

He is coming with the clouds,
and every eye will see Him."

- REVELATION 1:7

BARB WILSON

# **Table of Contents**

oout the Author	3
etting the Most Out of This Study	4
roductory Lesson	5
sson 1	11
sson 2	21
sson 3	31
sson 4	41
sson 5	55
sson 6	67
sson 7	79
sson 8	89
sson 9	99
sson 10	107
sson 11	117
sson 12	127
sson 13	135
sson 14	143
sson 15	153
sson 16	165
sson 17	177
sson 18	189

Lesson 19	201
Lesson 20	209
Lesson 21	221
Lesson 22	231
Lesson 23	243
Lesson 24	253
Lesson 25	265
Lesson 26	279
Appendix: Revelation Timelines	293

# **Getting the Most Out of This Study**

**Format:** This study works well for individuals, small groups, or in a large group setting with a teacher. A teacher guide is available. The study is designed to be completed during a typical ministry year, September through early May, but it can be used at any time.

NASB - This version is referenced for all lessons in the study. For example, if a question refers to the third word of a verse, this is the translation that should be used to answer the question.

Scripture quotations taken from the New American Standard Bible® (NASB),

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Viewpoint - This study is written from a futurist, pre-tribulational, pre-millennial, dispensational, literal view.

**Features:** The study includes 26 Bible Study Lessons, an introductory lesson, and additional resources in the appendices.

Look for the following features that will help you dig deeper into the study.

For Discussion: These questions are designed for use in small group discussions. They encourage reflection and personal application of the study.

#### → For Further Study

These questions offer study suggestions to help you gain further understanding about specific topics or portions of scripture.

#### Class Notes

These sections include blanks that are to be filled in during the teaching portion of the Bible study.

This symbol introduces a Bible verse, either from Revelation or from other portions of Scripture that relate to the teaching in Revelation.



This symbol in the margin introduces a quote from a leading Christian author, speaker, or Bible commentary.

Don't skip these! Each quote offers additional insight into a topic that is covered on that page.

LESSON

# Revelation 1:1-8

"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

- REVELATION 1:8

# **Lesson 1:** Revelation 1:1-8

Lord, help me to read, hear, and heed what is written in the book of Revelation.

The book of Revelation. Have you ever studied it before? Have you ever read it? What comes to your mind when you think about learning what it says and means? Do you think God wants you to understand what He says in the book? Why did He write it? Do you think it is a confusing book? Do you even want to know what the book is about?

Look at the title of the book. The Revelation. This tells us that something is revealed. Revelation in Greek is apokalupsis which means an uncovering, unveiling, a disclosure. So rather than hide or keep it secret, God wants to reveal and make something known to us that had once been hidden.

What do you think? Want to learn more? Want to know the revealing of previously hidden things? I hope you do. Let's get started!

#### Read Revelation 1:1-8, then go back and read verses 1-3 again.

1.	Fill in the blanks from verse 1: "The Revelation of	
	"	

See, we are already learning about what is to be revealed. A "Who" actually. When Jesus came to earth as a baby, He came cloaked in humanity, humble and hated. He came as a servant to be nailed to a cruel cross for the very people He created ... the very people He was dying for. But in this book of Revelation, He is revealed in His glory, majesty, power and authority. All of this was hidden the first time He came. This book we will study is the unveiling of Jesus Christ.

There will be many things revealed in this book, like the Anti-Christ, Tribulation, and wrath of God; but these things play a supporting role, are a backdrop in order to unveil the majesty of Jesus Christ.

2. Do you like free samples? As we get started, let's just sample a few truths revealed regarding Jesus. Study the following verses from Revelation and list what you learn about Him.

a. 1:5

b. 1:7

c. 1:8



Revelation's purpose
is to reveal truth,
not to obscure it.
This book contains
truths that had been
concealed, but have now
been revealed.
It amplifies what was
only initially suggested
in the Old Testament.

JOHN MACARTHUR

d. 1:18
e. 2:1
f. 2:12
g. 2:18
h. 3:7
i. 3:14
j. 5:5
k. 5:12
l. 6:10
m. 19:13

n. 19:16

o. 22:16

3. For Discussion: Why is it important that you know as much as possible about Jesus? How should the knowledge and truth of His identity, character, authority, power, goodness and love change your life, decisions, and emotional state?

- 4. The title of this book also tells us that the revelation is from Jesus Christ. Read Revelation 1:1 and answer the following questions.
- a. Who gave the Revelation to Jesus Christ?
- b. To whom was Christ to show the revelation?
- c. What is included in the revelation?
- d. Who communicated the information given from Jesus?
- e. What is the name of the human who received the information?



In this book, the Holy
Spirit pulls back the
curtain and gives us the
privilege of seeing
the glorified Christ
in heaven and the
fulfillment of His
sovereign purposes
in the world.

WARREN WIERSBE

- 5. Do you consider yourself to be a bond-servant, a slave of Christ? If so, is the content of this book supposed to be for you?
- 6. Believer, God wants you to know the things which must soon take place. Explain the significance of the following words from verse 1.
- a. Must -
- b. Soon -

No matter how difficult our situation, Revelation announces that God is still in control and that He will conclude this stage of history the way He has promised.

Craig Keener

# **≥** For Further Study

- 7. Since Jesus could return at any time, what should we be doing according to 2 Peter 3:14?
- 8. Notice how John describes himself in verse 1. How has he changed since the request recorded in Matthew 20:20-23?
- 9. In verse 2, John says he is going to testify, bear witness, give accurate information about what he saw. What two phrases does he use to describe what he wrote?

#### **≥** For Further Study

- 10. In Revelation, John testifies what is revealed to him about the second coming of Christ. Summarize what you learn regarding John testifying about the first coming of Christ:
- a. John 19:31-35
- b. John 21:24-25
- c. 1 John 1:1-3
- d. 1 John 4:14



The unbelieving skeptic finds in the book of Revelation nothing but chaos and confusion.
But to the loving, willing bond-servants of Jesus Christ, this book is the understandable unveiling of prophetic truth about the future of the world.

JOHN MACARTHUR

What John saw was a communication fromand about-Jesus Christ Himself.

BIBLE KNOWLEDGE COMMENTARY

- 11. God loves to bless His children and there is a promise of blessing in verse 3 that is not found in any other book of the Bible. This is the first of seven blessings in Revelation. Who will be blessed according to verse 3?
- 12. What is the message of Revelation called in verse 3? Why is this significant?
- 13. Put your detective hat on for a moment and find the similar phrases in verses 1 and 3 that refer to time. Write them down:
- a. Verse 1:
- b. Verse 3:

### **≥** For Further Study

14. The time is getting shorter and shorter. We are living in the last days (end of the ages) which began when Jesus came to earth the first time. For further study, read these references.

- a. 1 Corinthians 10:11
- b. Hebrews 1:1-2a
- c. Hebrews 9:25-26
- 15. For Discussion: God clearly told John what he was to do. Does God tell you what to do? How? How can you know instructions are from God? Are you doing what He is telling you to do?



Reading, hearing, and obeying the truths taught in Revelation and the rest of Scripture are to be a way of life for believers.

JOHN MACARTHUR

These opening verses declare the ultimate authors of the revelation (God the Father and Jesus), its subject matter (what must soon take place), its intended audience (His servants) and its messengers (the angel of Christ and John).

CRAIG KEENER