



Revelation Bible study guide

A clear 6-session guide for personal study, small groups, and churches

Read Revelation as a whole before working through the sessions. Let its own structure set the agenda.

Every question sends you back to the biblical text. The guide helps you observe the passage, follow the author's argument, interpret it in context, and respond faithfully.

CHOOSE YOUR DEPTH

- Short: Read the book overview and discuss the first and final question in a session.
- Study: Work through all 6 sessions and answer each question from the passage.
- Deep: Open the free chapter commentary and dictionary links while you study.

protos-app.com/commentary/revelation

Revelation at a glance

BIG IDEA

John's Apocalypse is a magnificent and wonderfully designed message of the salvation that is available in Jesus Christ. [1]

HISTORICAL SETTING

Author: John (likely the apostle). Date: Most likely the AD 90s, but possibly the AD 60s. Setting: Written to a group of churches in Asia who were experiencing persecution at the hands of the Roman Empire. [1]

HOW TO READ THIS BOOK

Read this book as apocalyptic prophecy. Let its symbols work through Old Testament echoes and its pastoral purpose before treating images as a timetable.

MAJOR THEMES

- To challenge readers to remain faithful in the midst of persecution by pointing them to God's victory over evil and to their future hope
- The book's literary movement and central claims
- Faithful response within the people of God
- Hope, judgment, grace, and obedience in their proper context

INTERPRETIVE CARE

- Read symbols through their Old Testament echoes before attaching them to current events.
- Let the book's call to faithful witness guide interpretation of its visions.

Revelation 1-3

71 verses. Read it aloud together before anyone talks about it.

Who and what appears

Jesus · Satan · John · Ephesus · Asia · Balaam

Questions

- Try to state the argument in one sentence before anyone reacts to it.
- What does the writer repeat? Repetition is usually the point, not a habit.
- What surprised you, or what did you have to read twice?
- Why does the writer bring Balaam into this argument, and what claim does the example support?
- The word church is doing real work here. What did you assume it meant, and does the passage agree?
- What problem was this letter written to solve, and does knowing that change how the instruction lands?
- Where does this cut against something you already believe or already do?

[Stuck on a word or name? Open the free Bible dictionary.](#)

NOTES AND PRAYER

Revelation 4-8

72 verses. Read it aloud together before anyone talks about it.

Who and what appears

Elders · David · Joseph · Seal · Angel · Angels

Questions

- What is the writer trying to get these readers to do or stop doing?
- Who is being addressed here, and what do they already know that we do not?
- What is assumed rather than argued? Those assumptions are often the real claim.
- What does the writer assume the readers know about Joseph, and how is that knowledge being used?
- Define seal from this passage alone, without reaching for what you already know.
- Is this a command, a description, or an argument? They are not read the same way.
- What would actually be different this week if you took this seriously?

[Stuck on a word or name? Open the free Bible dictionary.](#)

NOTES AND PRAYER

Revelation 9-12

68 verses. Read it aloud together before anyone talks about it.

Who and what appears

Egypt · Elders · Euphrates · Jesus · Michael · Satan

Questions

- What has the writer already established that this section is building on?
- Which single verse carries the weight of this section?
- What is left unsaid that you expected to be said?
- Where else have you heard angel used, and is it being used that way here?
- What did the first readers face that we do not, and what does that change?
- Who do you know who needs to hear this, and what stops you saying it?

[Stuck on a word or name? Open the free Bible dictionary.](#)

NOTES AND PRAYER

Revelation 13-16

67 verses. Read it aloud together before anyone talks about it.

Who and what appears

Babylon · Elders · Euphrates · Jesus · Moses · Angel

Questions

- Where does the writer expect pushback, and how do you know?
- Where does the tone shift, and what causes it?
- What question does this section answer that you had not thought to ask?
- Trace the sentence or paragraph that mentions Moses. What conclusion does the writer want the readers to reach?
- The word angel is doing real work here. What did you assume it meant, and does the passage agree?
- Where does the writer move from what God has done to what we should do?
- What is the hardest thing in this passage to accept, and why that one?

[Stuck on a word or name? Open the free Bible dictionary.](#)

NOTES AND PRAYER

Revelation 17-19

63 verses. Read it aloud together before anyone talks about it.

Who and what appears

Babylon · Jesus · Elders · Woman · Angel · Blood

Questions

- If you disagreed with this, where would you push first?
- What does the writer repeat? Repetition is usually the point, not a habit.
- What surprised you, or what did you have to read twice?
- Define woman from this passage alone, without reaching for what you already know.
- What problem was this letter written to solve, and does knowing that change how the instruction lands?
- If this is true, what have you been getting wrong?

[Stuck on a word or name? Open the free Bible dictionary.](#)

NOTES AND PRAYER

Revelation 20-22

63 verses. Read it aloud together before anyone talks about it.

Who and what appears

Jesus · Jerusalem · Satan · David · Gog · John

Questions

- What would be missing from the letter if this section were cut?
- Who is being addressed here, and what do they already know that we do not?
- What is assumed rather than argued? Those assumptions are often the real claim.
- What does the writer assume the readers know about Gog, and how is that knowledge being used?
- Where else have you heard death used, and is it being used that way here?
- Is this a command, a description, or an argument? They are not read the same way.
- What would you want to be reminded of from this section in six months?

[Stuck on a word or name? Open the free Bible dictionary.](#)

NOTES AND PRAYER

Sources, method, and reuse

Protos created this guide to help readers understand Revelation in its literary and historical context. Questions are designed to be answered from the passage, not from guesswork or personal opinion alone.

REFERENCES

[1] Tyndale Open Study Notes

Tyndale House Publishers. Book background, purpose, setting, and structural orientation. CC BY-SA 4.0.

<https://tyndaleopenresources.com/>

[2] Protos study guide editorial

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A Bible dictionary, 1,129 entries [__protos-app.com/bible-dictionary](https://protos-app.com/bible-dictionary)

Printable Bible reading plans [__protos-app.com/reading-plans](https://protos-app.com/reading-plans)

Protos is also available on iPhone and Android, with verse-by-verse study help beside the passage you are reading.

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