



+INTRODUCTION

Not only was John like a younger brother to Jesus, a disciple whom Jesus loved (Jn 13:23), but he was also a very good pastor. John had made it his central aim to help the churches, whom he cared for, to know & worship, Jesus. Every good pastor/bible study leader should also make this their goal. John knew that the most important thing which would equip and sustain the members of the churches to whom he was writing, who were suffering tribulation (Rev 1:9), was to have an understanding of Jesus in His present glorified and victorious state.

Many believers have an outdated picture of Jesus in their mind. The ideas most people think of when considering Jesus is either: a vulnerable baby in a manger or, a weak,

tortured and crucified human. Yet the reality is, Jesus was only weak and humiliated for around 33 years. Prior to his incarnation (becoming a man) Jesus was honored + glorified, and subsequently after his death, resurrection he ascended back into heaven where He reentered his honored + glorified state. Today, He is currently seated at the right hand of God while receiving worship by angels and saints. (Heb. 2:9, Phil 2:5-9).

John carefully records what he saw (Rev. 1:11), no doubt hoping that the content would provide a lasting source of strength and encouragement to all who would read and obey (Rev. 1:3). The vision John receives of Jesus is one which is not so much intended to be a description of what Jesus "looks like," but rather what Jesus "is like."

+READ

Revelation 1:9-20

Read this passage out loud together as a group/family before asking any of the below questions.

+OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

In vs. 10, John hears "a voice like a trumpet," commanding him to "write...what he saw," after which he turns to see the One who spoke. What John saw, recalls back to the visions of Daniel the prophet, centuries earlier. How do the following passages below help you to understand John's vision of Jesus in Revelation 1:12-16?

Daniel 7:9-10
Daniel 7:13-14
Daniel 10:4-6

Read the following verses: Isaiah 49:2, Hebrews 4:12 + Revelation 2:16, 19:15,21
Based upon the above, how do they help you to understand, "from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword". (Rev. 1:16)

Why do you think John "fell at His feet as though dead", when he saw Jesus? (1:17)

Verses 17-18 give a vibrant and colorful description of Jesus. Which images impress you most about the magnificence and glory of Jesus...Why?

+APPLICATION

How do these glimpses of the glorified Christ, robed in power and authority, offer hope to you?

Why do you think we are seldom overcome with a sense of "awe", (like John, in vs. 17) when we read our bibles, pray, worship or consider something of the beauty and glory of Jesus?

+MEMORY VERSE

Rev 1:17 When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, Fear not, I am the first and the last,



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+What is a community group?

Community groups are small gatherings of believers (non-believers are welcomed too!) that meet regularly for accountability, friendship, study of the word of God and prayer. Community groups are an essential part of the mission of Calvary SLO Church. They're a place where we learn more about the life Jesus wants us to live together. They're the place where we wrestle with the truths of the Bible and encourage one another toward the life God intends. Each community group is unique and molded by the people who attend it. Most community groups gather weekly and involve food, dialog, prayer, discussion for applying the Bible to practical living, and loving service to one-another. They're meant to be an organic and authentic expression of the church, actively acting like the body of Jesus.



+Why should I join/start a community group?

God is a Trinitarian God who is one & three persons: Father, Son, and Spirit. We have been made in the image of God, which means we have been designed for community & friendship. Often times we suffer when we are not actively in community, because life in our broken world is complex and and there are many temptations to go at it alone. Our encouragement is for you to gather with a small group of friends, family or roommates on a weekly basis and use the study notes provided to press into the Bible by having a time of discussion and prayer. Mix it up a bit, these times together should be encouraging to each other.

+Why should I consider becoming a part of the Calvary SLO Community Group Team?

We are enthusiastic about all levels of community, however there are definite benefits to leading a Calvary SLO Community Group, such as but not limited to: leadership counsel and guidance / spiritual covering, equipping and training, promotion of your group thru means of website, bulletin, special Sunday announcements, etc. We love having groups available in all areas of the county, available for all walks and seasons of life, and the variety of various structures and styles. Simply contact Pastor James at james@calvaryslo.com, or 805.543.8516 x3.

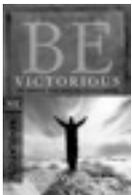
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+Resources

There are many resources available to help you study the book of Revelation. At the same time there are many resources espousing misguided apocalyptic views, which fuel more of a sense of fear & paranoia than praise, directed toward Jesus. Aside from that there are many different lenses by which Christians have historically viewed this book, most of which are born from diligent study and a high regard for the inspiration of the bible.

The books listed below are only a small handful of helpful resources, pastor Bryan has found beneficial in his studies of this great book, and happen to view Revelation through the lens of a historical pre-millennium view (more on the various millennium views to come).

EASY



Be Victorious
by W. Wiersbe

INTERMEDIATE



Because the
Time is Near
by J. MacArthur



Revelation: The
Christians Ultimate
Victory (study guide)
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Revelation
by D. G. Barnhouse

EXPERT



The Book of
Revelation
Robert H. Mounce

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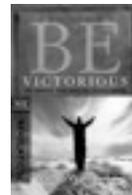
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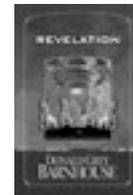
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