

“Pulling Back the Curtain”
Revelation 1:1-20 – An Introduction
Pastor Mark Burch

At the start of a New Year, maybe nothing could be more important than gaining a fresh vision of Jesus! On-going military conflict and the recent global economic turmoil has heightened our awareness to the fragile nature of life. John offers his readers much more than an end-times road map, he offers a rock-solid confidence that the same Jesus who began the work of reconciling us to God – will one day bring it to an incredible conclusion! In the meanwhile, we stand in awe and in worship! More than anything else, I pray that this study will give us a clear vision of the powerful, exalted, and victorious Christ we serve – and that from that confidence – our lives will be different!

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Darrel Johnson: “The whole book is written to bring us to the razor-sharp point of decision: who will be the Lord of my life and of the world?”

Home Group Discussion Questions

History (Making it Personal)

1. Spend a few moments sharing what your experience has been with the book of Revelation. Do you know it well? Have you read it often? Do you feel you understand it? What do you hope to gain in this study over the next 6 months?
2. Why do you think so many people shy away from this book of scripture? What is causing the interest in “end-times” to spike in our generation and what opportunities have you had to talk about these things with people far from God?

Digging Deeper (Looking to the Bible)

4. Read Revelation 1:1-20
5. Are there key themes or phrases that stand out to you? What questions does the text raise? How does it encourage us?
Take some time to talk about all the blessings that are promised us in this book. Some have called these the “beatitudes of Revelation.” Check out the “blessed are’s” of: 1:3; 14:13; 16:15; 19:9; 20:6; 22:7 and 22:14.
 - What stands out to you? What hope do these verses give?
 - What do they teach us? What do they imply?
7. Dig for a while at the concept of suffering that is introduced in 1:9. The word John uses for suffering is most often translated as “tribulation.” Compare this text with 2 Corinthians 1:3-11. Talk about the implications of sharing in the tribulation of the saints...set your discussion firmly in the context of the call to “overcome” or “conquer” in the name of Christ. How are we called to endure suffering and persecution?
8. Talk about the implications of the above – for a generation that has lived with peace and prosperity. Are we prepared?
9. Spend some time talking about the attributes of Christ that are revealed in this text:
 - a. Savior – 1:6
 - b. ALPHA & OMEGA – 1:8 – what does that tell us?
 - c. Powerful and fearful – 1:17 – how should we approach Him?
 - d. Fear calmed – 1:17 – What comfort do we have in Him?
 - e. The LIVING ONE! – 1:18 – what hope and victory do we celebrate in Christ?How do we see “death” differently because of His finished work? Where is the fear now?

Taking It Home (Application)

10. Spend some time in prayer – that God would challenge us and teach us from this study?
11. Spend some quiet time reflecting on the worldview or perspective you live by. Do you need a fresh encounter with Christ? Ask Him!