HANDOUT. **Faith for the Future: Part 2** - The Book of REVELATION

***[ 1 G.K. Beale, D Campbell, Revelation: A Shorter Commentary, p1 ]***

**POINT 1. PROLOGUE**

From God to you (6 links)

GK *apocalypsis* - **removal of a veil** or **some covering in order**

**to reveal what had been hidden or kept secret.**

Revelation is “**the Bible’s battle cry of victory**”.

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**POINT 2. PURPOSE**

V1 - the revelation of Jesus Christ which God gave him to **show to his servants** -here it is- **the things** that **must soon take place**……. ‘the **time is near’.**

Daniel 12:1-4, 8-9; 8:26

Revelation 22:10

**Revelation 5:1-14.**

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**3. PRACTICAL APPLICATION**

**1:3** Blessed are those who hear it and **who keeps what is written**

🡪 The whole purpose of this book is to call us to **live courageously** as Christians

in this world and to **not give in** and to **not give up**.

🡪 We live in the reality of **God's kingdom** and

his **sovereign control of the future** and the **present**.

***[ 2 D. Johnson, The Triumph of the Lamb, pp. 18-19]***

***[3 G.K. Beale, The Book of Revelation, NIGTC, p 33]***

1.

“The prophetic visions of revelation can easily disguise the point that it was written as a letter to the churches, and that the letter is pastoral in nature. The goal of Revelation is to bring encouragement to believers of all ages that God is working out his sovereign purposes even in the midst of tragedy, suffering, and apparent Satanic domination. **It is the Bible’s battle cry of victory**, for in it, more than anywhere else in the New Testament, is revealed the final victory of God over all the forces of evil.”

*(G.K. Beale, David H. Campbell, Revelation: A Shorter Commentary**Erdmans Pub, 2015, page 1).*

2.

“Our interpretation of Revelation must be driven by the difference God intends it to make in the life of his people. If we could explain every phrase, identify every allusion to Old Testament Scripture or Greco-Roman society, trace every interconnection, and illumine every mystery in this book and yet were silenced by the intimidation of public opinion, terrorized by the prospect of suffering, enticed by affluent Western culture’s promise of ‘security, comfort, and pleasure,’ then we would not have begun to understand the Book of Revelation as God wants us to.” (*Dennis E. Johnson, The Triumph of the Lamb, 2001 , P&R Pub. pp. 18-19*).

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“John’s purpose in writing is, therefore, to encourage those not compromising with idolatry to continue in that stance, and to jolt those who are compromising out of their spiritual anesthesia so that they will perceive the spiritual danger they are in and repent and become witnesses to the risen Christ as Lord. For those who never respond, only judgment will ensue.” “The focus of the book is exhortation to the church community to witness to Christ in the midst of a compromising, idolatrous church and world.” (*G. K. Beale, The Book of Revelation, NIGTC, 1999, Erdmans Pub. Pp.33*).

**Last Days**

[**Acts 2:17**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+2:17&version=ESV)

“‘And in the **last** **days** it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams;

[**2 Timothy 3:1**](file:////passage/%3Fsearch%3D2%20Timothy%2B3%3A1%26version%3DESV)

[ *Godlessness in the****Last******Days*** ] But understand this, that in the **last** **days** there will come times of difficulty.

[**Hebrews 1:2**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews+1:2&version=ESV)

but in these **last** **days** he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.

[**James 5:3**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=James+5:3&version=ESV)

Your gold and silver have corroded, and their corrosion will be evidence against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up treasure in the **last** **days**.

[**2 Peter 3:3**](file:////passage/%3Fsearch%3D2%20Peter%2B3%3A3%26version%3DESV)

knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the **last** **days** with scoffing, following their own sinful desires.

APPLICATION/ DISCUSSION-

**Blessed – 7x**

[**Revelation 1:3**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation+1:3&version=ESV)

**Blessed** is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and **blessed** are those who hear, and who **keep** what is written in it, for the time is near.

[**Revelation 14:13**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation+14:13&version=ESV)

And I heard a voice from heaven saying, “Write this: **Blessed** are the dead who **die in the Lord** from now on.” “**Blessed** indeed,” says the Spirit, “that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!”

[**Revelation 16:15**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation+16:15&version=ESV)

(“Behold, I am coming like a thief! **Blessed** is the one who **stays awake**, keeping his garments on, that he may not go about naked and be seen exposed!”)

[**Revelation 19:9**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation+19:9&version=ESV)

And the angel said to me, “Write this: **Blessed** are those who are i**nvited to the marriage supper of the Lamb**.” And he said to me, “These are the true words of God.”

[**Revelation 20:6**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation+20:6&version=ESV)

**Blessed** and holy is the one who **shares in the first resurrection**! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years.

[**Revelation 22:7**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation+22:7&version=ESV)

“And behold, I am coming soon. **Blessed** is the one who **keeps the words of the prophecy** of this book.”

[**Revelation 22:14**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation+22:14&version=ESV)

**Blessed** are those **who wash their robes**, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates.

1. How have you previously viewed the book of Revelation?
2. How is Chapter 5 significant in understanding the entirety of the book? How does John point to the gospel as the focus of worship?
3. Briefly summarize the message and promise of Revelation.
4. How would you respond to someone who says “Revelation is a bunch of fairy tales”?
5. What are some areas you may be tempted to compromise your Christian witness?
6. How can Revelation help and encourage you to persevere courageously and faithfully? Share 1-2 things..