

The Book of Revelation

Objectives

Bible Study for this great mysterious Book

References

An Entrance to the Book of Revelation by H.G. Anba Moussa

Scriptural Verse

“Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.” (Rev. 1:3)

Lesson Guidelines

The Book of Revelation

- The only Prophetic Book in the New Testament; written by the Elder St John the beloved while exiled in Patmos by an order of Emperor Trajan
- St John mentioned his name 5 times to make himself known as the author of this important prophetic book
- It is a mysterious Book hard to explain as it is also a code Book sent from a persecuted to the persecuted to strengthen them without being clear to the persecutors
- The church fathers consider the Book as a compassionate letter that prophesizes about the persecutions and the church assured defeat and Victory. It is a spiritual analysis that speaks also about the history of the church along the ages and the events of the last days

Divisions of the Book

It is divided into Seven Revelations denoting the Church Trip from earth (1st Rev.) to Heaven (7th Rev.) passing through various successive persecutions (2nd – 6th Rev.) and its defeat by the grace of God till Its final Victory in Heaven

1st Revelation: The Church on Earth (Chapter 1- 3)

- It declares the Glory of God in the midst of the seven golden lampstands (churches), holding seven stars (Bishops)
- A message was sent for each one of the Angels (Bishops) of the seven Churches
- The messages were sent to specific churches and to specific Bishops but are of great use for the church in all ages as each letter ends by: “He who has an ear, let him hear...”

2nd Revelation: The Seven Seals (Chapter 4- 7)

It emphasizes the war and struggle of the church against the evil powers that ends by the Victory of the church.

- St John moved with his sight from earth to heaven to see the marvelous seen of the throne of God, the 24 elders, the sea of glass and the four living creatures with praising voices.

- He saw a sealed scroll and knew that only the lion of the tribe of Judah has prevailed to loose the scroll and open its seven seals.
- A Lamb stood as though it had been slain and all creatures praised Him and gave Him glory because he redeemed us to God by His Blood. The Lamb opened the seven seals
 - 1-White Horse (Apostolic Era – Jesus abolished death & opened the Paradise)
 - 2-Red Horse (Martyrdom Era)
 - 3-Black Horse (Era of Heresies)
 - 4-Green Horse (serious heresy looks green as symbol of life while it carries death)
 - 5-Spirits of the Martyrs under the Alter - will wait for their brothers
 - 6-The Great Earthquake; no more time for repentance
- Victory and description of the cleansed and heavenly ones

3rd Revelation: The seven Trumpets (Chapter 8-11)

It reveals another picture for the war and struggle of the church with the evil powers along the journey from earth to heaven. It started after the silence that came with the 7th Seal

- The first six trumpets declared the warnings from God to the people of the earth who are living in sin and will not repent.
- An angel brought a small Book to St John to eat it. It was sweet in his mouth and bitter in his intern (the way of God is a mix of joy and sufferings).
- St John measured the temple (To know the number of those who would be accepted). The appearance of the two testifying (Elijah & Enoch)
- The 7th trumpet reveals the glory of the Victorious church

4th Revelation: The Woman, the Dragon & the 2 Beasts (Chapter 12- 14)

It is also another picture for the struggle of the good and evil. It is also between God and the Devil and always God is conquering. It is a severe war only against Christianity (not any other religion) trying to demolish her role of salvation

- The woman is the church of the New Testament that started with St Mary who delivered Christ then the Baptized; and the war with Satan till the end of ages. She is clothed with the sun of righteousness (Christ) and the moon (world) under her feet and 12 stars (Disciples) enlighten her head with their teachings
- The Dragon is Satan who wants to destroy Christ in His many children and will be in war with them till his destruction by the power of God. God conquer Satan by His death & Resurrection and Christians overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, The word of their testimony and their will to die for a better life
- The 2 beasts are 2 evil powers. One coming from the sea represents all evil powers working for the account of Satan against the church and the other coming from the earth representing a human person that looks like the Lamb but is not. He is the deceiver anti-christ

- The Victory of the Lamb with His undefiled people. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. There are also 3 angels Warning from following the evil and announcing the last days and the coming of the Lord with His sharp sickle

5th Revelation: The seven Last Plagues (Chapter 15-16)

It is a new picture for the church struggle against evil and its victory as usual. The angels are not warning as before but are pouring the bowls of the wrath of God on the earth as a judgment on those who did not understand the Seals and did not repent after the warnings. The Victorious songs came before the plagues assuring the victory of the church.

6th Revelation: The Fall of Babel (Chapter 17-20)

It is the last picture of the church struggle against the power of evil during the journey from earth to heaven. It pictured Babel, the harlot and its judgment. There is also the Supper of the Lamb and the victory of the redeemed ones, then the thousand years of reign with the Lord and the end of days

- Babel represents all evil powers that oppose Christ and His children as it captured the Israelites for 70 years and oppressed them and it is called harlot because it get people away from God to worship earthly objects
- There is a call for the sons of God to get away from Babel before its destruction. The fall of Babel, Lamentation of the people of earth and joy of the Heavenly hosts with the children of God for the judgment of evil
- Here comes the marriage of the Lamb and blessed is he who attends. The dragon tries for the last time to win the war but he was cast with all his powers into the lake of fire.
- After thousand years (long period) Satan will be released for a little while then is thrown to the fire to be tormented forever with those who are not written in the Book of Life

7th Revelation: The Church in Heaven (Chapter 21-22)

After all the struggles, the Church now is glorified in heaven. There are also the joyful features of the heavenly Jerusalem. Finally there is the ending of the Revelation and the awaiting of the Groom.

Conclusion

This book reveals the struggle of the church through its way to heaven. It contains messages for the church, Warnings, Plagues for the rebellions, fall of the earthly kingdom, condemnation and destruction of Satan then the defeat of the glorious church and the eternal joy with the Redeemer Lamb.

Activities/Discussion Points

Make 7 groups each one will try to make a summary for one of the revelations to present it during the lesson