



BOOKENDS

GENESIS

REVELATION

A BEAUTIFUL PROLOGUE

REVELATION 1:1-3

SYNOPSIS

This sermon introduces the book of Revelation by examining its prologue in Revelation 1:1–3. Revelation is not given to satisfy speculation about future events, but to reveal Jesus Christ as the exalted King who reigns over history and sustains his Church. As apocalyptic prophecy, Revelation uses vivid symbols to uncover heavenly realities behind earthly events and to call believers to faithfulness, courage, and endurance. The book blesses those who read, hear, and keep its message, forming worshipful, urgent, Christ-centered lives as the Church awaits his certain return.

SERMON OUTLINE

1. **The Content of Revelation:** Revelation simply means “revealing” or “uncovering what is hidden.” But it is specifically a revealing “of Jesus Christ.” In Revelation we discover Christ our exalted King, ruling over his eternal kingdom, systematically defeating all of his enemies, guiding world history according to his purposes, blessing and sustaining his beloved Church, and preparing the world for his return.
 - a. Major Theme: Jesus Christ
 - b. Sub Themes: Other repeated themes come up regularly in Revelation (the nations, politics, spiritual warfare, persecution, final judgment, etc), but they always serve the major theme.
2. **The Essence of Revelation:**
 - a. Revelation’s genre is Apocalyptic Literature
 - b. Revelation is prophecy

- c. Five primary methods for interpreting Revelation: Preterist, Historicist, Futurist, Idealist, Eclectic
- 3. **The Purpose of Revelation:** Verse 3 lets us know that the purpose of Revelation is that we might be blessed. This begs us to ask three questions of ourselves in light of this blessing.
 - a. Is Christ being formed in me as I read and study this text?
 - b. Am I approaching this text with a heart of worship?
 - c. Is this text causing me to live with a greater Christian urgency?

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

LOOKING AT THE TEXT

1. Read Revelation 1:1 slowly. Who are all the persons involved in the giving and receiving of this revelation, and what does the sequence tell us about the authority and purpose of the book?

Leader note: This draws attention to God, Jesus Christ, the angel, John, and the servants, helping the group see the divine origin and intentional communication of the message.

2. In Revelation 1:3, list the three actions mentioned and the blessing attached to them. How are “reading,” “hearing,” and “keeping” different, and why do you think all three are necessary?

Leader note: This helps the group observe structure, repetition, and the ethical weight of the text, not just its informational content.

3. Re-read Revelation 1:1 and 1:3 and note the phrases “must soon take place” and “the time is near.” Based only on the text, what do these phrases seem intended to produce in the original hearers. Fear, speculation, urgency, faithfulness, or something else?

Leader note: This keeps the discussion grounded in authorial intent rather than modern timelines, and helps the group wrestle with how the text functions pastorally.

GROUP REFLECTION & APPLICATION

4. How has your previous experience with Revelation shaped your expectations of the book? Fear, curiosity, confusion, or comfort. How does this sermon challenge or reshape those expectations?
5. The sermon emphasized asking “What does this reveal about my King” rather than “What does this predict.” How might that shift change the way you read Revelation and the rest of Scripture?
6. Apocalyptic literature shows earthly events in light of heavenly realities. Where in your own life do you tend to interpret circumstances only on an earthly level? How might Revelation help you see

differently?

7. Revelation promises blessing not just to those who hear, but to those who keep what is written. What might obedience to Revelation look like in everyday Christian life?
8. The sermon stressed urgency because “the time is near.” In what ways might Christ’s return reshape your priorities, habits, or sense of mission right now?