

REVELATION 1:1-8

September 14th, 2025

MESSAGE RECAP

Revelation begins not with beasts or battles, but with a blessing: life is transformed when we see Jesus clearly and take His word to heart. In this 12-week journey, we'll pull back the curtain and see that Jesus is at the center of history, reigning as King. Along the way, we'll discover that Revelation is less about predicting dates and more about helping us stay faithful, courageous, and hopeful in the face of life's challenges. This book will point us towards a relationship with him now and forevermore. That's why John shows us it's meant to be a blessing when we read, hear, and take it to heart (1:3).

Context Snapshot

- **Author:** John, the beloved disciple, exiled on Patmos for his faith.
- **Audience:** Seven churches in Asia Minor facing real persecution and pressure.
- **Genres:** Revelation is apocalyptic (unveiling spiritual realities), prophetic (speaking God's truth for now and the future), and a letter (written to real people).
- **Key Reminder:** Keep your eyes on Jesus—He is the faithful witness, the one who loves us, freed us from sin, and made us a kingdom of priests. Jesus is the victorious King over all things.

Leader Notes

- Don't get lost in the weeds. People may want to chase details about dragons, timelines, or "the mark." Keep pointing back to Jesus.
- Encourage honesty. Some group members may carry anxiety about Revelation. Normalize that and remind them it's a book of blessing.
- Time management. With robust content, it's okay if you don't hit every question. Aim for depth, not speed.

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. After listening to the message, what stood out to you?
2. Read Revelation 1:1–3.
 - a. What do you notice about how this book is introduced?
 - b. Why do you think the blessing is tied not just to hearing the words, but to taking them to heart?
3. Read 2 Kings 6:15–17.
 - a. Elisha prayed for his servant's eyes to be opened. Where do you long for God to “pull back the curtain” in your life right now?
 - b. How might this shift your perspective in the middle of stress, fear, or uncertainty?
4. Read Revelation 1:4–6.
 - a. How does John describe Jesus here? (faithful witness, firstborn from the dead, ruler of kings)
 - b. Which truth-Jesus loves us, frees us, or makes us part of His kingdom-do you most need to hold on to this week?
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6. Application + Prayer
 - a. Where do you need to live more like someone who is loved, freed, and part of God's kingdom?
 - b. Close by reading Revelation 1:3 aloud as a prayer of commitment for your group this week.