

Have No Fear, The End is Near

1.13.10

A Practical Discussion on the
Book of Revelation

Announcements

- Congregational Meeting – Jan. 31
- Dinner 6 and Dinner 8 groups forming
 - See Dick Butler or call the church office
- Women's Bible study starting tomorrow
 - 9:15am, childcare available

Revelation Schedule

- Tonight– Review & Chapter 11
- Jan. 20 – Chapters 12
- Jan. 27 – Chapter 13
- Feb. 3 – Chapters 14
- Feb. 10 – Chapter 15-16
- Feb. 17 – Chapter 17-18
- Feb. 24 – Chapter 19
- Mar. 3 – Chapter 20
- Mar. 10 – Chapters 21-22

Review

- Much of what John sees has an Old Testament counterpart
 - Not strange puzzles or mysteries for the church to try and decipher, but encouragement for the church in history
- Symbolist View – No specific fulfillment for most of the book, but repeated fulfillments, themes, and principles.
- Written to ease fear and concern
 - Where is Jesus?
- Written to combat worldliness
 - Whose side are you on?
- Revelation points us to Jesus!
 - He's still on His throne and in control!
 - Fear and worship Him alone!
 - He wins and the Devil loses!

Review

- Chapter 1 – vision of Christ
 - With His church, speaking to them, strong enough to protect them
- Chapter 2-3 – Letters to seven churches
 - Specific encouragement and rebukes given to reinforce the vision from chapter 1
- Chapter 4-5 – The throne room
 - God is in control. He has a plan. He is worthy of worship.

Review

- Chapter 6 – Scroll opened
 - Put confidence in God, not men.
- Chapter 7 – The great multitude
 - Promises to the church for growth and protection
- Chapter 8-9 – Trumpet blasts
 - Consequences of sin – leads to judgment
- Chapter 10 – The little scroll
 - Charge to the church to spread the Gospel message

Revelation 11:1 Then I was given a measuring rod like a staff, and I was told, "Rise and measure the temple of God and the altar and those who worship there,² but do not measure the court outside the temple; leave that out, for it is given over to the nations, and they will trample the holy city for forty-two months.³ And I will grant authority to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth."⁴ These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth.⁵ And if anyone would harm them, fire pours from their mouth and consumes their foes. If anyone would harm them, this is how he is doomed to be killed.⁶ They have the power to shut the sky, that no rain may fall during the days of their prophesying, and they have power over the waters to turn them into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague, as often as they desire.⁷ And when they have finished their testimony, the beast that rises from the bottomless pit will make war on them and conquer them and kill them,⁸ and their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city that symbolically is called Sodom and Egypt, where their Lord was crucified.⁹ For three and a half days some from the peoples and tribes and languages and nations will gaze at their dead bodies and refuse to let them be placed in a tomb,¹⁰ and those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them and make merry and exchange presents, because these two prophets had been a torment to those who dwell on the earth.

¹¹ But after the three and a half days a breath of life from God entered them, and they stood up on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them.¹² Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here!" And they went up to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies watched them.¹³ And at that hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell. Seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the rest were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven.¹⁴ The second woe has passed; behold, the third woe is soon to come.¹⁵ Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever."¹⁶ And the twenty-four elders who sit on their thrones before God fell on their faces and worshiped God,¹⁷ saying, "We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, who is and who was, for you have taken your great power and begun to reign.¹⁸ The nations raged, but your wrath came, and the time for the dead to be judged, and for rewarding your servants, the prophets and saints, and those who fear your name, both small and great, and for destroying the destroyers of the earth."¹⁹ Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant was seen within his temple. There were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake, and heavy hail.

The Two Witnesses

- Prominent representatives of God
 - “2” – minimum acceptable under law
 - Perform miracles like Moses and Elijah
 - Two olive trees and lampstands
 - Zechariah 4:1-14 (ruling and priestly offices)
 - Struggle against “the beast”
 - Resurrected and raptured, like Elijah
- Best understood as a symbolic representation of the Christian witness
 - A call to remain faithful in the face of opposition
 - We are a kingdom and priests (Rev. 1:6, 5:10)
 - His messengers are preserved and vindicated

Background from Daniel

- The period of their witness 42 months
 - AKA 1,260 days or three and a half years
 - Also mentioned – three and a half days
- Daniel 9:27
 - “And he shall make a strong covenant with many for one week, and for half of the week he shall put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall come one who makes desolate, until the decreed end is poured out on the desolator.”
 - After half a week, the temple is destroyed – 70AD
 - The second half of the week is the period of the two witnesses, the period we now live in – the time of the Gentiles (Rev 11:2).

The witness of the church

- Like prophets, we call people to repentance and warn of coming judgment.
- The beast – more fully discussed in chapter 13
 - The power persecuting the church and setting up false worship.
- Strong distinction between the church's witness and the world's opposition.
- "the great city" – symbolic of civilization's desire to be free of God.

The Seventh Trumpet

- Vision of the Second Coming, as usual
- The ark is visible
 - God is fully revealing His glory, both of His law and His mercy.
- Worship – focus on God's reign over the earth and reward for the saints