

The Revelation of Jesus Christ
Revelation 1:1-3

SMBC Family Devotion

Week of January 3, 2021

*This devotion can be done one night or over a few nights, but I recommend doing it over the course of a few nights. Depending on the size of your family and how much time you want to spend on each devotion will determine how many nights it will take you. I would encourage you to not have a “course” in mind, but let the Holy Spirit lead you as you lead your family.

Before you begin:

- Ask the family where their understanding of Revelation is on a scale of 1 to 10. As parents, maybe explain why your understanding is where it is on the scale.
- Ask the family what they hope to learn and hope to understand better during this study.
- Though the Bible is made up of many different “literary” genres, such as narrative, allegory, prophecy, etc., God inspired it in such a way that we must interpret it literally almost exclusively. From Genesis 1:1 to Revelation 22:21, we must read and interpret the Bible literally to be consistent in understanding the meaning and the application of the text.

Read the text:

“The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, ² who bore witness to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw. 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.”

Revelation 1:1-3.

Discussion:

1. What stands out to you in these first three verses?
 - a. Answers:
 - i. It is the Revelation of Jesus Christ, not just the “Revelation of End Times.”
 - ii. God gave us, “His servants,” this Revelation to show us things “which much shortly take place.”

- iii. God made it known by an angel to the Apostle John.
 - iv. John was a witness of the Word and Jesus Christ.
 - v. We are blessed if we read this book, if we hear this book, if we keep what it says.
 - vi. The time is near.
2. What is the significance of the end of verse 3, “the time is near”?
- a. Answer – The word time refers to epochs, eras, and seasons. So what God is telling us is that the next great “time,” the next great era of redemptive history is near. It is coming. It is imminent.
3. There are 7 Beatitudes in The Revelation of Jesus Christ. A beatitude is a declaration of blessedness that God gives. We see our first beatitude in verse 3. What is it?
- a. Blessed is the one who reads this prophecy aloud. Blessed is the one who listens to this prophecy. Blessed is the one who keeps what is written.
4. How does this first beatitude set the tone for the entire book?
- a. Because God promises a special blessing when we read, listen, and obey, we should be all the more diligent to do exactly that: **READ, LISTEN, AND OBEY.**

Pray:

- Spend time praying as a family. Maybe there are specific prayer requests you have. If not, then pray for:
 - Your Pastors and Staff.
 - Your church family.
 - A missionary.
 - Our local, state, and national leaders.