

# Summary

This sermon introduces a series on the book of Revelation, focusing on understanding it as a revelation rather than a mystery to be decoded. The pastor shares his personal journey of studying Revelation and discovering that many popular interpretations, particularly about the rapture, contradicted what Scripture actually teaches. He emphasizes that Revelation is not a code about the future but a clear message to first-century churches living under Roman occupation. The book uses apocalyptic literature - a style familiar to Jews of that time, similar to how we understand political cartoons today. The central message calls believers to faithful witness and resistance against any system that demands the allegiance belonging only to God. Rather than focusing on fear-based interpretations about end times, the pastor encourages readers to see Revelation as a book of hope and grace that reveals Jesus Christ and exposes the false reality that human governments and powers try to create.

## Intro Prayer

Lord, we come before You today asking that You would open our hearts and minds to receive Your word. Help us to set aside any preconceived notions or fears we may have about this book of Revelation. Give us discernment to see what You want to reveal to us through Your Spirit. May we be open to learning and growing in our understanding of who You are and how You call us to live faithfully in this world. Guide our discussion and help us to encourage one another as we seek to follow You more closely. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## Ice Breaker

What's one movie or TV show that completely changed how you viewed something in real life after watching it?

## Key Verses

- Revelation 1:1-8
- Matthew 24:29-31

# Questions

- How does understanding Revelation as 'apocalypsis' (a revealing) rather than a mystery change your perspective on this book?
- The pastor mentioned that nothing in the Bible is written TO you, but every message is FOR you. What's the difference, and why is this distinction important?
- What are some 'systems' in our current culture that might demand loyalty that belongs only to God? How do we navigate these challenges?
- How can we avoid filling gaps in our biblical understanding with fear-based interpretations rather than careful study?
- The sermon compared apocalyptic literature to political cartoons. Can you think of other modern examples that help us understand how symbolic language works?
- What does it mean practically to be 'faithful witnesses' in our current context, similar to how the first-century churches were called to be?
- How does viewing Revelation as a book of 'grace and peace' rather than fear change how we approach difficult passages in Scripture?
- The pastor emphasized that we should follow 'the Lamb wherever he leads.' What does this look like in your daily life and decision-making?

## Life Application

This week, identify one area in your life where you might be giving allegiance to a system (whether political, economic, or cultural) that should belong only to God. Pray about how to realign your priorities and take one practical step toward faithful witness in that area.

## Key Takeaways

- Revelation means 'apocalypsis' - a revealing or making known, not a mystery to be decoded
- The book was written to first-century churches under Roman occupation, not as a roadmap for modern end-times events
- Apocalyptic literature was a familiar style to ancient Jews, similar to how we understand political cartoons today
- The central message calls believers to faithful witness against any system demanding allegiance that belongs only to God

- Revelation should inspire grace and peace, not fear, as it reveals Jesus Christ and exposes false human power structures

## Ending Prayer

Father, thank You for revealing Yourself to us through Your word. Help us to be people who follow the Lamb wherever He leads, even when it's difficult or costly. Give us courage to resist systems that demand our ultimate allegiance, knowing that You alone are God. May we live as faithful witnesses in our generation, just as the early churches were called to do in theirs. Help us to find hope and peace in Your sovereignty, knowing that You are the Alpha and Omega, the One who is, who was, and who is to come. Guide us this week as we seek to apply these truths to our daily lives. In Jesus' name, Amen.