

Tales of the End: A Study of the Book of Revelation

Session 6: The Last Word ON Scripture

Revelation invites us to engage all of scripture as God's **Word**.

Scripture as Revelation

- The Revelation begins in the experience of seeing and **hearing**; it ends the same way.
- The written word is a **link** between these two sensory experiences – hearing/seeing.
- The Revelation makes explicit what is true of all scripture: **it originates as God's word spoken and heard or presented and seen**.
- God's word brings the cosmos into existence
- God's word accomplishes forgiveness.
- John 1:1 makes clear Jesus is the WORD made flesh.
- The Word of God was **spoken** before it was written.
- Jesus was seen and heard before the Gospels.

God's Written Word

- Blessed and Challenge
- Blessing: Each generation has access to the fact **God** speaks.
- Challenge: When God's Word is written down it can be reduced to something studied, interpreted and **NOT** heard personally.

Intention of God's revelation:

- NOT to inform us about God.
- To **INVOLVE** us with God.

Senses

- In Revelation, John invites us to use our **5** senses to experience God's Word in a new way.
- Of the 5 senses, hearing and **seeing** are central to Revelation.
- The book invites us to see and hear God's **WORD** through our imagination.
- The appeal to **touch** comes by using numbers: 7's, 3's & 4's, 6's and multiples.
- Numbers are tactical.
- The sense of smell is associated with **prayer**.
- Bowls of incense in the throne room – prayers of the church.
- **Taste** is associated with the message to the 7th church.

Revelation

- The Spirit declares the written word has not done it's work until we **hear** the words personally.

- Origin: **God**
- Content: Jesus Christ
- Delivery: **Angel**
- Receiver: John
- Task: "Write in a book what you see and send it" (v.11)

Completion

- Revelation is the **last** word OF scripture.
- Importance of its place at the end of the canon.
- The bible consists of 66 books written over 1,000 in **3** languages (Heb, Gk, Aramaic), by numerous authors (named and anonymous)
- Revelation is written in a way and placed where it is as a **defense** against randomness and incoherence.
- Revelation provided a Completion to the Gospel story as Genesis provides a **beginning**.
- I am the Alpha and the Omega (v.1:8;22:13)
- **404** Verses in Revelation
- **518** References to earlier scripture in these 404 verses.
- Favorite OT books: Ezekiel, Daniel, Zephaniah, Zechariah, **Isaiah**, Exodus.
- Familiar with the complete NT story and theology.
- Warning: No one should read Revelation in **isolation**.
- It is written as a conclusion to entire story.
- John does not make up these visions – the **Spirit** gives them the images out of scripture that he knew so well.
- Of the 518 Biblical references, there is not a single **direct** quotation.
- John is immersed in scripture and submits his life to it.
- John does not repeat scripture, it is **recreated** in his writing.
- Revelation takes the entire biblical revelation and **reimages** it in a compelling, evangelistic vision which has brought perseverance, joy and stamina to Christians ever since.
- Scripture is **complete**.
- We cannot add to it, we must not subtract from it.
- Revelation **completes** the revelation of God.