

Week 49

<p>December 3</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Revelation 1</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Revelation 2</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Revelation 3</p>	<p>* Revelation begins, “The revelation of Jesus Christ...” Jesus is the central figure of the book. As you read, notice the images of Christ. I will mark the first few with a †. After that, continue to mark them as you read.</p> <p>* Revelation 1-3 record “things that are” (1:19). These messages were written to the churches of first century Asia Minor. However, the truths still apply to us today.</p> <p>† Rev 1:7 – Jesus is the one who “is coming with the clouds” in victory.</p> <p>† Rev 1:13– Jesus is the glorious “son of man.”</p> <p>? As you read the message to each church, ask “Does this describe me?” Notice the warnings and the promises.</p> <p>? Have you found it easy to “abandon your first love” (2:4)? If so, take the counsel given to the Christians at Ephesus; go back and do the things that you did when you first came to Christ.</p> <p>* The church at Laodicea received no commendation. But even here, those in the church who respond to Christ’s invitation will sit with him on his throne. You can be faithful even in difficult situations.</p>
<p>December 4</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Revelation 4</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Revelation 5</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Revelation 6</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Revelation 7</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Revelation 8</p>	<p>* Revelation 4-22 record “things that shall take place after this.” These chapters look at future events. You may find them confusing, because prophecies about the future are never as clear as histories of the past. If you find the details of these chapters difficult, focus on the big themes: God’s sovereignty, His protection of His people, Christ as victor over evil, and the great future for God’s people.</p> <p>? Revelation 4-5 shows a picture of worship in heaven. This worship is focused on God and His glory and holiness. Does your worship focus on God or on satisfying your own desires?</p> <p>† Rev 5:5 – Jesus is _____.</p> <p>† Rev 5:6 – Jesus is _____.</p> <p>* Jesus is portrayed in Revelation as the Lamb, but Rev 6:16 shows the “wrath of the Lamb.” We cannot reject him forever. The day will come when every knee will bow to His authority (Rev 5:13; Phil 2:11). We should bow willingly now rather than bow in defeat at the judgment.</p> <p>† Rev 7:17 – Jesus is the Lamb who becomes the shepherd.</p>
<p>December 5</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Revelation 9</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Rev 10</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Rev 11</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Rev 12</p>	<p>? Revelation 9:20-21 shows that mankind refused to repent even in the face of plagues and God’s judgment. Think about our world today. When you see the news, what signs do you see of man’s stubborn refusal to repent.</p> <p>* Throughout Revelation, the scenes of judgment are interspersed with scenes of worship in heaven. These scenes of worship remind us that regardless of the events of earth, God is still on His throne and He will ultimately triumph over evil (Rev 11:16-18).</p> <p>† Rev 12:5 – Jesus is _____.</p>
<p>December 6</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Rev 13</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Rev 14</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Rev 15</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Rev 16</p>	<p>? Revelation 13 shows that God’s path to victory includes suffering for His saints. Perseverance in the face of suffering is a major theme of Revelation. If God calls you to suffer, are you willing to suffer for Him?</p> <p>* One of the ways the beast of Revelation 13 deceives people is with “great signs.” We must never trust apparent miracles and signs if they come from teachers who do not follow Scripture. Signs can be faked; our final authority must be God’s Word.</p> <p>* Revelation 15:3-4 gives another picture of worship in heaven during the sufferings on earth.</p>

<p>December 7</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Rev 17</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Rev 18</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Rev 19</p>	<p>† Rev 17:14 – Jesus is _____.</p> <p>* A message of Revelation is endurance and faithfulness. Part of faithful endurance is avoiding compromise with evil. God called His people to “come out” of Babylon “lest you take part in her sins.” Babylon in Revelation represents the evil powers of this world. God’s people must never compromise truth for the sake of political, economic, or social power.</p> <p>? After you read Revelation 18 about the fall of Babylon (the powers of earth), take time to rejoice in the victory of God in Revelation 19:6-8. God is sovereign. Although the powers of evil may appear to be strong, God will ultimately win.</p> <p>† Rev 19:11 – Jesus is the Faithful and True rider on the white horse.</p>
<p>December 8</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Rev 20</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Rev 21</p>	<p>* Revelation was written to encourage suffering Christians. Notice Rev 20:6. To Christians suffering persecution in the Roman Empire, John wrote, “they will reign with him for a thousand years.” When John wrote this letter, the Western Roman Empire was less than 400 years from collapse. God’s kingdom will outlast the empire that was persecuting the Christians.</p> <p>? You must not read Rev 20:15 without asking, “Is my name written in the book of life?” If it is not, it can be. God’s promise is that everyone who believes can have eternal life. If you have never accepted Christ, please do not live another day without claiming His promise of new life.</p> <p>* As you read Revelation 21-22, remember the picture of the Garden of Eden in Genesis 2. In Rev 21-22, the Garden is restored. God reverses the results of man’s sin and once again lives with man in a perfect world. We can summarize the story of the Bible like this:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Creation of a perfect world (Gen 1-2) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Judgment for sin (Gen 3-11) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redemption through Israel – pointing to... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jesus Christ, the second Adam • Redemption through the Church, the new Israel ▪ Final judgment for sin (Rev 20) ○ New creation of a perfect world (Rev 21-22) <p>* Rev 22:4 may be one of the most exciting verses of the Bible. After the Fall, no one could see God and live. Moses wanted to see God’s face and could not. But in heaven, we “will see his face.” We will live forever in His glorious and beautiful presence. All the difficulties of life will be worth it when we see Him face to face.</p> <p>† Rev 22:12 – Jesus is _____.</p> <p>† Rev 22:16 – Jesus is _____.</p>
<p>Weekly Summary</p>	<p>Write down one “big lesson” that you have learned from this week’s readings. Each day next week, review this lesson and ask God to help you to apply the lesson in your daily life.</p>

Weeks 50-52

These final three weeks give you time to catch up if you have fallen behind in the reading. If you have finished on schedule, take these weeks to reflect on what you have learned in reading through the Bible this year. Review your notes and ask God to remind you of important lessons for the coming year. Ask God to continue to plant God's Word in your heart. Commit to living in daily obedience to His Word. Remember James 1:22-25 –

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.