**Book of REVELATION**

**Overview**

1. **Historical Context & Purpose**
   * Written during a time of **persecution under Roman rule**, Revelation offered encouragement and hope to early Christians, showing us how to face tribulation with enduring faith and resilience. Because the pervasive influence of Roman imperial ideology sought to assert dominion over all aspects of life, demanding absolute loyalty and worship, Revelation powerfully declares the sovereignty of God over all such governmental/worldly rulers, and vividly shows the ultimate defeat of all earthly powers that seek to usurp divine authority. This is the culmination of what Jesus demonstrated to the Pharisees in Matthew 2215-22 when they sought to *entangle/snare Him* by asking if it was lawful to pay tribute to Caesar or not and Jesus made a distinction between the worldly kingdom of Caesar and the kingdom of God when He told them to show Him a coin, asking *whose superscription is on it?* When they said *Caesar’s,* Jesus told them *Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s.*
   * Revelation conveys God’s sovereignty and the assurance that evil will ultimately be defeated. The assurance of victory underscored in Revelation empowers believers to persevere in faith and to live with confidence in the ultimate triumph of God's kingdom.
   * This book provides a profound perspective on the ultimate triumph of God over Satan, and good over evil and the **fulfillment of God's divine plan for humanity.**
   * As truths unveil the multifaceted divine nature of God, it compels us to contemplate Who He is in His entirety and embrace the transformative power of His eternal love and grace. ***The more we gain a deeper understanding of the nature of God, His unwavering sovereignty, boundless love, and redemptive purpose for humanity, the more we are inspired to embrace the transformative power of His divine nature and the hope found in His eternal promises.***

* How do I respond when my faith is tested in difficult or hostile environments?
* Where do I find hope when I feel surrounded by pressure or adversity?
* Where in my life do I feel pressure, opposition, or weariness in my faith?
* How can I let Revelation’s message of hope strengthen me today?

1. **Main Messages**
   * **Nature of God**: Depicted as eternal, sovereign, just, holy, merciful, and gracious.
   * Revelation *reveals to us* God’s nature: eternal and unchanging. Knowing what happens in the end ***changes everything****,* demonstrating that God's omnipresence and timeless existence, His sovereign authority over the past, present, and future has never been threatened. His nature is immutable: He is the great ***I Am,*** and has been the same, yesterday today and forever (Heb 138).
   * **Sovereignty**: God is proclaimed as the **Alpha and Omega**, focusing here on Him always in control from the very beginning to the very end, and orchestrating His rule over all to **fulfill** His divine plan.
   * **Justice**: God judges with fairness, vindicating the righteous and defeating evil, ruled by love and with mercy extended throughout. His holiness and righteousness has never changed and never been threatened. He is the depiction and ultimate source of purity and perfection. The imagery of the heavenly throne and the worship of celestial beings underscores the divine majesty and transcendent glory of God, underscoring His *awe-inspiring nature* and His *absolute moral perfection and unwavering commitment to justice*.
   * **Mercy & Grace/Redemption**: Offered through Christ’s sacrifice, longsuffering, and vicarious atonement to ***whosoever will***.
   * **Ultimate Destiny of Creation and Final Victory**: Evil is destroyed, and God vindicates the righteous and establishes His eternal kingdom and rule with a new heaven and earth.
   * **Interpretation**: Best understood in light of other biblical texts (e.g., Ezekiel, Daniel, Matthew).

* Do I live with the awareness that God is sovereign over history and my personal life?
* How does the promise of God’s ultimate victory shape the way I face current struggles?
* Do I trust God’s sovereignty even when I don’t understand what’s happening?
* How do I balance my view of God’s justice with His mercy and grace?
* How does God’s justice affect the way I view sin and accountability?
* Where have I personally experienced His mercy and grace?
* How can I extend mercy to others in my daily life?
* Am I allowing God’s grace to transform how I live daily?

1. **Revelation of Jesus**
   * This Book ***is*** the ***Revelation*** *of Jesus Christ.* Jesus is central.
   * This Book, like all others in the Bible is as Jesus proclaimed in John 5.39-40, *39You search and investigate and pore over the Scriptures diligently, because you suppose and trust that you have eternal life through them. And these [very Scriptures] testify about Me!* ***40****And still you are not willing [but refuse] to come to Me, so that you might have life.* The book of Revelation is as it says and has a special blessing in it, Revelation 1.3 - *Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.*
   * Revealed as:
2. **Alpha and Omega** (establishing once again the Trinity and that He was with the Father at the beginning and will be at the end), showing His eternal nature and sovereignty, seeing Him as ***victorious King*** (Rev 1911)and ***righteous Judge*** (Rev 2011).
3. **Lamb of God**, focusing on His sacrifice and redemption.
4. **Son of Man,** indicating His divine authority.
   * **Roles of Jesus**:
     1. Lamb slain yet triumphant.
     2. Victorious King riding the white horse.
     3. Holder of keys of death and Hades.
     4. Righteous Judge (great white throne).
   * Making the redemption of Jesus central presents God as the *ultimate source of love and compassion*, extending His boundless mercy and grace to humanity. The redemptive narrative woven throughout the Bible and culminating in the final victory of Revelation underscores God's profound love for His creation, in the sacrificial atonement offered through the Lamb of God. Revelation gives insights into the *end of time,* highlighting God's compassionate nature that offers hope and salvation to those who seek His divine grace.
   * God’s grace through Christ is given to cleanse and renew believers who “drink of the water of life,” reflecting God’s open offer of salvation.
   * His sacrificial death secures redemption, and His triumphant return guarantees the ultimate defeat of evil. **The grace of God is seen succinctly as the transformative force that transcends human frailty and sin**. The visionary imagery of the heavenly multitude, clothed in white robes washed in the blood of the Lamb, symbolizes the **transformative power** of God's grace, which **enables believers to be cleansed and sanctified**. This portrayal highlights God's unmerited favor and transformative grace, offering believers the assurance of **divine acceptance and spiritual renewal through His redemptive love.**

* Do I see Jesus primarily as my Savior, Judge, or King — and how should I hold all of these together?
* How does the image of Jesus as the Lamb who was ***slain yet victorious*** affect my worship and faith?
* What does it mean for me that Jesus is the Alpha and Omega — the beginning and end of my story?
* Which image of Jesus (Lamb, King, Judge, Alpha & Omega) speaks most to my life right now?

1. **Audience & Purpose**
   * Addressed initially to **seven churches in Asia Minor**, offering encouragement, warnings, and guidance not only to them but also to believers in every age.
   * It is written to *His* ***servants*** *#1401.* ***δοῦλος*** *doulos, doo´-los; from 1210; a slave (literal or figurative, involuntary or voluntary; frequently, therefore in a qualified sense of subjection or subserviency): — bond(-man), servants.* He is *Lord over* ***all****,* or *not Lord at all.*  This Book is to those whose have *made Him Lord* and submitted themselves to His rule.
   * *To show them and us things to come.* Its purpose is both **prophetic (warning and encouragement)** and **pastoral (strengthening faith and endurance).**
   * Overall purpose:
2. Prophetic encouragement and warning.
3. Portrayal of cosmic conflict and divine justice.
4. Unveiling of spiritual realities.
5. Call for endurance and faithfulness.

* How does the vision of the New Heaven and New Earth shape the way I live now?
* Am I storing treasures in this world, or investing in God’s eternal kingdom?
* How does the express way I live and my priorities demonstrate my values of what matters *eternally* over what is *temporal?*
* How does my life demonstrate I am Christ’s *servant, in a qualified sense of subjection?*
* Where do I need to *submit to the rule* of God in my life right now?

1. **Major Themes**
   * **Triumph of Good over Evil**: The teachings of Revelation are a constant reminder of the enduring sovereignty of God and the assurance that His divine plan will ultimately come to fruition, fulfilling His eternal purposes. *God's sovereignty WILL defeat of evil and WILL establish His eternal kingdom by the Lamb of God overcoming the forces of darkness and the fulfilling His sovereign plan for redemption, establishing His eternal reign of righteousness.*
   * **End Times & Judgment**:
2. All people face accountability before God’s throne, judged according to his deeds.
3. Sobering call for accountability and readiness.
4. Assurance of final restoration.
   * **Ultimate Victory of God’s Kingdom**: God will dwell with humanity and eternally reign with righteousness. Establishes the justice and eternal reign of righteousness and peace which is integral to the character of God and the destiny of His creation.

* How do I live knowing victory is already won in Christ, even when evil seems powerful?
* How does knowing I will stand before God’s judgment seat influence my choices now?
* Am I living in anticipation of God’s eternal kingdom, or am I *tethered* to this world?
* How can I learn to see beyond events happening *now* and discern the deeper spiritual truths God may be teaching me?

1. **Literary Style**
   * Falls under **apocalyptic literature**, rich with **symbolism, metaphor, allegory, and prophetic imagery (which is also seen and best interpreted with the books of Ezekiel, Daniel and Zechariah and the Word of God directly)**.
   * Uses visionary language to depict ***clearly*** cosmic conflict, divine justice, and eschatological hope, inspiring *perseverance and faith,* with a focus on God ruling ***all.***
   * Its apocalyptic visions and symbolic language offer a glimpse into the heavenly realms and the unfolding of God's redemptive plan for humanity. *By peeling back the veil between the seen and unseen,* the Book of Revelation invites readers to contemplate the deeper mysteries of faith and the ultimate fulfillment of God's purposes. The term "apocalypse" originates from the Greek word ***apokalypsis***, meaning "unveiling" or "revelation," reflecting the central theme of divine disclosure.
   * Written to His servants, ***His sheep who know His voice and will not follow the voice of a stranger*** (John 10**27**My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:...; John 105 ...And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers.)

Amos 3.7 *Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.*

2 Chronicles 16.9 For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him.

Proverbs 3:32 For the froward *is* abomination to the LORD: but his secret *is* with the righteous.

Psalms 25:14 The secret of the LORD *is* with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant.

Jeremiah 23.18 But which of them has stood in the council of the LORD to see and hear His word? Who has given heed to His word and obeyed it?  
Daniel 2.22 He reveals the deep and hidden things; He knows what lies in darkness, and light dwells with Him.

Isaiah 42.9 Behold, the former things have happened, and now I declare new things. Before they spring forth I proclaim them to you.

Genesis 18.17 And the LORD said, “Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do?

Psalm 25.14 The LORD confides in those who fear Him, and reveals His covenant to them.

Revelation 1.1 This is the revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants what must soon come to pass. He made it known by sending His angel to His servant John,...

John 15.15 No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not understand what his master is doing. But I have called you friends, because everything I have learned from My Father I have made known to you.

Matthew 13.11 He replied, “The knowledge of the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them.

1 Corinthians 2.10 But God has revealed it to us by the Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.

Ephesians 3.5 ...which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God’s holy apostles and prophets.

2 Peter 1.21 For no such prophecy was ever brought forth by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

Hebrews 1.1-2 On many past occasions and in many different ways, God spoke to our fathers through the prophets. / But in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, and through whom He made the universe.  
Numbers 12.6 He said, “Hear now My words: If there is a prophet among you, I, the LORD, will reveal Myself to him in a vision; I will speak to him in a dream.

Acts 2.17 In the last days, God says, I will pour out My Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.

Matthew 1310 And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables? **11**He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given. **12**For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath. **13**Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand. **14**And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive:

**15**For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them. **16**But blessed *are* your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear; **17**for assuredly, I say to you that many prophets and righteous *men* desired to see what you see, and did not see *it,* and to hear what you hear, and did not hear *it.*

Matthew 1334 All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables; and without a parable spake he not unto them: 35That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world.

* How clearly do I hear from the Lord in my own life, and what restricts my hearing from Him?
* When the *eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the earth to find hearts that are perfect toward Him,* does He see me? What do I need to change to have that *perfect heart* toward Him?
* How much time do I give to the Lord dedicated to *hearing from Him, hearing His voice clearly*?

In the book of **Revelation**, there are **seven blessings (sometimes called “beatitudes”)**. These are special promises of blessing given to believers who remain faithful to God.

1. **Revelation 1.3** – Blessing for reading, hearing, and keeping the prophecy.  
   *“Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.”*
2. **Revelation 14.13** – Blessing for those who die in Christ—they will find rest and reward.  
   *“Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.”*
3. **Revelation 16.15** – Blessing for watchfulness and spiritual readiness.  
   *“Blessed is the one who stays awake and remains clothed, so as not to go naked and be shamefully exposed.”*
4. **Revelation 19.9** – Blessing for those invited to Christ’s marriage supper.  
   *“Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!”*
5. **Revelation 20.6** – Blessing for those who partake in the first resurrection—they will reign with Christ.  
   *“Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them…”*
6. **Revelation 22.7** – Blessing for obedience to the words of Revelation.  
   *“Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy written in this scroll.”*
7. **Revelation 22.14** – Blessing for those cleansed by Christ—they enter the New Jerusalem.  
   *“Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city.”*