

BIBLE READING FOR 2023

WEEK #50

REVELATION

12-10-23

Monday - Revelation 1-4

Wednesday - Revelation 10-14

Friday - Revelation 19-22

Tuesday - Revelation 5-9

Thursday - Revelation 15-18

Revelation is the last book of the New Testament and understood by most to be God's final message to man. It is also the only writing of the New Testament considered to be a book of prophecy. The Greek word from which this part of Scripture gets its name is *αποκαλυψις* (apokalupsis). It is a word that means an unveiling, a revealing or a making known. However, this type of writing uses a lot of symbols and figures to communicate its message. Because of that, ironically, it has become for many the most confusing and mysterious book of the New Testament. This lack of understanding has led to a variety of false doctrines and predictions. Time alone has proven many of these claims untrue and yet those promoting them continue on undaunted. Since God is not a God of confusion, the original recipients of the Revelation could not have had the same kind of difficulty in understanding it that man has today. One benefit that the people of that day had, that we do not, was a familiarity with this kind of writing, known as apocalyptic literature. It was abundant during the period from 200 B.C. to A.D. 200. These other works were obviously not inspired, as Revelation was, but they used similar language and conveyed thought in the same way with symbolic numbers, words and terms. Yet in spite of any disadvantages we may have today, we are still assured in Scripture that if we seek the truth we will find it. Therefore, we must assume that what God wants us to know from any book of the Bible, including Revelation, can be found with dedication to Him and diligent study of His word.

One basic principle in learning any information is to start with the simpler portion and then go to the more difficult and the more complex. This is especially true in studying the Bible. By first learning what we can from the simpler New Testament books we can then go to a more difficult book like Revelation, and interpret it in light of knowledge about God's will that we have already gained. If Bible students would always take this approach, it would guide them down a much more productive road of study.

The author is recognized by most to be John the Apostle. The Revelation was given to an angel by Christ and the angel dictated it to John, who through inspiration, wrote it down while on the island of Patmos.

The date of writing which most would assign to Revelation is around A.D. 91-96. A smaller number favor an earlier date of A.D. 64-66.

The purpose of the book was to assure Christians that whatever happened and in spite of how things might appear to the contrary, they and their King would be victorious. Rome, who most see as the primary enemy of the church at the writing of Revelation, was again involved in persecuting the church. The Lord let His people know that if they would stay faithful, even if it cost them their physical lives, they would win the spiritual battle and receive eternal life. Winning the spiritual war today requires the same thing of us. In order for us to enter heaven and receive the victor's crown we also must serve Jesus faithfully, even to the point of death.

An outline for Revelation: 1.) Introduction and letters to the seven churches of Asia 1-3

2.) The throne scene 4

3.) The Lamb and the book 5

4.) Seven seals, seven trumpets & three woes 6-11

5.) Spiritual war and victory 12-22

Questions for Revelation 1-22:

1.) In 3:19 what did Christ tell the church at Laodicea to do?

2.) What did John see underneath the altar in 6:9?

3.) The number of those that were sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel in 7:4 was what?

4.) What did the angel tell John to do with the little book in 10:9?

5.) In 19:16 what was the name that was written on the robe and thigh of the rider that was obviously Jesus Christ?

Answers to questions for Week #49 – Haggai, Zechariah & Malachi:

1.) Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel and Joshua the son of Jehozadak.

2.) Because the Lord declared that He would be a wall of fire around her.

3.) The hands of Zerubbabel had laid the foundation of the house of the Lord and his hands would finish it.

4.) A fountain for sin and impurity.

5.) They were offering the blind, lame and the sick for their sacrifices.

Answers to questions for Week #50 – Revelation:

1.) Be zealous therefore, and repent.

2.) The souls of those that had been slain because of the word of God, and the testimony that they had maintained.

3.) 144,000.

4.) Eat it.

5.) "King of Kings and Lord of Lords."