

The Apocalypse

“The Revelation of Jesus Christ”

Revelation 1-3 – March 26-27, 2016

Our Sermon Series

THE APOCALYPSE		
<i>A 14-Week Sermon Series on The Book of Revelation</i>		
Date	Message Title	Bible Text
Mar 26-27	The Revelation of Jesus Christ	Revelation 1-3
April 3	The Throne in Heaven	Revelation 4-5
April 10	The 7 Seals in Heaven	Revelation 6
April 17	The People in Heaven	Revelation 7
April 24	The 7 Trumpets in Heaven	Revelation 8-9
May 1	The Two Witnesses from Heaven	Revelation 10-11
May 8	War in Heaven	Revelation 12
May 15	The Anti-Christ and the False Prophet	Revelation 13-14
May 22	The 7 Bowls in Heaven	Revelation 15-16
May 29	The Fall of Babylon	Revelation 17-18
June 5	The Second Coming of Jesus Christ	Revelation 19
June 12	The Millennium	Revelation 20
June 19	Heaven – Part 1	Revelation 21
June 26	Heaven – Part 2	Revelation 22

The Post-Resurrection Appearances of Jesus Christ

1. To Mary Magdalene (John 20:11-18; Mark 16:9-11)
2. To several women (Matthew 28:1-10)
3. To Simon Peter (Luke 24:34; 1 Corinthians 15:5)
4. To two disciples on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35)
5. To ten disciples without Thomas present (John 20:19-24)
6. To the disciples again with Thomas present (Mark 16:14-18; Luke 24:33-40; John 20:26-28; 1 Corinthians 15:5)
7. To the disciples fishing in Galilee (John 21:1-23)
8. To the 11 disciples and then 500 people (1 Corinth 15:6; Matt 28:16-20)
9. To James (1 Corinthians 15:7)
10. To the disciples immediately before His ascension (Mark 16:19; Luke 24:50-52; Acts 1:4-10)
11. To Paul on the road to Damascus and other times (Acts 9:3-9,17; 18:9-10; 23:11)
12. To the Apostle John on the Island of Patmos (Revelation 1).

The Revelation of Jesus Christ to John on the Island of Patmos (Revelation 1)

- **Title of the book** (v.1): The Revelation of Jesus Christ
 - *apokalupsis* = unveiling; appearing; revealing; revelation
- **Purpose of the book:** “To show His servants the things that must soon take place” (v.1)
- **Human author:** The Apostle John (vv.1,4,9)
- **Promised blessing** (v.3)
 - Application #1 – Make a commitment to come to church all 14 Sundays of this series and to watch online when you are out of town. Verse 3 promises a blessing if you will do so.
- **Original recipients** (vv.4,11)
 - 7 churches in Asia (modern-day Turkey)
 - The number “7” (unity, completeness, fullness) also shows that Christ intended this revelation for the whole Church
- **Divine author:** The Triune God-head – Father, Son, Holy Spirit
 - vv.4-8 give detailed descriptions of the attributes of God and believers
- **Message of the book:** *Jim’s Persuasion:* “Behold, He is coming with the clouds” (v.7)
Jeff’s persuasion: “I am the Alpha and the Omega...” (v.8)
 - Mega Themes: God’s Sovereignty, Christ’s Return, God’s Faithful People, Judgment and then Hope.
- **Circumstances surrounding the vision:** The Apostle John was exiled to the island of Patmos because of his stand on the Word of God and his testimony of Jesus (v.9)
 - Account of original disciples deaths and situation when written
 - Application #2 – Am I willing to suffer for my stand on the Bible and my faith in Jesus Christ?
- **John’s commission to write this book** (vv.11,19)
 - Verse 19 gives the outline of the whole book:
 - (1) Things that you have seen (Revelation 1)
 - (2) Things that are – state of the churches (Revelation 2)
 - (3) Things that are to take place after this (Revelation 4-22)
- **The vision of Jesus Christ** (vv.12-20)
 - Notice that the attire and activity of Christ in these verses is that of a high priest in the temple “tending” the lamps (1:12-13)
 - **Leviticus 24:1-4** - *The LORD said to Moses, “Command the Israelites to bring you clear oil of pressed olives for the light so that the lamps may be kept burning continually. Outside the curtain of the Testimony in the Tent of Meeting, Aaron is to*

tend the lamps before the LORD from evening till morning, continually. This is to be a lasting ordinance for the generations to come. The lamps on the pure gold lampstand before the LORD must be tended continually.

- o Tending the lamps involved...
 - (1) Keeping the lamps filled with oil.
 - (2) Removing impurities from the oil (deposits, burned wick fragments, dirt); impurities prevented the lamp from burning brightly.
 - (3) Trimming the wicks.
- o We are the lamps!!! (1:20)
- o **Matthew 5:14-16** - *You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.*
- o We are the lamps! And Jesus Christ is our Great High Priest who walks among us "tending the lamps" (1:12-13). The purer the oil... the brighter the lamp burns.

- o Do not tolerate idolatry and sexual immorality in our midst (2:20)
- o Wake up! Quit being spiritually sleepy and dead (3:1-2)
- o Repent of our lukewarmness and instead be on fire for God (3:15-16)

- Application #4 – We need to prepare now for Christ's soon return! In order to be ready for Christ's return, I choose to...
 - o Receive Christ and His offer of forgiveness of sins and eternal life
 - o Tell others about Christ so they can be ready
 - o Walk in holiness ready for His return

Tending the Lamps Among the 7 Churches Then and Among Us Today (Revelation 2-3)

- Note: Grace Fellowship did an 8-week sermon series on Revelation 2-3 in the Spring of 2008 called "Letters From God"
- Issues among the 7 churches back in the 1st Century:

THE LETTERS TO THE SEVEN CHURCHES	Church	Reference	Commendation	Rebuke	Action
	Ephesus	2:1-7	Hard work, perseverance	Forsaken first love	Remember and repent
	Smyrna	2:8-11	Suffered persecution, poverty	None	Don't fear; be faithful
	Pergamum	2:12-17	True to the faith	Tolerate compromise	Repent
	Thyatira	2:18-29	Love, faith, service	Tolerate immorality	Repent
	Sardis	3:1-6	Effective	Superficial	Wake up; repent
	Philadelphia	3:7-13	Faithful	None	Hold on
	Laodicea	3:14-22	None	Lukewarm	Be earnest and repent

This summary of the letters to the seven churches shows us the qualities our churches should seek and those we should avoid.

- Application #3 – How are our lamps burning for Jesus? Do we have any debris or impurities that are preventing our lamps from burning brightly? What priestly work do we need to allow Jesus Christ to do in us so that our lamps burn brightly for Him?
 - o Return to our first love (2:4)
 - o Repent of our idolatry and sexual immorality (2:14)