

“It’s all about Jesus!”

1. Intro:

- 1.1. Prayer for Missions teams: Peru; Dominican; Belize; Haiti.
- 1.2. Questions:
 - 1.2.1. So why do you like the book of Rev.? (ask)
 - 1.2.1.1. We are **inspired** by its content, **fascinated** by its prophecies, & **stand in awe** of its mysteries. (www)
 - 1.2.2. Q: How many have seen my Power Point on an Overview of Rev.?
- 1.3. Tonight: Intro; background; How we are going to look at it.
 - 1.3.1. Illustration: Like this picture – explain its background.
 - 1.3.1.1. Yossi Rosenstein (“Symbolic Art”)
 - 1.3.1.2. Have someone tell what they see from row 10.
 - 1.3.1.3. Have someone tell what they see from row 5.
 - 1.3.1.4. Have another come take a closer look.
 - 1.3.2. In viewing art “no single visit will be sufficient” the more you visit the painting, the more it will reveal itself to the visitor, the more it will reveal the Artist/Author himself! [Apply to Scripture/God]
 - 1.3.3. So the question is...What will God unveil to us this time through?
- 1.4. Why people are afraid of this book:
 - 1.4.1. Some see Rev as “a riddle, wrapped in a mystery, inside an enigma.” *Winston Churchill*
 - 1.4.2. Some see Rev as a kind of a “biblical boogey-man”. *Swindoll*
 - 1.4.3. Everyone is quick to say it is God’s Inspired Word!...but, a part of everyday life? - Application for today?
 - 1.4.3.1. Yet, it is **piercingly relevant** & has some of the most **straightforward advice** for the Church in all of Scripture!
 - 1.4.4. **Symbols, they Scare me!!!** – Why did John use symbolism?
 - 1.4.4.1. Symbols don’t weakened w/time!
 - 1.4.4.2. Symbols not only **convey information**, but also impart **values & raise emotions**.
 - 1.4.4.3. For instance John could have written “a dictator will rule the world.” But instead he described - “a **beast**”!
 - 1.4.4.3.1. Instead of a world system - “**Babylon!**”
 - 1.4.5. Biblical symbols are consistent w/the whole biblical revelation.
 - 1.4.5.1. **Some symbols are explained:** “7 stars are 7 Lampstands” (1:20)
 - 1.4.5.2. **Others are understood in the O.T.:** “Tree of life” (2:7)
 - 1.4.5.2.1. Out of 404 vs. in Rev. 278 contain ref to the OT.
 - 1.4.5.3. **Some aren’t explained at all:** “White stone” (2:17)
 - 1.4.6. Symbols speak of reality = a flag stands for the existence of a nation.

- 1.5. We must be careful not to allow our imagination to run wild.
- 1.5.1. Don't overanalyze the details. (i.e. **666**, *Ronald Wilson Reagan*)
 - 1.5.2. *Mikhail Gorbachev* (his birth mark?)
- 1.6. Be careful not to read too much of “*our world*” into the text:
- 1.6.1. Try not to try to correlate **every image** to a modern equivalent.
 - 1.6.2. Every generation has had its Antichrist & Babylon!
- 1.7. Don't lose the **Big Picture**!
- 1.7.1. When lost in the details, lift your head up for air!
 - 1.7.2. What is the Big Picture? Mankind started well, then went bad fast! The promise of a **deliverer** was 1st given in “*the seed of a woman*”. The **hope** was passed on to **Abraham**, then to **Isaac**, then to **Jacob** who passed it on to **his sons**. Then it was beautifully illustrated in **Exodus**. It was longed for by **the Judges**, amplified in the **Kings**, & predicted by **the Prophets**. Finally it was fulfilled in the **Gospels**. But not until the Rev does it come to its fullest climax. Christ rides out of heaven to destroy Sin & Satan, & to **restore creation** to its original glory for our good, & His good pleasure forever!¹
- 1.8. Why **I love this book**:
- 1.8.1. I love John's writing style (think of his Gospel; 1 Jn; love)
 - 1.8.2. It's Beatific Vision! – **Rev.21:3**
 - 1.8.3. 2 of the most beautiful chapters on Worship (ch.4 & 5).
 - 1.8.4. Stir us to a deeper commitment for the Lord in light of end-time events. – And to promote a concern for lost souls.
- 1.9. Is Rev really a book for us to understand?
- 1.9.1. Read **1:1** - “**unveiling**” (not veiling) a “laying bare”.
 - 1.9.2. Read **22:10** – It wasn't to be **sealed**!
 - 1.9.3. This is Jesus' **Royal Mail** to the Church!²
- 1.10. What views are there, & which view will we take?
- 1.10.1. **Historical View** - A panorama of the history of the church from the days of John to the end of the age.
 - 1.10.2. **Spiritualistic View** - This viewpoint **spiritualizes & allegorizes** the text! Saying basically that these are not actual events but are simply stories of the struggle between good & evil! [emerged in the 4th cent., Catholic & Reformers held/hold to]
 - 1.10.3. **Preterist**(Latin for *past*) View - All ready fulfilled in Roman Empire.
 - 1.10.4. **Futuristic**(prophetic) View - Literal, future, normal, plain. They see from ch.4 on as yet to be fulfilled. **[the view we'll take!]**

¹ Chuck Swindoll; “God's Masterwork”, Revelation Overview; pg.123

² Chuck Swindoll; the 7 Churches of Rev; pg.1

- 1.11. **Revelation answers the deeper questions of life! Like, Why are we here? Where is this mixed-up, out-of-control world heading?**
- 1.11.1. It's ok to be dissatisfied w/this world...because we were created for a better one!
- 1.11.1.1. A world **w/o pain!**
- 1.11.1.2. **Perfect harmony** w/our **Creator**, & w/**each other**.
- 1.12. **Q: What is the world asking for right now in the news?**
- 1.12.1. **U.S. out** of Iraq & Afghanistan.
- 1.12.2. **World Peace!**
- 1.12.3. **Iran** not to develop Nuclear weapons.
- 1.12.4. Peace in the **Middle East**.
- 1.12.5. A **Greener Earth**. - **Global Warming**.
- 1.12.6. "Can't we all just **get along?**"
- 1.12.7. **Wait, isn't that *our message* of the millennium?**
- 1.12.7.1. No wars, a remade earth(plants & animals), world peace!
- 1.12.8. Folks we can guarantee this for them if they'd except Christ!
- 1.12.9. **It is a Grim future for the Earth! [1]** Scientist say, our environment can't hold up. **[2]** Economist say, w/in 40 yrs. we'll be raped of our natural resources. **[3]** Militarist say, we can't survive an atomic nor nuclear world war. **[4]** Diplomats say, the fuse is lit in the Middle East & it's going to blow! **[5]** Historians say, man's tried every form of government & none are w/o flaw!
- 1.12.10. **It's a Great future for Heaven! [1]** God says 1 form of Gov. will work...a Monarchy w/a Righteous Monarch! **[2]** The Good News is & our absolute promise is...**"The Lamb Wins!"**
- 1.13. **The Revelation!** (not "s")
- 1.13.1. In the **4 Gospels** they "reveal" Jesus in His **Humility**, Now Revelation "reveals" Him in His **Glory!**
- 1.13.2. It is **Apocalyptic literature**: {writings that employ symbolic lang. to tell of Divine intervention which will take place in the future}
- 1.13.2.1. Barclay, "**All Apocalyptic literature is necessarily cryptic. It is continually attempting to describe the indescribable, to say the unsayable, to paint the unpaintable.**"
- 1.13.2.1.1. i.e. How do you describe **heaven?** Or, **the resurrected Lord...in human terms?**
- 1.14. **Revelation is where things come to a fitting conclusion!**
- 1.14.1. Creation of heaven & earth; Creation of NEW heaven & earth.
- 1.14.2. 1st Adam reigning on earth; last Adam reigning in glory.
- 1.14.3. Night & seas created; No more night, no more sea.
- 1.14.4. A bride brought to Adam; The Bride prepared for Christ.
- 1.14.5. A tree of life in Eden; A tree of life in the New creation.
- 1.14.6. Death & a curse; no more curse, no more death & tears.
- 1.14.7. Man driven from God's face; Men see his face in glory.
- 1.14.8. Believers looking for a city; The Holy City presented in glory.
- 1.14.9. Where is the Lamb? The Lamb reigns!
- 1.14.10. Satan utters the 1st lie; nothing that makes a lie enters the city.

1.15. How should we interpret it?

- 1.15.1. "The Chinese say that it's very difficult to **prophecy**, especially about the future!"
{It's easy for the One who sees our *Future* as *Past!*}
- 1.15.2. See it Chronologically! (do ch's 1-22)
- 1.15.3. Yes we'll talk about **the future**; but let's not forget the meaning to its **original readers**; or its timeless truths for **us today**.
- 1.15.4. We will interpret it with "normal, grammatical, historical, ordinary literal sense" w/in the normal context that it is written.
 - 1.15.4.1. When the literal makes sense, seek no other sense.
 - 1.15.4.2. When it doesn't (i.e. a symbol) we will use proper rules of grammar & interpretation.

2. **IT'S ALL ABOUT JESUS! (1:1-3)**

2.1. **Just Give Me Jesus!**

- 2.2. (1) Revelation unveils the central figure of Scripture in all His Glory...**Jesus Christ!**
 - 2.2.1. He is the Savior to whom all symbols point.
 - 2.2.2. To miss seeing Jesus in Rev is to squint so hard staring into the sun & thus missing the sun!
 - 2.2.3. It's the **most worshipful book** in the bible. For it reveals the glorious splendor of our gracious Lord.
- 2.3. **Revelation** = 1st He is the **revealer**; 2nd He is the **content** or **object** of the Revelation.
- 2.4. **From:** the Father, to Jesus, to the angel, to John, to His servants.
- 2.5. (2) John **saw** & recorded these things.
- 2.6. (3) The only book in the bible that promises a **blessing!** (7 in Rev)
 - 2.6.1. Who hear & obey(1:3); Who die in the Lord(14:13); Who look for Christ's return(16:15); Who are invited to the Messianic banquet(19:9); Who have part in the 1st Res(20:6); Who keep the words of the prophecy of this book(22:7); Who wash their robes(22:14).
- 2.7. **Reads** – reads aloud.
 - 2.7.1. In the **ancient world** not everyone could read (estimate about 20/30% were able) & not many could afford books/scrolls.
 - 2.7.2. Col.4:16 "Now when this epistle is read among you, see that it is read also in the church of the Laodiceans, and that you likewise read the epistle from Laodicea."
- 2.8. **Hears** –
- 2.9. **Keeps** – Takes to heart, heeds.
 - 2.9.1. **Read Rev.22:7**
 - 2.9.2. **Q: Shall we commit to keeping** the things we are about to read in the next weeks?