

The Apocalypse of St. John

Weekly Discussion Group

Discussion Questions Week 2

- 1) If you could write a letter of encouragement to a group of people today, who would you write it to, and what would you want to say?
- 2) John describes Jesus as “the faithful witness.” How would you define a “faithful witness,” and who comes to mind as an example of one?
- 3) How do you think the idea of a “kingdom of priests” could be applied in everyday life?
- 4) In the context of the challenges faced by the churches in Revelation, Dale talks about finding balance between culture and faith. What challenges do you think people today face in balancing personal beliefs with social expectations?
- 5) The text suggests believers are called to act as priests by “standing in the gap” for others. How do you interpret this role, and do you see it reflected in your community?
- 6) John’s message to the churches stresses resisting the allure of the world. What are some modern “allures” or distractions that can pull people away from their beliefs or values?
- 7) The letter discusses the concept of God being in control of past, present, and future. How might trusting in God’s sovereignty affect the way we handle uncertainty or challenging times?

Sunday’s Text

Revelation 1:4-8 (NLT)

⁴This letter is from John to the seven churches in the province of Asia. Grace and peace to you from the one who is, who always was, and who is still to come; from the sevenfold Spirit before his throne; ⁵and from Jesus Christ. He is the faithful witness to these things, the first to rise from the dead, and the ruler of all the kings of the world.

All glory to him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by shedding his blood for us. ⁶He has made us a Kingdom of priests for God his Father. All glory and power to him forever and ever! Amen.

⁷Look! He comes with the clouds of heaven. And everyone will see him - even those who pierced him. And all the nations of the world will mourn for him. Yes! Amen!

⁸“I am the Alpha and the Omega—the beginning and the end,” says the Lord God. “I am the one who is, who always was, and who is still to come—the Almighty One.”

Sunday's Message Summary

Dale shared a deeply personal story about a letter he received from his father in 1979, written while his father was away in Quebec for a job. This letter, handwritten and imperfectly punctuated, conveyed his father's love, encouragement, and loneliness. This serves as a preface to a discussion on the Book of Revelation, which is a letter written by the Apostle John to the seven churches in Asia Minor. Addressing contemporary issues of Roman influence and Christian faith, Revelation provides guidance to these churches while symbolizing completeness and offering timeless lessons for all Christians.

John's message to the seven churches encourages them to stay devoted to Christ amidst worldly temptations. Despite being believers, they face the same struggles seen throughout the church's history, continually drawn by worldly temptations. John reminds them that true peace comes from God, not from the empire's authority. His greeting, "Grace and peace," emphasizes God's enduring sovereignty and love. John presents Jesus as the faithful witness, first to resurrect, and ruler over all kings, affirming Christ's ultimate authority over earthly rulers. Through praise and worship, he celebrates Jesus' sacrificial love, reinforcing that God remains in control, even amid uncertainty.

Dale highlighted a D.L. Moody's quote: "Don't ever think God don't love you, for he do." He explained Jesus' sacrifice on the cross as an act of deep love, offering freedom from sin through his blood. Believers are called to act as "a kingdom of priests," bridging others to God with compassion. Jesus' imminent return was also proclaimed, urging the faithful to live as witnesses of His love. Embracing God's sovereignty and sharing His message of salvation was the call, inviting everyone to reflect, praise, and engage deeply with God's word.

