

Brentwood Bible Fellowship
Reading thru the New Testament
2017

Week 49
Revelation 3-7

Key Verses:

"HOLY, HOLY, HOLY is THE LORD GOD, THE ALMIGHTY, WHO WAS AND WHO IS AND WHO IS TO COME."

*"Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created."
Revelation 4:8b, 11*

*"Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing."
And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying, "To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever."
Revelation 5:12-13
NAS Version*

December 3 - 7

Monday Revelation 3 - Letters to the churches of Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea

Tuesday Revelation 4 - The scene in Heaven

Wednesday Revelation 5 - The Book of the Seven Seals - Only The Lamb is worthy to open it

Thursday Revelation 6 - The First Five Seals are opened

Friday Revelation 7 - Interlude in heaven, 144,000 witnesses are sealed

Saturday - Review

Sunday – Review

Questions and comments concerning the daily readings

Revelation 3 - 7

Week Forty-Nine

Revelation 3

1. Revelation 3:1-6 The Message to the Church at Sardis

Verse 1 Jesus, from Revelation 1, is again identified as the one who sends the message to Sardis. The Seven Spirits represent the Holy Spirit, and the Seven Stars represent the Messengers or angels of the seven churches.

Verses 2-3 What was the complaint which Jesus has against the Church at Sardis? What did Jesus say the church must do?

Verse 4-5 What did Jesus say would happen for those who have not fallen away from Him, those who have not soiled their garments? Notice that a church may be failing and yet have a remnant of faithful individuals residing there who have not failed or fallen away from their faith.

Revelation 3:7-13 The Message to the Church of Philadelphia

Verse 7 Jesus is again the one sending the message to the church.

Verse 8 How did Jesus address the church of Philadelphia? (Only two of the seven church, Smyrna and Philadelphia, are not condemned in some way for their actions.)

Verse 9 -11 What did Jesus say He would do on behalf of the faithful church of Philadelphia? What was the hour of testing which was about to come on the world, which Jesus will preserve the Church of Philadelphia from?

Verse 12 – 13 What will Jesus do for those who are overcomers?

Revelation 3:14-22 The Message to the Church of Laodicea

Verse 14 How is Jesus identified in this verse?

Verse 15 - 16 What did it mean that the Church of Laodicea was neither cold nor hot? What did Jesus say He would do to the church since it is neither cold nor hot? Many people say this typifies the American church of the

latter part of the 20th century and the beginning of the 21st century. Would you agree?

Verses 17 –18 Laodicea was apparently a prosperous city. They had developed a successful banking industry, a medicinal ointment to help with their sight ailments, and a prosperous clothing industry. Note Jesus' comment that they were poor and blind and naked. They had apparently placed their faith in their worldly wealth rather than in God. They saw themselves as self-sufficient without need of God. What was Jesus' recommendation to the church of Laodicea? Explain!

Verse 19 What message do we receive from verse 19?

Verses 20 –22 Is verse 20 addressed to believers or non-believers? What is the message of verses 20-21?

Revelation 4

1. Revelation 4:1- 6 Explain the scene as John viewed it in heaven. Who was sitting on the throne? Stop for a moment to think about the vision of Heaven as John saw it! Amazing!
2. Revelation 4:6b-8 See Ezekiel 1:10 and Isaiah 6:2-3 for similar descriptions of the Angelic beings present at the throne of God. What was the role of those angelic beings?
3. Revelation 4:9-11 Describe the scene in verses 9-11. What emotions arise within you as you read this passage? How do you think you would respond if you were present in heaven when this took place? How should this affect us when we come as a congregation to worship this same God? Think about that the next time you come to a worship service. How do you think that will or should impact your actions and attitude when we come together to worship?

Revelation 5

1. Revelation 5:1 Describe the Book of the Seven Seals. The seals represent the first six judgements of God on the earth. The seventh seal will open to seven trumpet judgements followed by seven bowl judgments. This is a time of tribulation and judgement on the earth. Remember that the church of Philadelphia was told that they would be spared from the hour of testing. In First and Second Thessalonians we learned about the rapture of the church when Jesus comes to take the believers up from the earth. I do not believe that the church of this age will be present on the earth to undergo this time of tribulation and testing.

2. Revelation 5:2-6 Who was worthy to open the Book of the Seven Seals? Why weren't others in heaven worthy to open the book?
3. Revelation 5:6-10 Describe the Lamb, the only one worthy to open the Book. How did the four living creatures and the elders respond to the lamb? What does that tell you about the honor and respect given to the lamb?
4. Revelation 5:11-14 Explain the scene as seen in heaven at that time. Who will worship the lamb? Explain what verse 12 says concerning the lamb. Take time to meditate on this verse. Who receives worship in verse 13?

Revelation 6

1. Revelation 6:1-2 The Lamb, Jesus the worthy sacrifice, broke the first seal. Out of the seal came a rider on a white horse with a bow.
The White horse symbolized conquest in the first century. The rider has come out conquering and to conquer. The crown demonstrates his domination and authority. In context with the following three horses, in the second through fourth seal, this rider represents the anti-Christ coming to conquer and establish his one world government.
2. Revelation 6:3-4 The second seal – The rider comes on a red horse. The Red horse signifies blood and destruction. This obviously represents massive war and bloodshed on the earth.
3. Revelation 6:5-6 The third seal – The rider on the black horse. The black horse represents a very severe famine. Inflation will raise the cost of food. A quart of wheat, three measures of barley for a denarius or a day's wage. Man will work just to get by. The poor and the aged will be the most affected.
4. Revelation 6:7-8 The fourth seal – The rider on the ashen horse. The ashen horse represents death. Between the aforementioned war, famine, illness and wild beasts, about one fourth of the world population will be wiped out. An estimate is that there is about 7.5 billion people on the earth today. That means about 1.9 or 2 billion people will die at this time. That number would include the combined populations of China, the USA and Indonesia. Those are three of the four largest populated nations in the world. That is a mind boggling number of people.
5. Revelation 6:9-11 The fifth seal. The Tribulation Martyrs in heaven cry out for justice. These were slain due to their belief in the word of God and their testimony. What is the meaning of the white robes? They are to be patient. Other believers must die first. It was not time yet.

6. Revelation 6:12-17 The sixth seal. This appears to be a great cataclysmic event which will greatly affect the whole earth. List the disasters which will affect the earth at that time. What will be the response of all those living on the earth? According to verses 16-17, they seem to understand that this is the result of God's judgment on them. According to verse 15, everyone on the earth is affected, no one is exempt.

Revelation 7 A heavenly interlude.

1. Revelation 7:1-3 All the tribulation will cease while the bond-servants of God are sealed by some tattoo or implant on their foreheads. This is for their protection.
2. Revelation 7:4-8 There are 144,000 witnesses. That is 12,000 from each of the twelve tribes of Israel. This is not the church age. God is once again dealing specifically with the nation of Israel. The 144,000 are not gentiles, they are Israelites/Jews!
3. Revelation 7:9-12 Describe the audience that was worshipping God. What does that tell you about the kind of people who God loves? What does that tell you about who we will be sharing heaven with?
4. Revelation 7:13-17 Who were the individuals in the white robes? What was their job? What promises did God make to them in verse 16-17? What do you like most concerning the promise made to those in the white robes?