

What Happens When a Church Worships | Part 1

Lesson 3

Revelation 1:1-20

February 19, 2023

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INTRODUCTION

Who among us does not need reminders of the hope set before us by Jesus our King? We sometimes fail to remember the promise of eternal life and the peace that is ours if we remain faithful. Human life can become discouraging and filled with Satan's temptations that even the children of God are not immune. While our individual relationship with God is central to our beliefs, worshiping together in fellowship with other Christians is also biblical. Hebrews 10:24-25 tells us that we must not give up meeting together.

Our passage this week is the prologue for the Book of Revelation. The Apostle John is in exile on the island of Patmos during a time of Christian persecution. Jesus Christ comes to John in a vision and instructs John to deliver His message to the angels of the seven churches in Asia. Most interpreters believe this to be around AD 95. In the following chapters of Revelation, you will learn about the challenges each church was facing and the solutions as written in Scripture. You will also discover how completeness relates to our passage and the benefits of worshiping together as a body.

Memory Verse: "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, 'who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.'"—Revelation 1:8

Pray, and read Revelation 1:1-20. What questions or observations do you have about this passage?

OBSERVATION: What does the passage say?

1. God gave Jesus Christ the Revelation. How was it made known, and who testified to what He saw? Who is “blessed”? To whom were the letters to be sent? (Revelation 1:1-4)
2. In John’s message, he states, “Look, He is coming with the clouds....” Who will see Him? How does God describe Himself? (Revelation 1:7-8)
3. John heard a loud voice from behind him that sounded like a trumpet. What instructions did the voice give him? John turned around to see who was speaking. What did he see? (Revelation 1:10-16)
4. How did John react when he saw Him, and what words did Jesus say to comfort him? (Revelation 1:17-18)
5. How did Jesus explain the mystery of the seven stars and the seven golden lampstands? (Revelation 1:20)

INTERPRETATION: What do the passages mean?

1. Jesus told John to give the Revelation to the angel of each of the seven churches in Asia. Each church had its own strengths, weaknesses, and challenges. What do you see as a common thread shared by them? For those who are victorious, Jesus promises specific gifts. What do you see as a common thread in victory?
(Revelation chapters 2 and 3)

2. John sees a double-edged sword coming out of His mouth (v. 16). What do you think the double-edged sword symbolizes, and why will people mourn because of Him (v. 7)? (Zechariah 12:10; Hebrews 4:12-13; Revelation 6:15-17)

3. The number seven is used 55 times in Revelation. According to The Bible Project (bibleproject.com), the number seven was symbolic in ancient near eastern and Israelite culture to communicate completeness. How do you think completeness relates to Revelation 1:8, "I am the Alpha and the Omega" says the Lord God...."?
(Genesis 2:1-3; Isaiah 41:4; Revelation 21:5-7)

4. In the messages to each of the seven churches, Jesus tells them to “hear what the Spirit says....” (e.g., Revelation 2:7) Jesus is speaking to the churches as a body. What are the benefits of corporate worship? (Acts 2:42-47; Colossians 3:16-17; Hebrews 10:24-25)

APPLICATION: How do the passages apply to your life?

1. Correction for the seven churches was necessary in order for them to be victorious. Are there corrections in your life that would deepen your relationship with God? What steps can you take to facilitate those changes? Do you see ways we, as a church body, can improve our worship experience to glorify God?

2. We know that Jesus will come with the clouds and will judge all people. Are there things in your life that need to be resolved before final judgment? If so, what actions would help to remedy the situation or attitude?

3. When we go to church on Sundays, we experience corporate worship. What benefits do you enjoy from worshiping as a body? How is this different from your personal time spent with the Lord?