DISCUSSION GUIDE

A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF REVELATION
You Can Understand Revelation — Week 1

ICEBREAKER: If you could instantly memorize one entire book of the Bible, which one would you choose?

OVERVIEW: A satirical dictionary defines the book of Revelation as "a famous book in which St. John concealed all that he knew. The revealing is done by the commentators who know nothing." Admittedly the book of Revelation is difficult to understand. Unfortunately this leads most Christians to avoid studying it. But just because it is difficult doesn't meant it's impossible. It just demands more time and effort than usual. But for those who are willing to put in the effort, the payoff is worth it, because the deeper your understanding of Scripture, the more you can know God. In this discussion we will go deeper with Sunday's sermon on the overview of Revelation.

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday's message?)

2. Have you ever read the book of Revelation? If not, why? If you have, what did you think about it?

3. What makes the book of Revelation difficult to interpret?

4. Did the sermon encourage you to study Revelation more or less? Explain.

5. Read Revelation 1:3. What is promised in this verse? Does this motivate you to study Revelation? Explain.

6. Why is the date of the writing of Revelation important for its interpretation? What happened in AD 70, and why is this relevant to the interpretation of Revelation?

7. What are the two main views of the dating of Revelation, and what are the reasons given for the early date?

8. What are the four approaches to interpreting Revelation, and which view did the sermon defend? Does your approach to Revelation determine your faithfulness as a Christian?
    a. Historicism:
    b. Idealism:
    c. Futurism:
    d. Preterism:

9. Briefly summarize the three keys to unlock Revelation.

10. The sermon discussed the "time-indicators" in Revelation, such as Rev 1:1, 3. What are they, and how do they affect the interpretation of the book of Revelation?

11. The sermon highlighted Revelation 1:7 as the theme verse of the entire book. Briefly summarize the sermon's interpretation of each phrase. How does the sermon's interpretation of this verse fit with both the "time-indicators" mentioned in question ten, and the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70?
    a. "Look, he is coming with the clouds":

    a. "And every eye will see him, even those who pierced him.":

    a. "And all the tribes of the earth will mourn over him."

The Last Word: "One of the great ironies of Scripture is that the most difficult book within it is called 'Revelation'." Ken Gentry

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