



**+INTRODUCTION**

The book of Revelation is one of the most intriguing, most misunderstood and unfortunately, most often used books, by some, to bring division & teach strange things.

This great book was written by John the Apostle. John was with Jesus for three years as a student, but even more so as a beloved friend [John 20:2]. He was a trusted eyewitness to Jesus' miracles, crucifixion, resurrection & His ascension into heaven. In this book, John was given one of the greatest privileges of all, a revelation of Jesus in His current glorified status.

Written, while imprisoned on an island called Patmos, around 90AD, John shares with his readers what he had seen about Jesus. This book was intended to bless & encourage those who read & obey it [Rev. 1:3]. The areas, most people deviate from the

intention of this book are in the descriptions of great calamities led by the embodiment of evil, often referred to as the "Anti-Christ". In *our* study we'll attempt to view everything through the lens of **Jesus**, and *his* unveiling. Jesus is the central theme of this book, not evil. Jesus will conquer evil and ultimately be victorious.

The overall interpretation of the book of Revelation is widely debated, and therefore requires careful attention, not only to detail, but also the "big picture". Though many good saints disagree on the clear interpretation of this piece of "apocalyptic literature", we'll make it *our* aim to keep unity on that which is most essential, namely Jesus, while maintaining liberty & love within our opinions of secondary matters!

**OBSERVATION**

What is the "revelation" of, according to vs 1?  
What does John promise the readers of his letter? (Rev 1:3)

**+INTERPRETATION**

The word "revelation" comes from the Greek word, apokalypsis, which is often translated into English as, "apocalypse". Describe why this book which was intended to reveal Jesus in his infinite power + incredible beauty is typically misused to mainly emphasize, cataclysmic events, symbolic imagery and evil world dominating powers, while Jesus gets marginalized?

- +According to vs 3, John promises a "blessing" to those who:  
-read this book out loud  
-hear it  
-obey it...why does he say these things?

Look up each of these 7 verses, and describe the conditions of blessing they promise (Rev 1:3, 14:13, 16:15, 19:9, 20:6, 22:7, 22:14)  
What are some other verses in the bible that promise God's blessing?

**+APPLICATION**

If the main theme of this book is the "unveiling of Jesus", how is this intended to bless + encourage 1st century readers who were undergoing great persecution? How does this theme bless + encourage you?

**+MEMORY VERSE**

Rev 1:3 - Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near.



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### **+What is a community group?**

Community groups are small gatherings of believers (non-believers are welcomed too!) that meet regularly for accountability, friendship, study of the word of God and prayer. Community groups are an essential part of the mission of Calvary SLO Church. They're a place where we learn more about the life Jesus wants us to live together. They're the place where we wrestle with the truths of the Bible and encourage one another toward the life God intends. Each community group is unique and molded by the people who attend it. Most community groups gather weekly and involve food, dialog, prayer, discussion for applying the Bible to practical living, and loving service to one-another. They're meant to be an organic and authentic expression of the church, actively acting like the body of Jesus.

### **+Why should I join/start a community group?**

God is a Trinitarian God who is one & three persons: Father, Son, and Spirit. We have been made in the image of God, which means we have been designed for community & friendship. Often times we suffer when we are not actively in community, because life in our broken world is complex and there are many temptations to go at it alone. Our encouragement is for you to gather with a small group of friends, family or roommates on a weekly basis and use the study notes provided to press into the Bible by having a time of discussion and prayer. Mix it up a bit, these times together should be encouraging to each other.

### **+Why should I consider becoming a part of the Calvary SLO Community Group Team?**

We are enthusiastic about all levels of community, however there are definite benefits to leading a Calvary SLO Community Group, such as but not limited to: leadership counsel and guidance / spiritual covering, equipping and training, promotion of your group thru means of website, bulletin, special Sunday announcements, etc. We love having groups available in all areas of the county, available for all walks and seasons of life, and the variety of various structures and styles. Simply contact Pastor James at [james@calvaryslo.com](mailto:james@calvaryslo.com), or 805.543.8516, x3.

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