

# *REVELATION: Hear & Take Heed*

## **Week #1**

### **“Hear & Take Heed”**

*In this past week’s message, we looked at the introduction of Revelation. The word in Greek for ‘revelation’ is the word apokalypsis, which means to make plain, lay bare, or to become visible. The revealing of this book is specifically about Jesus Christ as stated in Revelation 1:1. Different than the Gospel of John, the book of Revelation seeks to inform the reader that Jesus will be visible one day in physical form to all of humanity past & present. Specifically, this visible appearance of Christ will be the bodily return of Christ to judge and set up His kingdom.*

*The author of this book is the apostle John. This may not seem incredibly significant, but John was the brother to one of the first martyrs in Scripture (James – the other son of Zebedee from Matt. 4). He was the longest living of the disciples of Christ, and yet his years were filled with torture and persecution for claiming Christ. In Acts 5, we read that John and the apostles were flogged for their faith profession in Christ. Athanasius, Polycarp, and Irenaeus record that John was to be boiled in oil but escaped by Divine intervention. They also record that John was forced to drink poison, but he lived through it. In the book of Revelation, we read that John had also been exiled to Patmos (Rev. 1:9). In other words, John’s long life was not one of physical ease but rather physical discomfort. But the believer can take to heart that no matter the suffering, John’s testimony of Christ never changed. In John 14:3, the apostle records that Jesus said He would return. And in Revelation we see John proclaim what it would be like when Christ does return. This unwavering message should encourage the believer going through great pains to speak and live out the life of Christ knowing that He has a reward for those that are faithful to His call (Rev. 22:12).*

*As we began the book of Revelation, there was a focus on verse 3 which informs the reader that there is a blessing to be had. However, the blessing only comes to those who follow its directive. The key words in verse 3 in order to receive the blessing were “Hear” and “Heed” the words of the book. Today, many will read the book of Revelation out of fascination of future events and prophetic opinions. However, the book was written to understand a specific message, and to respond correctly to its call. When the believer takes the time to understand the message of Revelation, the proper response is shown in three ways:*

- 1. An Excitement of what is to come!*
- 2. An Exclaiming of Christ’s redemption!*
- 3. An Executing of tasks God puts in front of His people.*

*Interesting enough, there are elements of these three things throughout the book of Revelation that bring hope to the weariest of Christians.*

# *REVELATION: Hear & Take Heed*

## **Going Further**

*The last phrase of Revelation 1:3 says, “for the time is near”. This phrase is repeated in Revelation 22:10, reminding the reader to respond now with urgency.*

*Knowing that the “time is near”, what is it that excites you most about the physical return of Christ?*

*John 14:1-6 is a text that should encourage every believer. In it is the promise of Christ that He would return to gather His people (14:3). But Christ’s reason for sharing this promise is for what purpose to the believer?*

*Matthew 24-25 has a host of parables and prophecies that point to Christ’s return. The beginning of Matthew 25 speaks to a group of women waiting for the bridal party to arrive, and some were not ready. Because of this, they missed out on the blessings of participating in the celebration. Following this parable, Jesus gives a parable that speaks to servants heeding their master’s directive... According to Matthew 25:14-30, what danger is there in not “heeding” the message of the Master? How does this relate to Revelation 1:1-3?*

*One thing we saw in our introduction to Revelation is that the message was broad in its audience invite. Seven churches will be addressed specifically; however, the invite to read, hear, and heed is open to all that might encounter the book of Revelation. With that, the word for heed (tēreō) comes with the necessity to respond with urgency.*

*Read 2 Corinthians 5:11-6:2...What urgency does Paul speak of for the believer in this text?*

*Read 2 Peter 3:9... Is the task that Paul lists in 2 Corinthians applicable to the core call of Revelation according to Peter? If so, how?*