphasized?
- identify what he told John to do :
 - what vision-imagery is explained?
- Often, God "empties us" before he "fills us." Evidence?

Few couple notes to remember . . .

- *lampstands / candlesticks* = the churches (Matthew 5:14-16)
- *angels / messengers / stars* = pastors who relay/reflect the messages
- *seven* = number of completion; to actual churches & meant for all
- *write* = God-breathed words; Divine Verbal Inspiration
- *he who has an ear let him hear* = a word to the wise (Matthew 13:9)



Now the letters. Each one communicates similar themes, outlines and instructions. Skim *Revelation 2 & 3* to complete each letter's outline.

Ephesus

Revelation 2:1-7

study help: Nicolaitans – seemingly a group indulgent in immorality; content to know grace & live in sin

- the good :
- the bad :
- the warning :
- the promise :
- point that "hits home" :

Smyrna

Revelation 2:8-11

study helps: tempt – Satan's try to separate from God so that we become faithless

test – God's work to draw us closer to himself & to strengthen our faith & our faithfulness

second death – eternal separation from God

- the good :
- the bad :
- the warning :
- the promise :
- point that "hits home" :

Pergamum

Revelation 2:12-17

study helps: Satan's throne - likely a reference to the city's reputation for idolatry & emperor worship
Balaam - stark idolatry reference (Numbers 25)
hidden manna - preservation of life (John 6:33)
white stone - a "banquet ticket" or "acquittal vote"

- the good :
- the bad :
- the warning :
- the promise :
- point that "hits home" :

Thyatira

Revelation 2:18-29

study helps: Jezebel - OT idolatry-endorsing queen (1 Kgs 18)
Satan's deep secrets - God's plain truth is despised
morning star - something wonderful, a Messiah
(Numbers 2:24; Matthew 2:1-12; Revelation 22:16)

- the good :
- the bad :
- the warning :
- the promise :
- point that "hits home" :

Sardis

Revelation 3:1-6

study helps: alive, but dead - looks like church, but no faith
seven(fold) spirit(s) - the Holy Spirit (Isaiah 11:2)
dressed in white - robed in righteousness

- the good :
- the bad :
- the warning :
- the promise :
- point that "hits home" :

Philadelphia

Revelation 3:7-13

study helps: key of David - authority & messianic line
coming trial - messianic woes (Matthew 24)
temple pillar - secure in God's presence
(fun fact: this Philadelphia endured a lot of earthquakes)

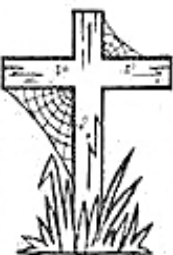



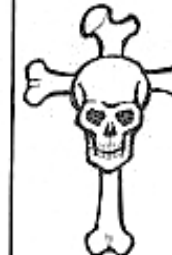
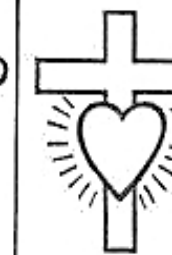
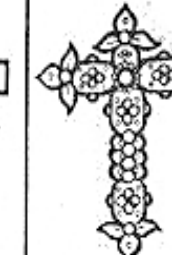
- the good :
- the bad :
- the warning :
- the promise :
- point that "hits home" :

Laodicea

Revelation 3:14-22

study helps: not hot, not cold – seemingly indifferent
rich – physical abundance sees no spiritual need

- the good :
- the bad :
- the warning :
- the promise :
- point that "hits home" :

						
EPHESUS (Rev. 2: 1-7)	SMYRNA (Rev. 2: 8-11)	PERGAMOS (Rev. 2: 12-17)	THYATIRA (Rev. 2: 18-29)	SARDIS (Rev. 3: 1-6)	PHILADELPHIA (Rev. 3: 7-13)	LAODICEA (Rev. 3: 14-22)
ONCE ON FIRE FOR CHRIST, BUT NOW BECOMING INDIFFERENT.	PERSECUTED, POOR, BUT EVER FAITHFUL AND RESOLUTE!	PERMISSIVE, SHELTERING FALSE TEACHERS, FOLLOWING FALSE DOCTRINES.	IDOLATROUS, SEDUCED INTO CORRUPT BELIEFS AND PAGAN RITUALS.	A CHURCH IN NAME ONLY, WITHOUT RESULTS AND SPIRITLESS.	EXEMPLARY! FAITHFUL TO GOD'S WORD AND FILLED WITH HIS LOVE!	SELF-INDULGENT, RICH, AND OSTENTATIOUS. FULL OF WORLDLY PRIDE.
A BACKSLIDING CHURCH	A STEADFAST CHURCH	A LICENTIOUS CHURCH	A LAX, PAGAN CHURCH	A DEAD CHURCH	A FAVOURED CHURCH	A LUKEWARM CHURCH
CRITICISM: "Thou hast left thy first love...."	NO CRITICISM!	CRITICISM: "Thou hast them that hold the doctrines of Baalam and the Nicolaitans...."	CRITICISM: "Thou sufferest that ...Jezebel to teach and seduce my servants to commit fornication...."	CRITICISM: "Thou hast a name that thou livest and art dead. I have not found thy works perfect.."	NO CRITICISM!	CRITICISM: "I will spue thee out of my mouth... Thou art wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked..."
COUNSEL: "Remember from whence thou art fallen, and repent."	COUNSEL: "Fear not! Be faithful unto death and I will give thee a Crown of Life!"	COUNSEL: "Repent, or I will come unto thee quickly!"	COUNSEL: "Hold fast to what (little) ye have till I come."	COUNSEL: "Strengthen what (little) remains. Hold fast and repent."	COUNSEL: "Hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy Crown."	COUNSEL: "Buy my gold, and white raiment to clothe thee...and anoint thine eyes..."

consider

"Jesus isn't afraid to speak the truth. He isn't bashful about pointing out our shortcomings. But he does so in love. He knows the danger posed by unrepented sin. He knows the damage caused by false teaching and ungodly living. And so he lovingly calls on his people to repent of sin where necessary. But always so he can comfort with his word of redemption and restoration! Be convicted, but be comforted by his forgiven grace . . . Hide yourself in him, and find your peace and strength and hope in him."

- Pastor Tim Westendorf (Forward In Christ Article)

Your Assignment this week . . . consider our ministry here.

Boulder

What might God say concerning . . .

study helps: sinner-saints – Christians on this side of heaven
ministry blessings – the joys we enjoy in grace
ministry challenges – hurdles our church endures
ministry opportunities – well suited to share Jesus

- the church which we're most like:
- the good :
- the bad :
- the warning :
- the promise :
- point that "hits home" :



Revelation

seeing Jesus

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Lesson 3 : throne room & throne

Revelation review . . .

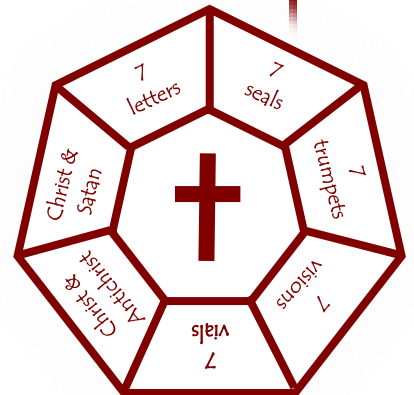
Revelation means :

Revelation is all about :

Revelation has a context of :

Revelation has two sub-themes :

- Acts 14:22b →
- Matthew 16:18 →



Not unconnected: in the box below, list as many of God's gracious activities as you possibly can. You've got 1 1/2 minutes to do so. Go!

- ✓ identify those activities whose evidence is important to and has already appeared in the book of Revelation
- ✓ identify those activities whose evidence is important to and still necessary for "God's Church" to hear and know

just to
ponder:

in our current struggles, is it more beneficial to remember what our God *has done*, or to recall what our God *will do*?

clarify your insight

So far in Revelation God's heart of compassion has been active in:

- ✓ *making known* (1:1) : a revelation by his grace
- ✓ *gospel-izing* (1:4-8) : a revelation of Jesus' work
- ✓ *having John write* (1:19) : a revelation to communicate
- ✓ *instructing* (chapters 2 & 3) : a revelation for direction
- ✓ *inviting* (chapters 4 & 5) : a revelation of the goal

The second scene of John's vision (chapters 4 & 5) gives a glimpse into the heavenly realities. This scene includes the ascension/coronation of Christ at the right hand of the heavenly Father. It shows the overall purpose of Revelation is to comfort the church as it faces persecution and awaits Christ's return. It is the heart of the revelation."

- Lutheran Study Bible Footnote

In just a minute, we'll read and rejoice in the vision of God's throne room & throne. Before we get there, let's identify the simple truths in:

- Psalm 47 →
- Isaiah 6:2-4 →
- Revelation 1:10, 17, 18 →

God's Throne

Revelation 4

study helps : door standing open – open access

jasper/white, carnelian/red – majesty, judgment

rainbow : symbol of God's covenant to Noah

emerald – green : color of comfort, hope, peace

thrones – places of power, rule, judgment

elders – position of leadership, counsel

→ 12 OT tribes, 12 NT apostles = God's Church

crowns – authority or reward of victory/success

7 lamps = 7 spirits – the Holy Spirit

(Exodus 37:17-24, Zechariah 4:1-6, Isaiah 11:2)

sea – usually symbolic of chaos, evil, unknown

4 living creatures – angel ranks? evangelists?

God's created things? [Ezekiel 1; 10:9-22]

wings – common feature of angel in God's

presence (Isaiah 6:2: cover in reverence & readiness)

eyes – seem to symbolize unending vigilance

I'll read Revelation 4; you follow along & listen along to pinpoint :

- a single-truth, simple-summary statement :
- aspects that emphasize God's majesty :
- other attributes of God on vibrant display :

four : one

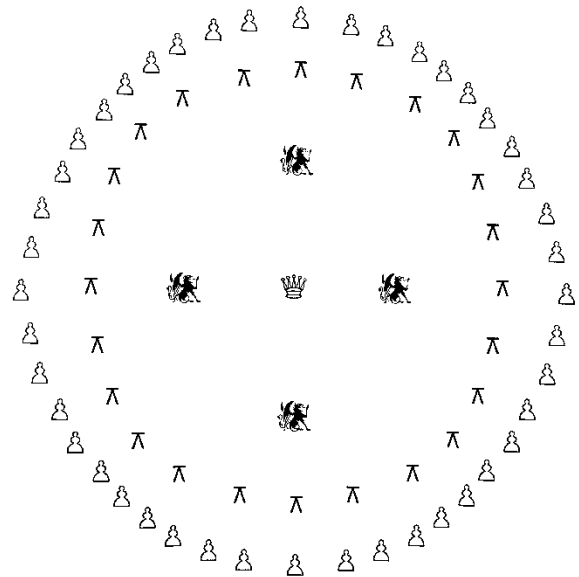
	holy	holy	holy
is the	Lord	God	Almighty
who	was	and is	and is to come

"The 'throne' is not a physical piece of furniture, etc. Rather, God here condescends to the forms and terms of this present world in order to convey to us, as far as possible, some idea of the realities of heaven, which, in their full glory and splendor, are inconceivable to us now."

- Poellot, 74

Let's make sure we don't lose the forest for the trees. Yes, it's a strange scene getting stranger. But don't miss . . .

- the focus is on:
- the common activity is:



God condescends to let us-here glimpse his throne-there. How's this striking balance of what God *has done* & *will do* refresh our faith here?



The "Worthy"

Revelation 5

study helps : worthy – fully qualified & equal to the task

(not "bold enough, strong enough, willing enough")

Judah's Lion – Mighty Ruler of Genesis 49:9, 10

David's Root – Kingly line/promise of Isaiah 11

Lamb looking slain – atoning sacrifice (John 1:29)

horns – usually symbolic of power

eyes – symbol of watch and wisdom

bowls of incense – the prayers of Christians

tribe, language, people, nation – #4 = the world

new song – song of accomplished salvation

(Psalm 96:1 Psalm 98:1 – frequently used at . . . Christmas)

I'll read Revelation 5; you read, follow, & listen along to pinpoint :

- a single-truth, simple-summary statement :
- aspects that emphasize the Lamb's worthiness :
- aspects that emphasize the Lamb's uniqueness :

"Accordingly, many interpreters understand this scene as involving a coronation or investiture of authority. One may here see a glimpse of what occurred in heaven at Christ's ascension."

- Lutheran Study Bible footnote

The focus of Revelation 5 is the Lamb before the throne; that's our Jesus – and he's worthy to receive prayers and praise! In this chapter, 3 doxologies (words of praise) are sung. Spend time in each & identify:

Revelation 5:9, 10

- ❖ the Lamb was worthy.
- ❖ this is what made him worthy :
- ❖ this is how his worth benefits us :

Revelation 5:12

- ❖ the Lamb is worthy.
- ❖ this is what's rightly his because he is worthy :
- ❖ this is how that's given on this side of eternity :

Revelation 5:13

- ❖ the Lamb will always be worthy.
- ❖ this is where his worth places him :
- ❖ this is how long he shall be adored :

Your assignment this week . . .

consider

"[John] was an exile on the island of Patmos. Was his isolation and loneliness representative of the reality for those who placed their hope in Jesus? Was God really powerful? Was God really in charge? Or was it just some cruel hoax and scam? What an experience it must have been for John as he was allowed to see the throne room of God! Brilliant and majestic . . . 'He is worthy!' so say the four creatures and twenty-four elders. 'He is worthy!' so say the thunderous voices of the countless angel army. 'He is worthy!' so say all other creatures in heaven and earth, including, by God's grace, you and me."

- Pastor Tim Westendorf (Forward In Christ Article)

Recall God's gracious activities! By God's grace, you've been numbered with those whom God has purchased from every tribe, language, people & nation. With the Lamb's gospel on your heart, you're a saint - here & now! You! That's faith refreshing! This week, read [Revelation 4 & 5](#) three different times; in each time & each chapter, discover 1 thought that refreshes & strengthens your saint-life on this side of heaven.

Revelation 4

1)

2)

3)

Revelation 5

1)

2)

3)



Revelation

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Lesson 4 : 7 seals & 7 trumpets

Revelation review . . .

Revelation means :

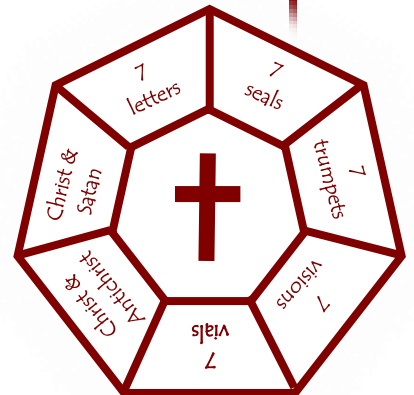
Revelation is all about :

Revelation has a context of :

Revelation has two sub-themes :

- Acts 14:22b →
- Matthew 16:18 →

Revelation gives us a glimpse of : our _____



So far, from our together-study of, and from your own individual time spent in, the Spirit Inspired book *Revelation*, identify what you feel is:

- ✓ the most striking aspect :
- ✓ the most unsettling aspect :
- ✓ the most applicable aspect :

Last lesson celebrated the throne and the Lamb before it – a powerful visual of our God and our victory! But things are about to get strange. Consider the blessings the throne’s “primary placement” instills!

Because it will inevitably
come up, let's remember :

"Had God wanted us to know, he
would have told us" – Poellot, 119

We have a lot to cover today. Revelation 6-11. Here's our options:

- 1) read/study/talk together & be ok not finishing the lesson; or
- 2) break into groups, self-study for 20 mins., come back & report

Matthew 24

- ✓ false Christs (v. 5)
- ✓ wars & war-rumors (v. 6)
- ✓ famines (v. 7)
- ✓ pestilence (v. 7; Lk. 21:11)
- ✓ earthquakes (v. 7)
- ✓ persecution (v. 9)
- ✓ apostasy (v. 10)
- ✓ false prophets (v. 11)
- ✓ love growing cold (v. 12)
- ✓ gospel world-wide (v. 14)
- ✓ then the end (v. 14)

Revelation 6

- white horse [?] (v. 1, 2)
- red horse / war (v. 3-4)
- black horse / famine (v. 5-6)
- pale horse / death (v. 7-8)
- earthquakes (v. 12)
- souls under altar (v. 9-11)

- white horses [?] (v. 1-2)
- then the end (v. 12-17)

the seals

Revelation 6

study helps : horses – synonymous with war & conquest
white – color associated with purity/innocence
(Jesus? his Word? False Christs? Man's thirst for power?)
fiery red – color for war and bloodshed

black – color associated with calamity/famine

pale (green) – color associated with death & sickness (result of calamities)

Hades – New Testament name for hell

fractions – display severity albeit “limited”

Take **5** minutes to skim the chapter and, as you do, identify:

- a single-truth, simple-summary statement :
- the aspect that is the most confusing :
- the aspect that is the most comforting :

“Focus now shifts from cosmic upheaval and judgment to the salvation of God’s elect” – Lutheran Study Bible footnote

- ❖ 7:1-8 – Church Militant (church’s struggle in a sinful world)
- ❖ 7:9-17 – Church Triumphant (church’s eternal calm in heaven)

the church

study helps : 144,000 – God’s ordered & organized Church

palm branches – symbol of victor & victory

great tribulation – “pressing down” suffering

spread his tent – implies protection & security

Take **5** minutes to skim the chapter and, as you do, identify:

- a single-truth, simple-summary statement :
- the aspect that is the most confusing :
- the aspect that is the most comforting :

Ephesians
1:13, 14

Look up Paul's divinely-inspired encouragement. What confident clarity does Ephesians 1 shed on this section?

"The people who are sealed are the servants of God, the people who belong to God. God's seal is set on men when God claims them as his own, when God says to them, "*You are mine.*" – Becker, 119

10 statements of the heavenly bliss the redeemed enjoy (Rev. 7:9-17):

- 1) they're before God's throne
- 2) they serve him in his temple
- 3) God sits on the throne to dwell among them
- 4) they hunger no more
- 5) They thirst no more
- 6) sun won't fall upon them
- 7) they endure no heat
- 8) Lamb is their Shepherd
- 9) Lamb leads to life-springs
- 10) God completely wipes every tear from their eye

seal & censer

Revelation 8:1-5

study helps : angels standing – ready to go at his command
trumpets – instrument used to warn of danger
incense & prayers – *an acceptable mix*

(Proverbs 28:9, John 9:31, John 16:23)

censer thrown – signals the trumpets to start

Take **2** minutes to skim the chapter and, as you do, identify:

- a single-truth, simple-summary statement :
- the aspect that is the most confusing :
- the aspect that is the most comforting :

trumpets

Revelation 8:6- 9:21

study helps : fractions – display severity, albeit “limited”

Wormwood – bitter herb, absinthe

rising smoke – *shows God’s wrath vs. evil*

5 months – *usual length of locust “season”*

horse-like – *power & strength*

crowns – *victory*

faces like men – *deception (reason/intelligence)*

hair – *seduction or illusion of harmlessness*

teeth – strength/ferocity, but not for killing
Abaddon / Apollyon – Destroyer (likely, Satan)
Euphrates – E° boundary with hostility across
red, blue & yellow – fire, smoke, sulphur
lions – power, courage, & agility
snake-tails – more severe than scorpions

“These unnatural characterizations emphasize that this is no ordinary disaster, but rather punishment from God’s hand”
– Lutheran Study Bible footnote

Take **5** minutes to skim the chapter and, as you do, identify:

- a single-truth, simple-summary statement :
- the aspect that is the most confusing :
- the aspect that is the most comforting :

Some think these trumpets signal against false teachings. They conclude that such teachings obscure the light of God’s Word (8:12), poison the water of life (8:11), rob people of spiritual sustenance (8:7), but such teachings cannot completely blot out the truth of God’s Word.

angel & scroll

Revelation 10

study helps : open scroll – not concealed; also not recorded
sour & sweet – proper description of the Word!
peoples, nations, languages, kings – all the world

Take **5** minutes to skim the chapter and, as you do, identify:

- a single-truth, simple-summary statement :
- the aspect that is the most confusing :
- the aspect that is the most comforting :

“When the sweet Word has become an inseparable part of you and of your life, there is also the bitterness of the things that must be endured as a result” – Poellot, 140 **Evidence ? !**

The first part of this chapter (11) is quite difficult because of all the imagery. Let's get the flow. In trumpet 5, we were warned that there would be all sorts of false teachings/religions coming from hell. Trump 7 pictured the false philosophies/theologies of this world. But chapter 10 – at the end – reminds us that the Word will be spread. Chapter 11 will now talk about the results of all that, what happens with the visible Christian Church, the church on earth. This vision bears similarity to Jesus' parable of the net (Matthew 13:47-50).

-Pastor Aaron Nitz

*study helps : measuring rod – God sets, expects, & knows
42 months, 1260 days – unsettled period (NT era)
witnesses / olive trees / lampstands – prophets
beast – anything that opposed/opposes Christ
Sodom – unbridled moral perversion
3 1/2 days dead – misguided thought of triumph
fractions – display severity, albeit “limited”
destroying – not annihilation; a lasting death
ark – symbol of God’s faithfulness & covenant*

Take **5** minutes to skim the chapter and, as you do, identify:

- a single-truth, simple-summary statement :
- the aspect that is the most confusing :
- the aspect that is the most comforting :

“John’s readers who knew their Old Testament would realize that the only shelter that could protect men against such destruction is the merit of Christ, who has turned away God’s wrath by redeeming us with his blood (Revelation 5:9).”

– Becker, 179

Use Revelation 11 to again identify where and how the three major sub-themes of the book are evident and are on bright display for us.

- ✓ there will be struggles :
- ✓ Jesus wins :
- ✓ Heaven is our home :

Your assignment this week . . .

- ❖ Finish whatever portions of this lesson we didn't get to in class;
- ❖ Revisit the entire section & identify 10 comforts for us here.

Homework from Pastor Tom Kock

1. In 10:7 it refers to the "mystery of God." What aspects of our salvation remain a "mystery?" For what reasons are you *glad* to have some aspects of your salvation be a "mystery?"
2. Two of the three themes in the book come through pretty clearly in 11:1-14: on this side of eternity there will always be struggles, but Jesus wins. Victory through suffering. List 3 reasons that it's helpful in our life of faith to be regularly reminded of each of those truths.
3. But the end of chapter 11! Oh, the end is so cool, isn't it!?! List three ways by which the end of chapter 11 will help you as you live your life this week.



Revelation
seeing Jesus

A Bible class at Peace Lutheran

Lesson 5 : Rebels & Ruler

Revelation review . . .

Revelation means :

Revelation is all about :

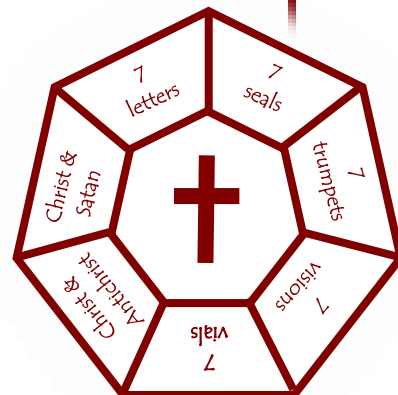
Revelation has a context of :

Revelation has two sub-themes :

- Acts 14:22b →
- Matthew 16:18 →

Revelation gives us a glimpse of our :

Revelation reminds us our God is in total :



Last time, we took a big chunk. And that was ok! Even that big bite helps us identify a balance that, like our lives, is aware of confusion but appreciative of confidence. Skim *Revelation 6-11* again to identify:

3 realistic confusions :	3 optimistic confidences :
1)	1)
2)	2)
3)	3)

In honest application, both of those columns are important for us to see, know, and experience here and now. Why?

Similar practice, different Testament. Skim Isaiah 43 - 45 to identify:

3 realistic confusions :	3 optimistic confidences :
1)	1)
2)	2)
3)	3)

Excellent! Let's keep those in mind as we step back into the Vision.

the bother

Revelation 12

study helps : pregnant woman – is the Church, not Mary
red dragon – Satan
dragon's crowns – ruler's crown, not victor's
male child – Jesus
1260 days (3 1/2 years) – like refers to NT era
Michael – "who is like the Lord"
Salvation – total redemption by God
Power – total strength of God
Kingdom – total rule of God
Authority – total supremacy of Christ
Devil – "to bring charge with hostile intent"
Serpent's river – flood of demonic doctrines

Take **4** minutes to skim the chapter and, as you do, identify:

- a single-truth, simple-summary statement :
- the aspect most disturbing :
- the aspect most delighting :

Pay attention to the Dragon's panic in the chapter outline:

- 1) Dragon unsuccessful against Church →
- 2) Dragon unsuccessful against heaven →
- 3) heaven's taunt @ unsuccessful Dragon →
- 4) Dragon against church (again).

How's this connect to :

- ✓ Church's struggle
- ✓ Christ's victory
- ✓ Our heaven

Pick apart the doxology in Revelation 12:10-12 . . . and celebrate!

This is for sure!

v. 10 : there is one who is supreme, he is _____ God.

v. 10 : the one who accuses _____ is hurled down.

v. 11 : the reason the accuser can't accuse is the Lamb's _____

v. 11 : the means by which he's still overcome the Lamb's _____

v. 12 : so, because the accuser can't accuse, so we can _____

v. 12 : so, because the accuser can't accuse, his time is _____

Both of the following quotes are right and accurate and encouraging as we step away from this chapter. Which one do you prefer . . . and why?

"In a hostile world God has prepared for his church a place of safety." – Becker, 184

"If you want to laugh at the devil, read Revelation 12" – Poellot, 158

Revelation 12 helps us understand the Devil's intent
Revelation 13 helps us understand the Devil's instruments

the beasts

Revelation 13

study helps : from the sea – foreign, but from created order
leopard, bear, lion – similar to beast in Daniel 7
42 months (3 1/2) – seems to refer to NT era
Lamblike, dragon-talk – appears innocent; isn't
mark on hand & head – sign of ownership,
service & profession/confession
666 – recognizes proximity to God (7), but falls short with imperfection & inaccess

"[concerning the 666] Irenaeus (disciple of John) said that it was safer to wait for the fulfillment of the prophecy than to guess and to look for names that would fit (but he later identified it as "LATIN")
– Becker, 213

Take **4** minutes to skim the chapter and, as you do, identify:

- a single-truth, simple-summary statement :
- the aspect most disturbing :
- the aspect most delighting :

Strange as it sounds, let's do a quick compare/contrast of the beasts.

	Beast 1	Beast 2
Origin :		
Appearance :		
Attraction :		
Offense :		
Could be :	Against-Christ governments Against-Christ society; Against-Christ powers	In-place-of Christ propaganda In-place-of-Christ religions/offices In-place-of-grace theologies
Means for the Church:		

"The Kingdom of God on earth will be a kingdom of the cross until its consummation in eternal glory" – Becker, 200

Revelation 12 helps us understand the Devil's intent

Revelation 13 helps us understand the Devil's instruments

Revelation 14 helps us remember our Lord's & our inevitable victory

Triumphant !

Revelation 14

study helps : Mount Zion – heaven, presence/city of God
"new" song – gratitude & joy over salvation
Virginity – symbol of faithfulness to God
Eternal gospel – not "new," but "enduring"
Babylon – idolatry, apostasy, oppression
Deeds following – as proof of faith (not merit)
"like a son of man" – Jesus (Daniel 7:13)
1600 stadia (4x4 & 10 x 10) – complete & universal judgment on the world & wicked

Take **4** minutes to skim the chapter and, as you do, identify:

- a single-truth, simple-summary statement :
- the aspect most disturbing :
- the aspect most delighting :

Revelation 14 is nicely divided up into and summarized by three sections – all for our confidence! Skim each section to identify clearly:

Assurances

identify them using Revelation 14:1-5 . . .

how does that calm our hearts in Christ?

Announcements

identify them using Revelation 14:6-13 . . .

how does that calm our hearts in Christ?

Anticipations

identify them using Revelation 14:14-20 . . .

how does that calm our hearts in Christ?

Your assignment this week . . .

- ❖ read the chapters again; highlight all that brings you comfort



Revelation
seeing Jesus

A Bible class at Peace Lutheran

Lesson 6 : Bowls & Babylon

Revelation review . . .

Revelation means :

Revelation is all about :

Revelation has a context of :

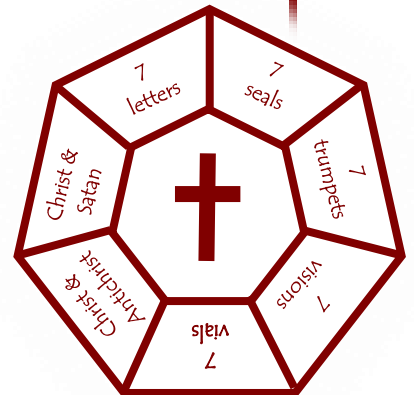
Revelation has two sub-themes :

- Acts 14:22b →
- Matthew 16:18 →

Revelation gives us a glimpse of our :

Revelation reminds us our God is in total :

Revelation enlightens us to the source of :



Last time . . .

Revelation 12 helped us understand the Devil's intent;

Revelation 13 helped us understand the Devil's instruments; &

Revelation 14 helped us remember our Lord's & our inevitable victory.

. . . what does that outline display concerning God's heart for us?



That in mind, let's use the table below to identify confident ways that the Lord's Prayer connects to the Spirit Inspired book of *Revelation*.

Prayer's Petition:	Super-Brief Explanation:	Revelation Connection
Our Father in heaven		
Hallowed be your name		
Your kingdom come		
Your will be done on earth as in heaven		
Give us today our daily bread		
Forgive us our sins as we forgive		
Lead us not into temptation		
Deliver us from evil		
Yours is the kingdom, power & glory forever		
Amen!		

It's always a blessing to remember our God hears & answers our prayers; it's especially good to remember that as we see those answers played out on such rich & vivid display in Revelation 15-18. Let's take a look ...

seven angels

Revelation 15

study helps : sea of glass & fire – both hint at God's presence
harp – instrument near synonymous with joy
song of Moses – Victory (Ex. 15:1-18; Deut. 32:1-48)
Tabernacle of the Testimony – God's presence
clean linen – servants of God
golden sashes – agents of royalty
golden bowls – punishment to be poured out

Take **4** minutes to skim the chapter and, as you do, identify:

- a single-truth, simple-summary statement :
- the aspect most confidence instilling :
- the Lord's Prayer petition most connecting :

Marvelous theology on display in Revelation 15:
we get the _____, but God get the _____.

"Great and marvelous are your deeds,
Lord God Almighty.
Just and true are your ways,
King of the ages.
Who will not fear you, O Lord,
and bring glory to your name?
For you alone are holy.
All nations will come and worship
before you, for your righteous acts
have been revealed. (Revelation 15:3, 4)

Circle every reason that
God is to be "feared"

"Thus all men will finally
'fear' God, either with the
fear of a terrified
conscience or with the awe
and respect of a believing
heart." – Becker, 239
(cf. Philippians 2:5-11)

"After a sublime description of how the redeemed rejoice in heaven,
the vision takes a somber tone . . . That is how things typically are
during the church's earthly sojourn: the most sublime moments of
rejoicing are followed by dreadful calamities, and hope is ever
threatened by evil and judgment." – Lutheran Study Bible footnote

the bowls

Revelation 16

study helps : the altar – place of God's punitive justice
Euphrates – border edged with heather powers
Armageddon – battleground of stubborn
resistance
the great city – Jerusalem? Rome? Babylon?
island – once considered outskirts & safe-havens

Take **4** minutes to skim the chapter and, as you do, identify:

- a single-truth, simple-summary statement :
- the aspect most confidence instilling :
- the Lord's Prayer petition most connecting :

Bowls / Vials	Meaning :	Our Comfort :
sores (v. 2) :
blood H ² O's (v. 3, 4) :
sun (v. 8, 9) :
beast (v. 10, 11) :
Euphrates (v.12-14) :
air (v. 17-21) :

"Behold, I come like a thief! Blessed is he who stays awake and keeps his clothes with him, so that he may not go naked and be shamefully exposed" (Revelation 16:15)

Identify Jesus' point?

Identify Jesus' grace?

Revelation 16:21: for the world that rejects Christ, this is the end.

the prostitute

Revelation 17

study helps : great prostitute – the apostate church
sits on waters – sign of authority & control
scarlet beast – anti-Christian government (13:1)
Z – not literal, seems to be devilish deception
10 kings, 1 hour – their rule is quick & limited
prostitute ravaged – won't tolerate a "church"

Take **4** minutes to skim the chapter and, as you do, identify:

- a single-truth, simple-summary statement :
- the aspect most confidence instilling :
- the Lord's Prayer petition most connecting :

Strangely evident in chapter 17
is the image of the world
turning against itself.

Evidence of that in our day?

"Majestically and unfailingly
overruling the plots and plans
of the beast and its kings is the
will of God" – Poellot, 227

Babylon falls

Revelation 18

study helps : angel illuminated – shatter darkness, show importance

Fallen! Fallen! – double assurance

"Great" – in size, arrogance, & destruction

"not a widow" – never was the "Bride of Christ"

fruit – the kind ripe & ready to harvest

no music or work – no "life" left in her

Take **4** minutes to skim the chapter and, as you do, identify:

- a single-truth, simple-summary statement :
- the aspect most confidence instilling :
- the Lord's Prayer petition most connecting :

identify	Three of God's attributes on display	Where, specifically, they're evident here:	What it means for us who sojourn here:

Your assignment this week . . .

- ❖ read the chapters again; identify the 3 sub-themes of Revelation



Revelation

seeing Jesus

A Bible class at Peace Lutheran

Lesson 7 : Victory & Triumph

Revelation review . . .

Revelation means :

Revelation is all about :

Revelation has a context of :

Revelation has two sub-themes :

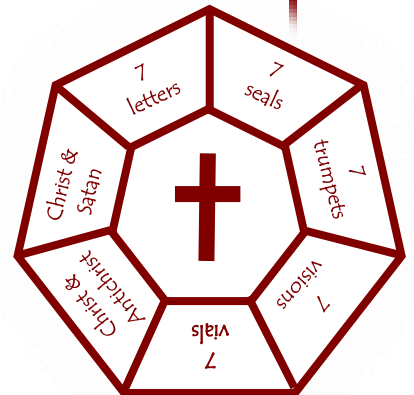
- Acts 14:22b →
- Matthew 16:18 →

Revelation gives us a glimpse of our :

Revelation reminds us our God is in total :

Revelation enlightens us to the source of :

Revelation swells to the promise that Jesus will :



Always back to Jesus. In short, that's still the point of *Revelation*; and every facet of the book ultimately brings us back to the One who is Faithful and True (Rev. 3:14 & 19:11). That in mind, from our study :

- ❖ What concept has been the most eye-opening for you?
- ❖ What concept has been the most assuring for you?

Remember, that's Jesus; that's our Champion. And he conquers on!

Praise the LORD!

Revelation 19

study helps : Hallelujah – Hebrew shout: Praise the LORD
"forever smoking" – no chance of restoration
linen given – gift granted, not worked by us
eyes of fire – symbolizes Jesus' omniscience
crowned head – symbolizes Jesus' omnipotence
sword – emblem of judgment
iron scepter/rod – emblem of ruling authority
10 positions defeated (v. 18) – complete victory
beast w/ kings – secular antichrist
beast w/ false prophet – ecclesiastical antichrist

Take **4** minutes to skim the chapter and, as you do, identify:

- a single-truth, simple-summary statement :
- the concept most eye-opening :
- the back-to-Jesus concept most assuring :

Vividly: the apostate church _____ ; God's Church _____ .

Revelation 19 contains 5 hallelujah-esque outbursts. Reread each one and, for each, identify that for which our God is rightly to be praised.

19:1, 2	19:3	19:4	19:5	19:6-8

Revelation 19: Jesus deals with & disposes of the beast & false prophet

Revelation 20: Jesus deals with and disposes of Satan

- ✓ 20:1-3 = emphasizes world-wide spread of the Gospel
- ✓ 20:4-6 = emphasizes rule of saints in heaven
- ✓ 20:7-15 = emphasizes "loosing of Satan" for "short season"

satan's demise

Revelation 20

study helps: an angel with keys – Jesus

1000 years – era completion, NT period

1st resurrection – baptism/conversion

1st death – physical death

2nd resurrection – resurrection of all the dead

2nd death – damnation, final destruction

Gog & Magog – symbolic for the enemies of

God's people (not literal nations; Ezek. 38-39)

God's camp/city – the whole Christian Church

Take **4** minutes to skim the chapter and, as you do, identify:

- a single-truth, simple-summary statement :
- the concept most eye-opening :
- the back-to-Jesus concept most assuring :

Millennialists assert these 1000-years are a literal era when believers will rule with Christ on this earth and defeat all their enemies. Let's check.

helpful direction from Professor Tom Kock

- ❖ Are the details in 20:1, 2 (key, chain, dragon, etc.) to be understood literally or figuratively? How do you know?
- ❖ Look up Matthew 24:6-9
 - a) Millennialists claim there will be peace on earth before the end. How does Jesus disagree (vs. 6-7)?
 - b) Millennialists claim believers will rule the earth before the end. How does Jesus disagree (vs. 9)?
- ❖ Look up John 18:36. Millennialists claim Jesus will reign here, on earth for 1,000 years before the end of the world. How does Jesus disagree with that theology?

“While we live in the sure hope of an end to our suffering, our enemies live in constant fear of suffering without end. Even in the darkest days for the church, every believer lives with the confidence of victory.” – Mueller, 199

our heaven!

Revelation 21

study helps : sea – symbolic of threatening evil

am making new – works begun via the Gospel!

water of life – John’s way to depict eternal life

bride, wife of the Lamb – opposite of prostitute

12 – number of the Church

square/cube/sphere – figure considered perfect

no temple – face-to-face with God is reality

no sun/moon – no darkness is God’s presence

open gates – no attack feared or defense needed

Take **4** minutes to skim the chapter and, as you do, identify:

- a single-truth, simple-summary statement :
- the concept most eye-opening :
- the back-to-Jesus concept most assuring :

Skim the chapter again & write down what's notably "not there."

"Describes heaven by way of negation . . . such a description is fitting, given that we have no experience of anything as fantastic as the new heavens and the new earth."

– Lutheran Study Bible Footnote

"When he calls it 'the Lamb's book of life,' he reminds us that men, who are by nature sinful and unclean, are fit to be inscribed in that book only through the merits of the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world." – Becker, 351

our life, our Lord

Revelation 22

study helps : river & tree – Perfection of Eden imagery

12 crops – a church nurtured & alive

name on forehead – sealed & identified (3:12)

spirits of the prophets – Bible writers' souls

blessed – "happy," "content"

verse 11 : set "after the time has come"

dogs – all whose life belies the Gospel

Come! – universal invitation to/for all

free gift – eternal life is gratis, it's free!

Take **4** minutes to skim the chapter and, as you do, identify:

- a single-truth, simple-summary statement :
- the concept most eye-opening :
- the back-to-Jesus concept most assuring :

Remember Revelation's 3 sub-themes. Skim the chapter to identify:

Evidence of "our hardships"	Evidence of "our Hero"	Evidence of "our heaven!"

comfort & confidence for us?!

"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with all the saints. Amen.'
With this benediction John reminds us that all the glorious blessings
promised to us in the vision of Revelation are ours not because of any
merit on our part but solely through the free grace of God in Christ.
To him be all praise and glory forever. Amen!" – Becker, 371