

Revelation 1:1-3

Good morning Church.

What a joy it is to be in the presence of the Lord this morning.

This morning we will began our endeavor through the verse-by-verse study of Revelation.

We will spend much of the morning in an introduction of the Book, to set the stage for all that we will learn.

Then we will look at the first three verses this morning.

Now I love a great mystery, and I love movies and books that just leave you on the edge of your seat in suspense.

Jess actually hates watching these suspenseful movies with me, because I like to keep a running commentary through the whole movie.

I want to discuss every detail with her, and try to figure out who the murderer is, or the twist that is written within the plot.

I like to talk about better plots and ideas, discuss the characters, and I even like to grade the acting.

Jess however, simply likes to watch, and she is greatly annoyed with my running commentary of these types of movies.

I even sit there and do my own research on my smartphone as the movie is going, to see if facts are right, if the history lines up, if science really allows for what the movie is claiming.

Or I even get impatient and will google the ending.

Jessica threatens my life, if I try to ruin the movie for her.

She will sometimes pause the TV, look at me, and wait for me to finish my great evaluation, and asks, “Are you done yet, I want to watch the movie?”

I am silenced for but a moment usually, and I can't help but give my input on the story line.

Well, this week we are starting a very exciting Book, and I am thrilled that you all will be here for the commentary of this Great Revelation.

It is exciting for me that I get to research, study, and talk about this thrilling story of the end of human history, with the supernatural scenes, the coming battles and the victory of the King of kings, and an eternal home for those who are found faithful at the end of this story.

It is a great honor that God has entrusted me with the remote and dialogue of this story to our congregation. I will get to pause it, and play it as the Lord leads.

It is at times a dreadful story, a heart pounding story, at times things even seem uncertain, but in the end Good wins.

And that is such a hope for us today as believers.

We live in a dark, dark world; in fact, every generation of man that has ever walked in this world could look around and think to himself that evil is prevailing.

Evil has always seemed to overwhelm the good in this life.

It seems the Devil is having a great time in this world.

It seems at times the world is so lost, so evil and so debased it can never recover.

In our state of California, things are happening so fast, that it surely seems the godless are winning.

Just look at what our state legislators are trying to pass this month...

- **[SB 179: Change Your Gender Bill](#)** This bill completely changes the meaning of the words “male” and “female,” from a physical description of reality, to a description of feelings and self identification. And it also officially creates a third gender, “non-binary” for those who don’t want to identify exclusively as either sex. Specifically, SB 179 simplifies the ability of people to change the gender listed on their driver’s licenses or birth certificates to one of three options, by simply filling out a form; no questions asked; no proof required. Parents of children will also be able to change the sex of their children listed on their birth certificate no matter how young, if parents think their child’s body doesn’t match their “true” gender. [For more information...](#)
 - **Hearing info:** SB 179 to be heard in the Assembly Transportation Committee next Monday, July 10th, at 2:30 p.m. Members of the [Assembly Transportation Committee](#) and their contact info can be found [here](#).
- **SB 310: Gender changes for inmates** This bill will simplify the process for inmates to change their names and gender while in the custody of state or county prisons. Currently, a gender change while in jail must be approved by correctional facility officials before official documents can be changed. If this bill passes, the decision will no longer be up to correction officials, but made by a judge instead. We believe this will lead to men, who claim to be women, being housed with women inmates. You don’t need much of a imagination to know what big issues this would cause.
 - **Hearing info:** SB 310 will be heard in the Assembly Public Safety Committee next Tuesday, July 11th, at 9:00 a.m. The members of the Public Safety Committee can be found [here](#).

Anti-Religious Liberty Bills:

- **SB 219: LGBT Rights Long-term care facilities** This bill will inflict civil penalties on any skilled nursing facility, intermediate care facility, or residential care facility and their staff if those patients identifying as transgender aren’t referred to by their preferred gender pronoun. (The gender pronoun list could contain as many as 50 options) The bill also mandates that gender be determined by self identification, not biology. As a result, anyone claiming to be a woman or a man would have to be treated like their preferred sex in regards to rooming situations and bathroom usage. Any sex between residents, or between residents or visitors can not be prohibited. There are no exemptions for religious institutions. Not only does this bill violate the religious liberty rights of faith based senior facilities, but it violates free speech rights by compelling people to use speech they might disagree with. [For more information...](#)

- **Hearing info:** SB 219 will be heard in Assembly Judiciary Committee next Tuesday, July 11th, at 9:00 a.m. The member of the Assembly Judiciary Committee and their contact info can be found [here](#).
- **AB 569: Prohibits Pro-Life Codes of Conduct** This bill is specifically outlaws employer codes of conduct for employees that prohibit abortion or contraception. This includes all churches, religiously affiliated schools, and pro-life non-profits. There is a very narrow exemption for ministers. The author also intends to use the law to outlaw codes of conduct prohibiting sex outside of marriage. This bill is directly targeting religious groups who want to operate their organizations according to Biblical principals. [For more information...](#)
 - **Hearing info:** AB 569 will be heard in the Senate Judiciary Committee next Tuesday, July 11th, at 1:30 p.m. The members of the Senate Judiciary Committee and their contact information can be found [here](#).

Parental Rights

- **[AB 677 Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Disparities Reduction Act](#):** Currently, primary and secondary schools that have students fill out the California Healthy Kids Survey, must get parental approval if the questions about a student's sexual orientation are included. Some schools remove the sexual orientation question so they can give kids the survey without parental approval. This bill would prohibit schools from taking out the sexual orientation question if they are going to make their students take the California Healthy Kids Survey. Public school administrator have no business asking children to reveal their sexual feelings. This bill puts more pressure on schools to ask these very personal questions.
 - **Hearing info:** AB 677 will be heard in the Senate Governmental Organizational Committee next Tuesday, July 11th, 9:30 a.m. The member of the Senate Governmental Organizational Committee hearing and their contact information can be found [here](#).

You see they are trying to crush the Christian faith in our state.

Evil seems to be winning, crime in our state is ever increasing do to the progressive lawmakers reforming our criminal justice system.

Crime in the High Desert is on the rise, and the Law Enforcement officers hands are tied by the liberal agenda in Sacramento.

Things are growing darker all around us.

Now, that is what makes the Book of Revelation so exciting, as we get to see how it all ends.

There is so much hope laid out for us in this ancient book.

This book of the Bible has been dismissed throughout church History as irrelevant and even impossible to understand.

Some have attempted to read this book and have given up because the imagery that has left them confused and even frustrated.

Some have even left this book out of their own devotional time out of fear of the message it brings.

Many traditional Christian's prefer to keep Christianity safe and comfortable.

Religion and regulation is where they are determined to stay in their Christian walk, for which Revelation really buffets against their comfort.

Some Christians prefer not to entertain the supernatural at all.

Now this book is indeed uncomfortable, even at times will be as though it is a bad dream.

Yet as we will see through this study, it is one of the most comforting, encouraging books of the Bible.

Now I want to talk about the writer.

It was the very last surviving apostle who wrote this Book.

John, the Beloved, was the one who wrote down the words revealed in this book.

The same writer of the Gospel of John, and the 3 Epistles of John.

As we will see in our study, the writer many times throughout this letter gives his name as simply, John.

He never specifies himself as being the Apostle John.

And this has caused some confusion.

However, being the only Apostle alive at this time perhaps made it unnecessary for him to give his title. His authority would not need to be stated. John often kept a humble representation of himself in his writings. Keeping himself even nameless in his gospel record. But evidence for his authorship is actually confirmed by verse 9 and other places, in verse 9 John mentions being on the Roman penal colony, Patmos, a colony off the coast of Asia Minor. Wiersbe

Now the early church for the most part accredited the Apostle John as the writer of this Book, and Clement of Alexandria even specifically refers to John returning from the Isle of Patmos in his writings. Walvoord p. 13 Eusebius even gives a specific date, right after the death of Domitian, the cruel Roman Emperor in AD 96, that Eusebius explains that John returned from exile. Irenaeus also confirms that John lived in Ephesus after his exile to Patmos had ended. Walvoord p. 13

So the early church fathers had no question on the writer, it was not until centuries after the early church did questions arise on who wrote this letter.

John Walvoord gives a great amount of detail in his commentary on the evidence of the Apostle John being the writer of this incredible book.

The general consensus is that John wrote this Revelation in the year of his return from Patmos in AD 96, or the year prior in AD 95.

Now it is important for us to understand the environment and circumstances for which John was writing this book, this Revelation received from God.

Now, as we will see this book is written with much symbolism and imagery that if just picked up and glanced through by a Roman Soldier, it would leave the reader confused and even disinterested.

One of the main reasons God had John write this in such a way was probably because of the opposition at the time from the Roman Empire under the Rule of Domitian.

Now that this new sect of Judaism, the Way, later referred to as Christianity, was spreading rapidly throughout the empire, it was becoming a threat to Emperor who at this time had applied to himself all the attributes of deity.

Titus Flavius Caesar Domitianus Augustus was a self-proclaimed god, and established a religion around the worship of himself.

Even the coins issued during his reign were designed to play into this propaganda.

Now, a true Christian would never worship a Roman ruler as a god.

There is only one God as far as our faith is concerned.

Therefore, Domitian declared a war on Christians and a demonic persecution swept across the world against those who were of the Way.

Now a previous Emperor Nero, had a genuine hatred for Christians as well, and in Rome only, he enacted a similar persecution, and even killed Peter and Paul.

However, Domitian in his paranoia, was the first emperor to wage war against Christ's followers all over the empire.

Domitian knew that the Figure behind our faith threatened the glory of his own rule.

And he was determined to destroy this opposing Kingdom within his own kingdom.

And this Revelation given to the Apostle John is the reply from God to this declaration to war.

And under the leadership of the last apostle, this letter would give the heavily persecuted Christians a hope, that Satan and his evil influence would one day meet their end.

This hope would help them endure through great atrocities that they were facing.

The hope in this Book, speaks of the answered prayer to what Christians have prayed for, for 2000 years.

**Matt 6:10 Your kingdom come. Your will be done
On earth as it is in heaven.**

John will see the answer to this prayer and write down its content for us.

The hope is that one day all of the misery of this world will come under the authority of God's Son Jesus Christ.

And in heaven and on earth all will come under His Holy rule.

This was the comfort that these Christians in John's day needed to be reminded of.

And every generation of Christians who have endeavored to read and understand this book have been reminded and comforted by its timeless truths.

I have read very old Bible commentators and very modern Bible commentators who have given their insight to this book, and I find it fascinating that every one of them see the darkness in this world, and they all believed they were the final generation.

If its H.A. Ironside who wrote his commentary during the perils of WW1, or if it is Greg Laurie, writing in

more modern times, they could look at the times they lived and conclude these things were coming soon.

They believed the events found in this book were imminent.

I believe that this Book was designed this way.

That when one endeavors to read and understand it, no matter what age the Christian lives in, that they will have a holy anticipation of the Coming King.

And this book is designed to stir the church up into action, as we are clearly reminded of the Hope of things to come.

For unbelievers the truths of this book are terrifying, and even threatening.

And this posed many dangers for the heavily persecuted Church in John's day.

So God chose to use symbols, many of which will be deciphered through the Old Testament, some of which will be explained after they are given, and some of the symbols will be left unanswered.

Now God could have dictated this to John in plain language, and John could recorded many facts and truths in the plain language of the day.

However, in the use of symbols we will see that the truths of this book remain timeless.

You see plain language can change in meaning over time.

The word “Cool” for example has a proper definition of something of a fairly low temperature.

But today the word means we approve of something.

“That outfit is cool.”

Words and language change over time, but symbols hold their meanings.

The Biblical symbolism remains constant throughout the generations.

Now, we still have to be very careful with the symbolism in this book.

Many teachers today have taken liberty to allow their imaginations to run wild with the ideas presented in Revelation.

The Biblical symbols presented here in this book are consistent with the whole biblical revelation.

And we will use the Bible to bring clarity to these symbols.

And we will be very cautious not to allow our own imaginations to influence our understanding of this writing.

Now, many have throughout the centuries tried to present this Book as an allegory or metaphor.

When presented this way, the interpretations are all over the place, and there is no consistency to any truths that come from this book.

It becomes then nothing more than human invention and really devoid of any real revelation from God.

When this Book is approached as divinely inspired and taken as a literal Word from God, it becomes life

changing and it is a path to immeasurable eternal truths.

So this simple preacher here will teach this as literally as I can.

I believe these events will take place; this is not a metaphor or allegory with secret codes and mystical meanings.

I believe God plainly reveals His truths in this Book.

This is God's Word, revealed to a hurting church, giving them hope in the face of great evils.

And today it gives us this same hope.

Now, as we journey through this book simply believing it as a literal Word from God.

We will see some things very plainly that have been debated in Christianity for centuries.

I believe the literal approach confirms a few positions for us, I believe it will clearly show us the doctrine of the Pre-Tribulation Rapture.

Where the Church will be taken out of this world, before the events of the Tribulation that take place.

I believe we will see the Pre-millennial viewpoint very clearly, where Christ will come at the end of the Tribulation, and establish His literal Kingdom for 1000 years here on earth, where the golden age of peace will come to earth, this is before the eternal heavenly age will come about.

I believe we will clearly see this account in John's vision is in the future, specifically after Jesus speaks to the churches in chapters 2-3, from that point the vision will be yet to come.

I do not believe we can say these events have already happened, they are going to take place in a time future, and it most definitely seems like they could take place at any moment.

But we have not seen anything close to these events that we will be spending the next few months looking at.

Now the Book of Revelation is the top of the pyramid of the Word of God.

It is the pinnacle to all of God's revealed Word.

The first five books of Moses form the foundation, next is the covenant history of Israel, then the poetic Books, then the prophets.

Then as you make your way up the pyramid you have the Gospels and the Acts of the Apostles, then the various letters written by the Apostles with all their instruction, then at the top of the pyramid sits the Final Revelation.

Revelation connects all the intricately woven threads throughout the whole Bible.

Weaving them in to a complete picture.

Ray Steadman says, "The entire scope of human history – and of eternity itself – comes into brilliant focus in the Book of Revelation."

I absolutely agree with him.

Chain Illustration

Now Genesis and Revelation are like the two clips at both ends of a chain.

As the chain comes around the loop is completed with the two clips.

The Word of God circles around the chain and connects at the ends.

The ends of the chain are Genesis and Revelation they are also what brings the whole loop together.

Genesis gives us the creation of the heavens and earth, Revelation reveals the new heaven and new earth.

The two Books present two paradises, one on earth that was done away with, and then the Paradise of God, one paradise was destroyed and one Paradise regained through Christ's atonement.

In Genesis, we have the first Adam with his wife, and in Revelation we see the Second Man and His bride the church.

Genesis gives us the origin of sin... Revelation will reveal the victory over sin.

As Genesis gives us the beginning of human history and civilization.

Revelation will present the end of both human history and civilization.

In Genesis, we see Babel and its wicked system created, in Revelation, we witness its ultimate doom.

And I could go on and on...

Genesis and Revelation are two Book ends that hold the entire Bible together.

I really wanted to teach them together, Genesis on Weds. Night and Revelation on Sunday.

However, it just did not work out that way.

I would encourage you to revisit our study of Genesis online as we go through the Revelation.

They complement each other perfectly.

Now I want to get into it this morning, and we will see the first three verses of this Book reveal the nature of this writing, and the true authorship.

I have mentioned it was the Apostle John's pen that perhaps wrote this all down, but we will see clearly the Author is God Himself.

So let us get into it... We will read the first 3 verses and unpack all the truths that are immediately given in the first introduction...

Introduction and Benediction

1:1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants — things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John, 2 who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw. 3 Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.

We see here in verse 1, the chain of Authorship, we also see the central theme and the purpose.

1:1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants — things which must shortly take

place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John,

This was a Revelation of Jesus Christ, as described here was given to Christ by God the Father, given through an angel to John, to be given to Jesus' servants.

Therefore, the Author of this Book is God the Father.

John was just the writer, not the author of this book.

We see right away the subject matter of this Book is simply the Revelation of Jesus Christ.

This revealing will be of His present and future glory.

We see here this is the Revelation not revelations as it is referred to often.

There is no book in the bible called "revelations."

There is One Revelation that is unveiled for us, Jesus Christ.

The word revelation is a translation of the Greek word apokalypsis, meaning revelation, disclosure, or unveiling.

It is an unveiling of Christ Himself, and the truths of His Glory.

It is a revelation of future events, and is prophetic in nature. It deals with eschatology or end times.

The revelation will deal with the prophetic timeline of the Gentiles and even Daniel's timeline for Israel, both finding their climax at the Second Coming of Christ.

It is the revealing of where all of human History is headed.

In this revelation, we will get firm details of Christ's Millennial Kingdom, and the age of eternity, that immediately follows it.

It is a Revelation that will stand in direct opposition of the humiliation Jesus experienced in the Gospels, that we just closed on in Matthew.

The risen Christ will be clearly depicted as the Almighty, All Powerful, and Ever Present God that will rule and reign for all eternity.

The reward for His Great Sacrifice that He gave at His first appearing as a Man will come into full view in this Revelation given to John.

No other writing fully sets forth for the believer as does this writing, the eternal hope we all have in Christ.

The Revelation will show Christs New Kingdom, a New Heaven and New Earth.

It assures believers that one day there will be triumph over all the evil in this world, the wickedness, rebellion, and treachery.

And even unbelief will one day be defeated for all eternity.

Every knee will bow to Jesus, the Son of God.

We will see the Promised Seed of a Woman, Who will crush the head of the serpent, and Satan will be defeated once and for all.

I know most of our Bibles call this book the Revelation of John, giving it a human author, but its rightful name is the Revelation of Jesus Christ.

The word revelation speaks to many things. You see many people believe that Revelation is a sealed book not for our time.

But the name itself speaks to the fact that it is removing the veil which obscures the mystery, and makes the meaning plain.

And we will see as we move through this book, many mysteries will become clear.

The Holy Spirit will remove the curtain that obscures our view of the glorified Christ.

Much of today's Christianity is centered on Jesus of Nazareth, the humble carpenter, who allowed Himself to be beaten and tortured and humiliated upon a cross.

But that is where the church's thinking stops a lot of the times.

Much of our worship today is given to Jesus our friend, a companion, we even kind of dictate the terms on how that relationship is lived out between us and Jesus our pal.

I was driving down 7th street, and the car in front of me had a bumper sticker that declared, “Jesus is my homeboy.”

I understand the story behind that saying is touching... But as we journey through this Book, we will see how pathetic that declaration is.

When we behold with our hearts the Risen Glorified King of kings.

The Jesus in Revelation, the Jesus that presently sits at the right hand of God in Glory, and as He is unveiled, we will understand that He is far from a companion, or a simply a homeboy.

He will be worthy of all honor and praise.

We will see even John, the Beloved, who reclined on Jesus’ human body, who walked as a companion with Jesus of Nazareth, who shared in intimate meals and meetings with Jesus.

When John is confronted with a vision of the Risen Savior, he will fall as a dead man in Holy fear and reverence.

Oh, what health would be brought back to Christian worship if we could see Jesus as the scriptures portray Him, instead of how our imaginations want Him portrayed.

To see the Risen Jesus in our worship services once again, to fall on our faces before Him in awe and wonder.

It is my hope that our study of this great revelation of Jesus Christ will give us a greater understanding of The Jesus we are to worship today.

We see here also in verse 1 that it is declared that these things revealed will shortly take place.

We will find throughout our study, the prophet Daniel is a companion to the Revelation of Jesus Christ.

Yet, in Daniels writings, he declared of these things, that they will occur in the latter days, but here in Revelation they are described as shortly coming.

Which means quickly or suddenly coming to pass.

The idea behind “shortly” is not that the event will happen soon, but when it does it will be sudden.

Once these things begin, they will suddenly come upon humanity.

We know that with the Lord **2 Peter 3:8**

one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

So the word suddenly here really could mean at any time, just be ready.

Now Daniel was commanded to **Dan 12:4 "~~But you, Daniel,~~ shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end;**

We see here Revelation in the last days, it is an open book that reveals God's plans and purposes for His Church.

In fact, in the last chapter we will see John will be commanded quite the opposite of Daniel the prophet...

Rev 22:10 And he said to me, "Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand.

At any time, the events of this open book can shortly take place.

John says there at the end of verse 1 an unnamed angel signified this message to him.

This angel has been suggested to be Gabriel, the messenger angel that spoke to Daniel and even the messenger who brought Mary the news of her future pregnancy.

So the opening verse here sets forth the basic scheme of the entire book, the subject matter, its purpose, the angelic channel for which it came through, as well as the human writer. Walvoord

In verse 2 John says of himself...

2 who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw.

John makes it clear, that this account is a record that he witnessed.

It is not only the Word of God, but it originated from God Himself.

John bears witness of the reception of it.

He declares that this writing builds on the testimony of Jesus Christ.

And he attest that this is a complete account of all of the things he saw.

John was an eyewitness to the content of all that was revealed.

This verse here again helps us to understand that John the beloved is the John mentioned here.

In John's Gospel record he declares in **John 19:35**

35 And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you may believe.

John said that to confirm his account of the crucifixion of Jesus.

It is a similar phrase as is used here in Revelation.

Also in **1 John 1:1-4** John says...

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled,

concerning the Word of life — 2 the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us — 3 that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. 4 And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.

We see John is always bearing record, and bearing a witness of what he saw.

John wrote down only what he saw, and he was meticulous in recording the revelation that he was given.

So as we read this account, as meticulous as John was at recording it for us, we need to be just as careful as we study this account.

Next in verse 3 we see a threefold blessing...

3 Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.

We see very clearly this book was not meant to be sealed up as so many claim today.

I believe it is part of the deception of Satan at work today that keeps people from this book.

We see simply just by reading it a person is blessed.

Now we will see next time this letter is addressed specifically to seven churches, but we see here any believer can read from it and prosper from its content.

John also declares those who hear the prophecies in this book will be blessed.

And not only the hearers but those who keep the things written.

This works in conjunction with the idea in **James 1:22**
But be doers of the word, and not hearers only,
deceiving yourselves.

We need to keep the things we hear in this book, this should affect the way we live day to day.

Here in verse 3 we have the first of what will be Seven Beatitudes in the Book of Revelation, where special blessings are promised.

This threefold blessing comes from reading this book, hearing it, and keeping it.

I believe we as a church, as we endeavor through this Revelation will receive such a special blessing.

I believe that, because, that is what the Word of God declares here.

This is an open Book, and as we endeavor through it, I ask that each of you, each week be prayed up, and come expecting God to speak to us through this Book of blessing.

As your pastor I do not want to be guilty of drawing you away from such a blessing promised to you, I want you to receive all that God has for you in this age.

Now John ends this verse 3 with “The time is near.”

And from the very first church who read this Book, and every Christian since, it has the blessing of stirring our hearts to the things that matter in life.

It readies us for the coming King.

I believe this Book is intended that every generation of Christians who read it, would be living their lives as though Christ could come at any moment.

What a blessing we find when our expectation turns heavenward and above the turmoil and uncertainty of this life.

We truly are living in the strangest days that any generation has ever known.

History has seen some horrible times before, but with the advancement of technology, we have every picture and video of terror, and gruesome catastrophe right at our finger tips.

The appalling state of humankind is reaching an all-time high.

The hopelessness and despair in the world around is passed the point of no return.

The rage against truth, the normalization of insanity, and the satanically influenced love of self has destroyed cultures.

As we look at this world around us, and our hearts become dismayed, the blessed hope we will learn of in our study here on Sunday morning will put it all into perspective.

The Book of Revelation is a Book for the present hour. The blessing comes from the hope we have in the victory of Jesus Christ over the evils of this present age. So hold on to these truths Christian, this place, this fallen world is not our final destination, we hope for an eternal home, where forever we will worship the Risen King.

Now, I will give you warning, every week, Satan will try to keep you from the blessings of studying this book.

Ready your family for the spiritual battle that will take place.

Prepare yourselves now for the discouragements and distractions Satan will use to keep you from church in the weeks to come.

Now, if you don't know Christ as Savior this morning, please come forward during this last song, and pray with one of the Elders or Pastors.

This book is only a blessing if you are a believer; it is quite the opposite if you are not.

As the Word of God does each week, it leaves us with a decision to make, blessings or curse, life or death.

The choice is yours.

Come to Jesus this morning and receive life abundant, and blessings forevermore.

Whatever prayer needs you have this morning, please come and pray with one of the guys.

We love you and look forward to next week as we continue in the Revelation of Jesus Christ.

Again, I want to encourage you to invite people to this study.

People are open, they are searching and we have the answers.

This world is getting darker, that just means the Light within us is shining all the brighter.

Be bold this week, live out your life as a true witness, God is at work all around us, He will use you if you are willing.

Amen.