



2. [about 5 minutes] Read the first chapter of the book of Revelation. One person might read aloud the first three verses (Prologue), another person read the next five verses (Greetings and doxology) and a third person from verse 9 onwards (John's vision of Christ). To make it more dramatic, a separate person could read the direct speech in verses 8, 11 and 17-20.

1. [about 5 minutes] Try to imagine you are a new Christian, living some time between 50 and 100 AD, somewhere in the Roman Empire in what is now Western Turkey. What do you imagine would be important factors impacting your life?

Revelation 1

the Revelation of Jesus

Week 1 • Sunday 7 August 2016

Revelation 1 — Introduction to the Apocalypse

[spend about 5 minutes on each of the 8 topics]

1. Jesus

Like the rest of the Bible, Revelation, also known as 'The Apocalypse', is fundamentally about Jesus. It reveals things about Jesus we may not already know. Identify all the places where Jesus appears in Revelation Chapter 1. What do we learn about Jesus from Revelation 1?

2. Vision

Revelation is sometimes referred to as a 'vision'. Identify in Chapter 1 all the places where words to do with sight are used (look, see, and so on). As you continue through the book, be sensitive to the engagement of all the senses—sight, sound, smell, taste, touch.

3. Imagery, metaphor, simile

Connected with the visual and sensory nature of the book, there is much graphical description—imagery. John employs simile—saying one thing is 'like' another. Discuss some examples from Chapter 1.



Looking ahead: Next week is Revelation Chapters 2 and 3. The focus will be on 1:19-2:17.

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Worth remembering (from Revelation 1:17 and 18)
 'Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades';

2. In verse 17, Jesus says to John, 'Do not be afraid'. In what ways does Jesus comfort you when you are afraid?

1. How are the forces facing first-century Christians the same or different to those facing Christians today?

From there to here [spend about 10 minutes on this page]

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4. Numbers

Observe where pairs occur (e.g. 'alpha and omega') and triples (e.g. 'is and was and is to come'). Notice how often seven occurs — usually meaning completeness.

5. Trinity

Speaking of triples, are there any places in Revelation 1 where the Trinity is hinted at or mentioned?

6. Origin

According to Chapter 1: Who wrote the book? Where was it written? What was the intended audience?

7. Destination

If you have resources (Bible map, internet etc.), locate the seven churches in verse 11 (in present day Turkey).

8. Date

For your information: the book itself does not state the date of writing. Most scholars date it between 69 AD and 96 AD.

