
The Book of Revelation: Session 2

Revelation 1:4-11

YouTube: “Verse by Verse Teaching | Revelation 1:1-11 | Gary Hamrick” (40 minutes, taught on February 6, 2020)

Notes:

“Soon” (1:1 NIV, “shortly” NKJV): “Not necessarily soon, but when it does happen, it will happen quickly or suddenly.”

“Seven spirits” (1:4): (1) seven indicates the Spirit’s fullness/perfection (2) seven virtues of the Spirit (see Isa 11:2) (3) seven angels (see Rev 8:2)

“The saints are the “cloud” (see Hebrews 12:1) that He is surrounded by as He comes back to earth to establish His kingdom and to end the Battle of Armageddon (Revelation 19).”

Questions:

1. Read Revelation 1:4-6:

a. What are the implications of Jesus being...

... “Him who is, and who was, and who is to come”?

... “the faithful witness”?

... “the firstborn from the dead”?

b. Marty Culy writes, “Caesar was the *princeps regnum terrae* (“the ruler of the kings of the earth”). ... John makes a strategic choice of language, making it clear that the supreme ruler of this world is not Caesar, but Jesus. ... Caesar is a fraud. Jesus is the true King of kings and Lord of lords.” How does it impact you to recognize that Jesus is over all?

- c. Who are God's people according to verse 6? How should the recognition of these aspects of our identity impact our lives?
2. Read Revelation 1:7-8. How should believing in and belonging to the "Almighty" make us feel, and not feel?
 3. Read Revelation 1:9-11. In verse 9, the Apostle John places "kingdom" in between "suffering" ("tribulation") and "patient endurance" ("perseverance"). Craig Keener (biblical scholar) explains, "A church that is suffering in this world will long for heaven, and in turning our hearts toward our heavenly king, we will find strength to remember that the future world belongs to us." Why else might John sandwich "kingdom" in between "tribulation" and "perseverance"?
 4. Keener asserts, "The churches in Asia Minor were at a crossroads, impacted by persecution and wooed toward lives of compromise that might soften the persecution." Today's true church in Canada can relate to the pressure to compromise, and the threat of persecution is growing. J. B. PHILLIPS translates Romans 12:1-2: *"With eyes wide open to the mercies of God, I beg you, my brothers, as an act of intelligent worship, to give Him your bodies, as a living sacrifice, consecrated to Him and acceptable by Him. Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mould, but let God re-mould your minds from within, so that you may prove in practice that the plan of God for you is good, meets all His demands and moves towards the goal of true maturity."* What truth have we learned or been reminded of tonight that will help to "re-mould" our minds, helping to make us more and more like Jesus?

Want to dig deeper? Engage with these 3 sermons by John MacArthur, taught in 1991:

- <https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/66-3/the-certainty-of-the-second-coming>
- <https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/66-4/the-vision-of-the-glorified-son-part-1>
- <https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/66-5/the-vision-of-the-glorified-son-part-2>