

Revelation – The Big Picture

Week two – a family letter from Jesus reveals the big picture!

1. A letter that will bring blessing (1 – 3)

- To those who hear it and take it to heart
- The word of God and the testimony of Jesus
- Sent to a suffering church
 - The time is near! – Time: present, future and eternal

2. A letter written to seven churches in Asia (4 – 8)

- Specific to those 7 churches and the whole church till Jesus returns
- The unseen world revealed
- A family loved, freed and commissioned by God's command through Jesus by the power of the Spirit
 - Jesus alone fulfils all our human needs
 - Everything of value is found in and through Jesus
- To Him be glory and power for ever. Alpha and Omega – the always one – The Almighty
- A letter from the one who is everything!

3. A letter given to a suffering church (9 – 19)

- Personal suffering – John in exile
- Corporate suffering – 7 churches in Asia
- The lampstands – lights in a dark world
- One like the Son of Man (Daniel 7:13) Jesus is with his church
- John falls at his feet – 'Do not be afraid!' 'I am the living one'
- 'I hold the keys of death and hades'

Digging Deeper

Read Revelation 1

1. Why does a book written to suffering Christians start with a vision of heaven?
2. At this stage what would you say is the main purpose of the Book of Revelation?
3. Re-read verses 1 – 8. Where is the central focus of these verses?
 - a. What promises are stated or implied in vv. 1,3,7?
4. Re-read verses 9 – 20. How does John explain his presence on the Island of Patmos?
5. In the vision John sees what parts of the figure seem human, what seem beyond human?
 - a. Where else in the Bible do we find a similar description
 - b. What clues do you find to the identity of the figures?
6. Re-read verses 17 – 20. How does John react to the person he sees? How is he reassured?
7. How does Jesus express his victory over death? (vv 17 – 18)
8. What is the significance of the seven lampstands?
 - A. How does John's vision compare to your ideas of the Risen Lord Jesus?
 - B. What difference does it make to a suffering church to know that Christ is living and reigning now?
 - C. Are we a suffering church?