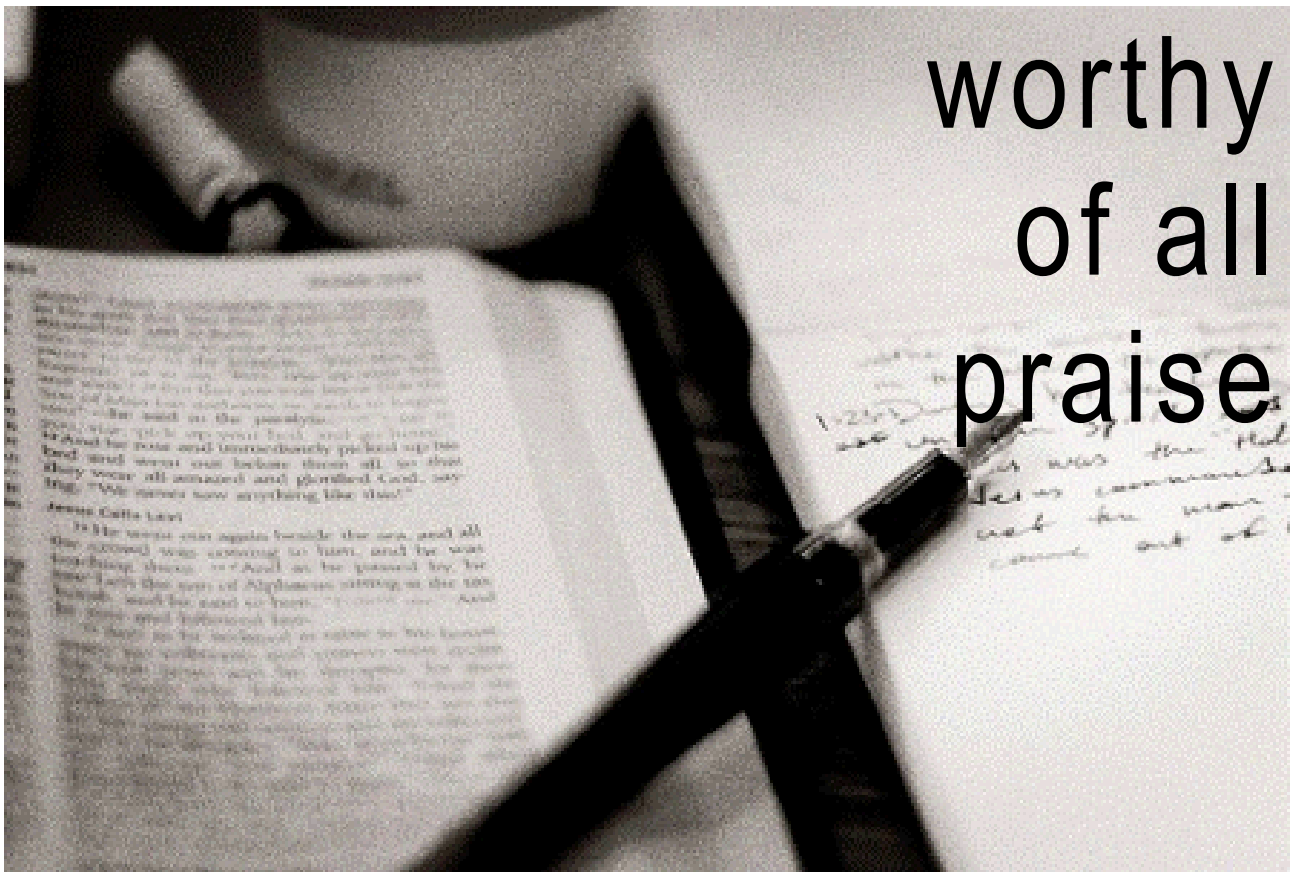


Revelation



worthy
of all
praise

5pm & 7pm Gatherings, Holy Trinity City
Term 3, 2013

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How to get the best out of these Studies...

These Bible studies accompany the sermon series at Trinity City in Term 3, 2013 which will focus on Revelation 4-22. If you'd like to hear the sermons on Revelation 1-3 (from Term 1 2012), you can download them from www.trinitycity.org.au

The studies are designed to pick up on some of the key themes in this somewhat complex part of God's word. They will also focus in detail on some of the key passages and texts to give you confidence in reading the Bible. They are divided into 3 parts: **appetiser** (to get you started); **main course** (to help think things through); and **dessert** (to wrap things up). There is also a reminder to pray!

There will be some hard work involved (to state the obvious)! Nevertheless, whether you are using these studies on your own, or in a small group, we pray that you will be encouraged that God **is** in control over all that He is made, and so He **is** worthy of all praise.

1

One like a Son of Man

Revelation 1:1-20

Appetisers

1. What are some of your concerns, questions, issues and emotions as you approach the book of Revelation?

2. What do you hope to get out of this series of Bible studies ?

Main Course

Read Revelation 1:1-3

3. What do we know about the book of Revelation? Why can we be confident about what has been written? What is the purpose of this part of God's word?

Read Revelation 1:4-8

5. What else do we know about the letter (who wrote it to whom, and why etc)? Who is being referred to in 1:4b-5a?

6. Given that the letter was written to Christians who were being persecuted for their faith, how would they react to 1:5b-8?

Read Revelation 1:9-20

7. What more do we learn about the letter (eg author and recipients)?
8. What does John witness? Which aspect most affects/impacts you? What do you think is the point being made to John?

Dessert

9. We are going to see that the historical context of Revelation seems very different from ours today. Summarise some of the things about GOD which we learn from chapter 1, and spend some time considering how those "timeless truths" might be helpful in our situation.

Pray ...

2

The letter to the churches

Revelation 2:1-3:22

Appetisers

1. If Jesus were to visit our church, what would He say? What would He be pleased about, and what would He be unhappy with?

Main Course

Read Revelation 2:1-3:22

2. There are 7 churches mentioned, and we learn lots about them by comparing and contrasting the different things that are said ...
 - a) How is Jesus described at the start of each message? Why do you think there are differences?
 - b) What does Jesus have to say to each church? What's positive, and what's negative? Is there positive and negative for each church?
 - c) How is each message concluded? Why do you think there are differences?

3. Are any of the churches in similar situations to ours? Which of the messages might we apply directly to us today? How should we do so? ?

4. What ought we do with the messages to the churches whose situations are completely different from ours?

Dessert

5. Revelation 1:11 makes it clear that there is only 1 letter being written, which is meant to be circulated to all 7 churches. How do you think the recipients would have felt as they “read other people’s mail”? How might they be encouraged? How should they react (or not react)?

Pray ...

3

Who is worthy?

Revelation 4:1-7:17

Appetisers

1. How does the thought of “never-ending praise of God” make you feel? Are you excited? Bored? What might help you to change your mind?

Main Course

Read Revelation 4:1-11

2. What do we know about the book of Revelation? Why can we be confident about what has been written? What is the purpose of this part of God’s word?

Read Revelation 1:4-8

3. This is a remarkable glimpse into God’s throne room. What stands out to you personally? What is the effect of the imagery meant to be?

4. Why is God worthy of all praise? How might you explain this to an unbeliever?

Read Revelation 5:1-14

5. The image changes to that of a scroll with 7 seals, which apparently contains a message well worth hearing. Who is worthy to open the scroll, and why?

6. Why is God worthy of all praise? How might you explain this to an unbeliever ?

Read Revelation 6:1-7:17

7. These 2 chapters contrast, in horrific extremes, the fate of believers and unbelievers. What is different? Why are there different destinies (what have they done to deserve either fate)?

10 | **Revelation: Worthy Of All Praise**

8. Why is God worthy of all praise? How might you explain this to an unbeliever?

Dessert

9. What makes you doubt the certainty of God's judgment **or** His salvation? How does Revelation 4-7 help you in this?

Pray ...

4

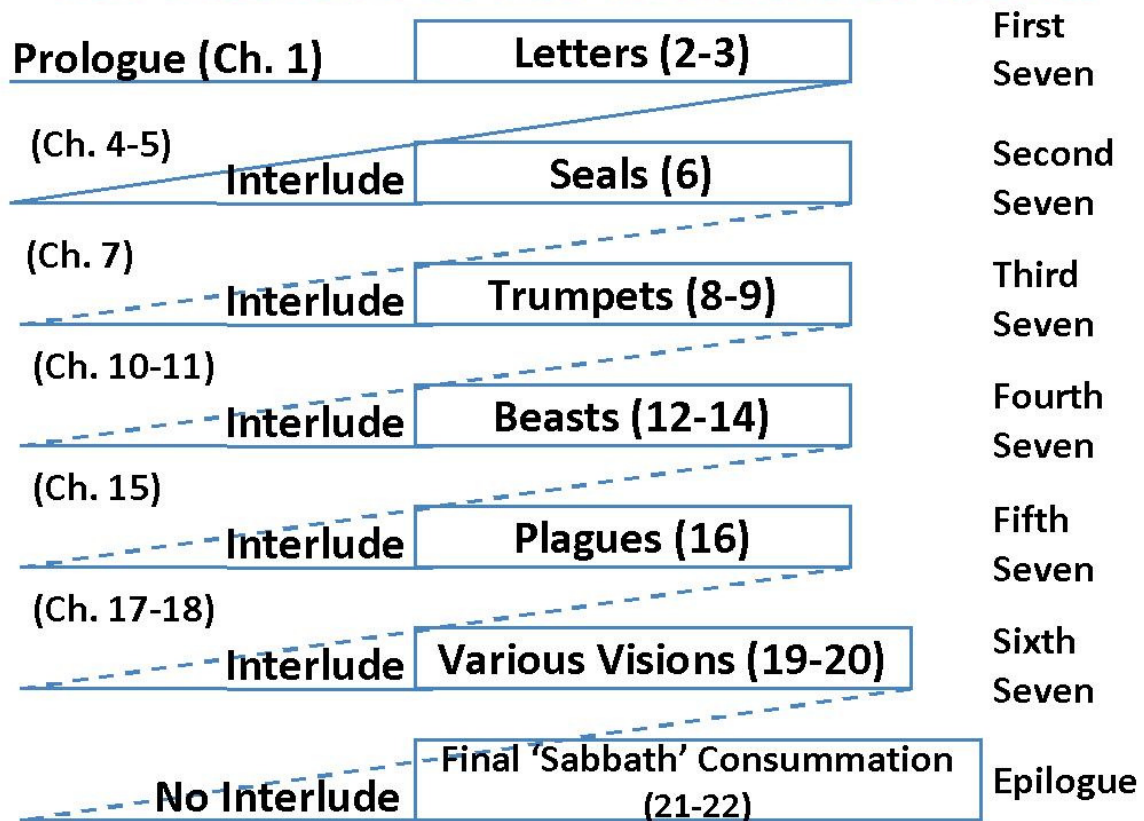
The Revelation Film Festival

Revelation 8:1-11:19

Appetisers

Revelation is complicated because it seems to repeat itself over and over again, making it hard to work out which point in history we are up to (as if it's a story told in linear fashion). Instead, it's better to see Revelation as multiple versions of the same event ...

The Structure Of The Book Of Revelation



1. What's "the event" that Revelation is referring to?

4. What does chapter **10:9-11** tell us about how people will respond to being evangelised? How ought we believers be prepared for such expectations?

Dessert

5. This has been a pretty confronting section, even for believers! What is the effect of the conclusion in chapter 11:15-19 on us? How do you find this easy or hard to apply to yourself, and to put into practice.

Pray ...

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6. What encouragement is offered in 14:13? How does this make us feel about our death, and the death of those who remained faithful to Jesus?

Dessert

7. Spend some time reflecting on how our Communion Service is designed to encourage us to remain faithful. (Perhaps you might even break bread in your small group!)

Pray ...

6

The Last Judgment

Revelation 15:1-20:15

Appetisers

1. Share a time when you have suffered injustice at the hands of others. How did you respond? How do you wish you had responded?

Main Course

This is the last judgment scene, and it focuses particularly on "Babylon". As the whole section is read straight through, try and work out "what's so bad about Babylon", that she might deserve what she gets ...

Read Revelation 15:1-20:15

2. What has Babylon done to deserve God's judgment on her?
3. How do you feel about rejoicing at Babylon's downfall (Revelation 19)?

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4. Revelation 16 highlights the refusal of humankind to repent (even though there is apparently still time to do so). Why won't people turn back to God? What might we say to unbelieving friends and family to try to convince them to change their minds? Share with each other what has been effective (and what has not)?

5. Focus in on "The Last Judgment" in 19:11-15. What is "the book of life"? How do you get your name written in it? What does it mean for Christians to be "judged according to what they have done"?

Dessert

6. What tempts you to give up your faith? How might Rev 15-20 encourage you to stand firm?

Pray ...

7 The New Heaven and a New Earth

Revelation 21:1-22:6

Appetisers

1. What are some of the different descriptions of “heaven” that you have heard? What’s appealing about them? What are some of the pitfalls?

Main Course

Read Revelation 21:1-22:6

2. What are some of the ways that the “new heaven and earth” are described? Which are most significant for you personally, and why?
3. What are the implications of there being a “new heaven and a new earth”? What does this say (or not say) about the connection between this life and the life to come?

8

“Just a little bit longer ...”**Revelation 22:7-21*****Appetisers***

1. Are you good at waiting (how might your friends and family respond to your answer to this question?!) What helps you to be patient? What makes things harder?

Main Course*Read Revelation 22:7-21*

2. Why do you think there are repeated commands to keep the words of the prophecy, and particularly not to alter them?
3. What is the point of verse 11? How should we interpret this warning?

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4. Why do you think there are repeated reminders that Jesus is coming soon?

Dessert

5. The apostle Paul helps us think through how we ought to live while we wait for Jesus' return. Read through the following passage, thinking about both our conduct and the motivation that is offered. What do you find easy, and what do you find hard? How might we encourage each other, and all the more "as we see the Day approaching ...?"

Colossians 3:1-11

¹ Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. ³ For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. ⁵ Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. ⁶ Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. ⁷ You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. ⁸ But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. ⁹ Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. ¹¹ Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

Pray ...

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