



KING OF GLORY

A LUTHERAN COMMUNITY

Revelation

Point:

John's message, his revelation, was to reveal that Jesus is Lord. Jesus is the Christ. Jesus is God come down to be with us. Jesus is the one who came to set us free from the power of sin and death and to defeat Satan.

The book of revelation can be confusing. It is filled with many strange, and sometimes even scary images. What we must remember is that this book had a single purpose; to reveal. That's where the book gets its name "revelation". It is a revelation of a man named John.

John wrote Revelation while in exile on the island of Patmos (revelation 1:9) which is a Roman prison in the Aegean Sea. Knowing that anything he wrote would be read, John wrote in code so only those who understood the code would understand his message. That is why it is so confusing, with so many symbolic images and numbers that have hidden meanings. But if you study it closely and understand what is going on at the time of John's writing Revelation, his message becomes clear.

John's message, his revelation, was to reveal that Jesus is Lord. Jesus is the Christ Jesus is God come down to be with us. Jesus is the one who came to set us free from the power of sin and death and to defeat Satan.

So there are not multiple revelations, just one. Jesus is Lord!

Scripture:

Revelation 1:1-8, 9; 21:5-7

Questions:

1. Open to the last book in your Bible. What is the name of the last book in the Bible? Is it plural or singular? Why do you think this is?

Note that this is called Revelation, not Revelations. This book reveals one message not several different messages. We will get at what that revelation is in the coming questions.

2. What have you heard about the book of Revelation?

There may be many different answers based on the students in your group. Some may not have heard anything while others may have heard a lot. Let the student share their thoughts and questions.



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3. Read Revelation 1:9. Who is the author of the book of Revelation? Where is he? Why is he there?

It is important for the students to realize that John is in a Roman prison because he is a Christian. At the time, it was against the law to be a Christian because Christians claimed that Jesus was Lord and God alone. At the time, the Roman emperor claimed to be lord and god alone. Claiming that Jesus as Lord and God was therefore illegal.

4. Read Revelation 1:1-8. What doesn't make sense? What questions do you have?

5. In verse 3, it says that the time is near. Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead. Then he ascended into heaven promising to return. Based on this, what do you think John may be talking about? What time is near? The early church thought that Jesus would return from heaven VERY soon. Many believe that he would return in their lifetime, so there was an urgency to make sure that everyone knew about this second coming of Jesus. Jesus never said specifically when he would return, only that he would return someday. But this belief by John that it would happen very soon shows us why he felt a great urgency to get this message out from his imprisonment.

6. What is the message, this revelation that John wants everyone to know? Look at verses 4 and 8. What phrase do you see repeated? The phrase is "who is, and was, and is to come".

7. What does this phrase mean? To whom does this phrase refer? This is referring to Jesus. It calls Jesus the "one who is and was and is to come".

8. What other phrases do you see that refer to Jesus? Some are "first born of the dead", "ruler of the kings of the earth", "Alpha and Omega, beginning and the end".

9. Who is talking in verse 8? Look at the end of Revelation to find out. Read Revelation 21:5-7 and 22:7, 12-13. It is Jesus who is talking.



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10. In these words, we see clearly John's "Revelation". What does this say about Jesus? Who else is called "the Almighty"? Who else is eternal (Alpha and omega, beginning and the end)?

John is revealing Jesus to be God. Jesus is not just a great teacher or a great leader, Jesus is God in the flesh. Jesus is the second part of the Triune God! This is the central message of the book of Revelation. Jesus is the Christ, God come down to be with us.

11. Why do you think this message is important? Why is it important to you that Jesus is not just a great teacher or leader, but actually God in the flesh?

There may be many different answers. What we want is for the students also to come to the conclusion that only God is perfect. So only God could pay the price for our sins. Jesus must be God in order to set us free from the power of sin and death and to give us eternal life.

12. What can we learn from the book of Revelation? What does it mean for your life?



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Student Questions:

1. Open to the last book in your Bible. What is the name of the last book in the Bible? Is it plural or singular? Why do you think this is?
2. What have you heard about the book of Revelation?
3. Read Revelation 1:9. Who is the author of the book of Revelation? Where is he? Why is he there?
4. Read Revelation 1:1-8. What doesn't make sense? What questions do you have?
5. In verse 3, it says that the time is near. Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead. Then he ascended into heaven promising to return. Based on this, what do you think John may be talking about? What time is near?
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