

Wrath & Glory

Unveiling the Majestic Book of Revelation

Leader's Guide

Chapter 1 — Understanding Revelation

- 1) Why is “Wrath & Glory” an appropriate name for a book about Revelation?

Because when Jesus returns, He will first pour out the wrath of God before He manifests His glory as King of kings.

- 2) Why would it be inappropriate for the name of the book to be “Glory & Wrath”?

Because Jesus is going to pour out the wrath of God upon the enemies of God before He manifests His glory as King of kings. Thus, the wrath comes before the glory.

- 3) What is the biblical basis of the picture on the book's cover?

The Bible teaches that Jesus will return in great wrath riding a white horse and wearing a robe splattered with the blood of the enemies of God.

- 4) What has been your feeling about the book of Revelation, and why? Have you considered it an enigma? Have you been frightened by it? Have you considered it to be a playground for fanatics? Have you written it off as irrelevant to your growth in Christ? What has been your fundamental attitude, and why?

Lead a discussion concerning these questions.

- 5) List some reasons the author gives for the importance of studying the book of Revelation.

- a. It provides hope by affirming that believers will win in the end.
- b. It provides encouragement in standing against apostasy or moral decay.
- c. It reveals we are living in the end times, with little time remaining.

- 6) What is the theme of the book?

Jesus is returning to judge and reign.

- 7) How do the words, “wrath & glory,” sum up the meaning of the Lord's return for the entire world?

All people on the earth are under either the wrath of God or the grace of God. For believers, the return of Jesus is their Blessed Hope; for unbelievers, their Holy Terror.

- 8) How does 2 Timothy 3:16-17 relate to Bible prophecy?

The verses affirm that prophecy is essential and beneficial to Christian growth.

- 9) What does the author see as the major barrier to understanding Revelation? Would you agree?

The psychological barrier that is manifested in the belief that the book is a Chinese puzzle that no one can understand. (pages 17-19)

- 10) Why does the author believe that Satan is so opposed to the book of Revelation?

Because it reveals his ultimate defeat and Jesus' triumph. (pages 19-19)

- 11) Why is the imagery of a lamb and a lion so appropriate for Jesus?

Because Jesus came the first time as a suffering lamb to die for our sins. He will return as a conquering lion to conquer the world. (page 20)

- 12) What does the author mean when he says it is important to have "a balanced view of God"?

God is not a Cosmic Teddy Bear. He will deal with sin with either grace or wrath. (pages 19-21)

- 13) Why does the author think that Revelation 1:3 is so important in understanding the book of Revelation?

Because it promises a blessing to anyone who reads the book. And the blessing people should claim in prayer is understanding. (pages 22-24)

- 14) What does the author mean when he says that one of the keys to understanding Revelation is to "rely on the Holy Spirit"?

The Holy Spirit is the author of Revelation, and He is the one who grants understanding. (pages 20-27)

- 15) What is the best way of determining the meaning of symbolic language in the Bible?

Look for its literal meaning as determined by context. Also, look for the way the same symbols are used in other places in the Bible. (pages 28-29)

- 16) How can First coming prophecies be used as a guide to understanding Second Coming prophecies?

The First Coming prophecies meant what they said, therefore Second Coming prophecies should be interpreted according to their plain sense meaning. (pages 29-33)

- 17) Why is Revelation 1:19 so important as a key to understanding the book?

Because the verse contains the table of contents of Revelation. (pages 33-34)

- 18) What is a "flash-forward," and where can an example be found in Revelation?

A flash-forward occurs when the narrative jumps ahead in time, departing from the chronological order of events to reveal something that will happen in the future. (pages 35-37) Examples can be found in Revelation 6:12-17; 10:1-7; 11:15-17; and 14:1-5, 14-20.

- 19) What is the fundamental purpose of flash-forwards as used in the book of Revelation?

To give comfort to the reader by assuring him that Jesus will ultimately triumph. (page 37)

- 20) Why is a knowledge of Old Testament prophecy so important to the understanding of Revelation ?

Because there are over 300 Old Testament passages quoted or alluded to in Revelation, and not a one is specifically identified. (pages 38-43)

- 21) What is the focus of Bible prophecy, both Old Testament and New?

Jesus, as specified in Revelation 19:10. (pages 43-44)

- 22) What is the essence of the Futurist view of Revelation?

That everything from chapter 6 to the end of the book is yet future. (pages 44-45)

- 23) What characterizes the Historicist view of Revelation?

That most of the prophecies in Revelation have been fulfilled in some way in history. (pages 45-46)

- 24) How would you define the Preterist view of Revelation?

That all or most of the book was fulfilled in 70 A.D. in the destruction of Jerusalem. (pages 46-48)

- 25) Why is the Idealist view of Revelation often characterized as an "Alice-in-Wonderland" approach?

Because it spiritualizes the entire book as if it were a fairy tale about nothing more than the triumph of good over evil. (page 48)

- 26) What does the author mean when he says that he has an "eclectic viewpoint"?

All the various views of Revelation have an element of truth in them. (pages 48-50)

- 27) What is spiritualization of Scripture, and why is it dangerous?

It is giving symbolic meaning to passages that were meant to be literal. It is dangerous because the spiritualizer can make the Scriptures mean anything, and in the process, he plays God. (pages 28-29)

- 28) What is the “Golden Rule of Interpretation”?

If the plain sense makes sense, don't look for any other sense, lest you end up with nonsense. (pages 30, 137-138)

Chapter 2 — Interpreting Revelation

- 1) What was the fundamental purpose of Jesus' appearance to John on the Isle of Patmos 65 years after His resurrection?

To encourage the Church in the midst of persecution. (page 57)

- 2) Do you think it is valid to give prophetic significance to the churches listed in Revelation 2 and 3?

Discussion question. (page 60)

- 3) Chapters 2 and 3 of Revelation contain 12 promises to overcomers. Who is an overcomer? What promise appeals the most to you, and why?

An overcomer is a person who accepts Jesus as Lord and Savior (1 John 5:1-5).

- 4) Compare what John saw when he was raptured to God's throne room with what others saw when they had the same experience.

Discussion question.

- 5) In chapter 5 of Revelation, what is the significance of the little scroll in the right hand of God?

It is the title deed of the earth, as illustrated in chapter 10 when a flash-forward is given to the end of the Tribulation showing Jesus returning with the scroll in hand and claiming the earth. (pages 64-65, 73-74)

- 6) Why is the 7 year period of Tribulation often referred to as Daniel's 70th week of years?

Because Daniel prophesied that certain prophecies would be fulfilled regarding the Jews during a period of 70 weeks of years (490 years). The 70th week of years will begin when the Antichrist makes a pact to guarantee the peace of Israel. That week of years will correspond to the 7 years of the Tribulation. (pages 66-67)

- 7) How will people be saved during the Tribulation?

- a. In response to the Rapture.
- b. Finding Bibles and being converted by the Word.
- c. Through the preaching of the Two Witnesses in Jerusalem.
- d. Through evangelism by the 144,000 Jewish servants of God.
- e. In response to the judgments of God (which will drive many to repentance).

f. In response to the proclamation of the Gospel by a special angel of God (Rev. 14).

- 8) Do you think Revelation 8 could be a First Century man's description of nuclear devastation?

Discussion question.

- 9) What is your interpretation of the locust attack in Revelation 9? Do you see it as something literal like attack helicopters, or as something supernatural and demonic?

Discussion question.

- 10) Why does the author believe that the "mighty angel" in Revelation 10 is Jesus?

Because his characteristics are all characteristics of deity. (pages 73-74)

- 11) Who do you think the Two Witnesses of chapter 11 will be, and why?

Discussion question. (pages 74-75)

- 12) Chapter 12 of Revelation is full of symbols. What is their meaning?

- a. The woman is Israel.
- b. The red dragon is Satan.
- c. The male child is Jesus.
- d. The great eagle represents the protection of God. (pages 75-76)

- 13) Why does Satan hate the Jews so much?

Because they gave the world the Bible and the Messiah. Also, because God has promised to bring a great remnant to repentance in the end times. Satan does not want to see any Jews saved. (page 78)

- 14) What "Satanic Trinity" will be on the earth during the Tribulation?

The False Messiah will be the Antichrist. The False Prophet will be the Anti-Holy Spirit. And Satan will serve as the Anti-God. (page 80)

- 15) Chapter 15, verse 1 of Revelation refers to the Tribulation judgments as the "wrath of God." What is the purpose of God's wrath?

- a. Judgment for unrepentant sin.
- b. To avenge the blood of martyrs.
- c. To drive people to repentance so that they can be saved. (pages 195-199)

- 16) What does chapter 16 of Revelation clearly reveal about the nature of Man?

That his heart is terribly evil and set against God. (pages 83, 90-91)

- 17) What evidence do you see today of the formation of a one world, apostate religion?
- Discussion question. Points that might be mentioned are the emphasis on tolerance and the formation of the United Religions Initiative (see chapter 2 of Dr. Reagan's book, *Living for Christ in the End Times*).
- 18) Many people believe chapter 18 of Revelation is a prophecy about the United States. What do you think?
- Principles apply but the context makes it clear that the passage is speaking about the empire of the Antichrist. (pages 85-86)
- 19) Compare the description of Jesus' return in Revelation 19:11-18 with the one in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. What do they have in common? How do they differ?
- See the chart on page 154.
- 20) According to Revelation 20, the Millennial reign of Jesus will conclude with a world wide revolt against Him. Why would people revolt against a ruler who has given them peace righteousness and justice?
- Discussion question. Keep in mind that the peace, righteousness and justice that will characterize the reign of Jesus will be due to the rule of "the rod of iron" which will keep the rebellious nature of Man in check. When Satan is released, he will draw out the seething rebellion in people's hearts.
- 21) Who are the people who will constitute the "nations" on the new earth, living outside the new Jerusalem?
- Discussion question. The fact of the matter is that no one knows for sure. We can only guess. (pages 93-94)
- 22) What do the last words of Jesus, recorded in Revelation 22:20, mean to you, and how do they affect the way you are living?
- Discussion question. Hopefully, they motivate holiness and evangelism.

Chapter 3 — Systematizing Revelation

- 1) When the Bible promises a new earth, does it mean a newly created earth, or does it refer to the renovation of the present earth?
- There are good arguments for both positions. The author believes it will be a renovation, for the present earth is referred to in Scripture as eternal. (pages 103-105)
- 2) The author identifies "prophetic gaps" as one of the characteristics of Bible prophecy that make it difficult to understand. How would you define a prophetic gap?
- A prophetic gap occurs when several prophecies are presented end to end as if they

occur immediately after each other, when in reality there are time gaps between them. (pages 105-108)

- 3) What is meant by a prefillment of prophecy in type? Give an example.

A prefillment in type occurs when a prophecy is fulfilled in part in some symbolic way. An example would be the life of Antiochus Epiphanes who was a symbolic type of the Antichrist and thus was a prefillment of Daniel's prophecy in Daniel 9:26-27. (pages 108-109)

- 4) What evidence exists in Matthew 24:1-31 that the prophecies it contains were not fulfilled in 70 A.D.?

- a. There was no abomination of desolation erected in the Temple (vs. 15).
- b. It was not the greatest tribulation ever experienced by the Jews (vs. 21).
- c. Jesus did not return immediately thereafter (vs. 29).

- 5) Why is the oldest prophetic viewpoint called "Historic Premillennialism"?

It is called historic because it was the earliest view. It is called premillennial because it proposes that Jesus will return before (pre) the Millennium begins. (pages 112-114)

- 6) Do Amillennialists believe in a Millennium?

Yes, but a spiritualized one stretching from the Cross to the Second Coming. (pages 114-115)

- 7) Why did the Postmillennial view die so suddenly in the early 20th Century?

Because it is based on an assumption of the inevitability of progress. World War I and the Great Depression destroyed this assumption. (pages 115-117)

- 8) What is the distinctive characteristic of the Modern Premillennial viewpoint?

The pre-Tribulation Rapture. (pages 118-119)

- 9) What does the author see as the fundamental problem with the Amillennial view?

It is based upon the spiritualization of prophecy. (pages 121-129)

- 10) Why is God determined to send His Son back to reign over the earth for a thousand years?

Discussion question. The author presents six reasons for the Millennium, five of which have to do with fulfilling promises God has made and intends to fulfill during that time. (pages 130-135)

- 11) What are the "Forgotten Promises of Christmas"?
 - a. Jesus will be given the throne of David.
 - b. Jesus will reign over the house of Jacob.
 - c. There will be no end to His kingdom. (pages 136-137)

Chapter 4 — Probing Revelation

- 1) After reading this chapter, what questions do you or your group still have about Revelation? Make a list and send them by email to the author at lamblion@lamblion.com. In the subject line type, "Wrath & Glory Questions." List your personal questions below.

Make a list and email them to Dr. Reagan (lamblion@lamblion.com).

- 2) Which answer to a question in this chapter did you find most surprising, and why?

Discussion question.

- 3) Do you fully understand the chart about Hades on page 175? Summarize why the spirits of believers who died before the Cross went to Hades instead of Heaven.

Their sins were covered by their faith but not forgiven. Forgiveness had to wait for the shedding of the Messiah's blood. Only then could they be ushered into the presence of the holy Father. (pages 174-177)

- 4) Why is it important to determine the date when the book of Revelation was written?

Because some claim its prophecies refer to the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. If it was written after that date, then their theory is groundless.

- 5) In what way are the Jews still the Chosen People of God?

They are witnesses of what it means to have a relationship with God. When they are faithful, He blesses; when they are sinful, He disciplines; and when they repent, He forgives and forgets their sins. (pages 150-153)

- 6) What is your feeling about the timing of the Rapture, and why?

Discussion question. (pages 156-160)

- 7) With regard to people being saved after the Rapture, what is your interpretation of 2 Thessalonians 2:8-12, and why?

Discussion question. (pages 163-164)

- 8) What are your thoughts about the lack of reference to the United States in Bible prophecy?

Discussion question. (pages 167-168)

- 9) How do you relate to the statement, “We don’t work to be saved; rather, we work because we are saved”?

Discussion question. (pages 178-180)

Chapter 5 — Applying Revelation

- 1) How do the New Testament writers relate prophecy to Christian living?

They use it to emphasize the need for holy living. (pages 183-185)

- 2) What does the author identify as “two transforming truths” of Bible prophecy?

- a. Jesus is returning to this earth.
- b. His return can happen any moment. (page 185)

- 3) In what ways is the God of the Bible “the God of Prophecy”?

- a. He knows the future.
- b. He declares the future.
- c. He sees to it that what He declares is fulfilled. (pages 186-189)

- 4) Revelation reveals that God is personal and caring. Give an example of these attributes from your personal experience with God.

Ask for testimonies. (pages 189-192)

- 5) How do you reconcile the sovereignty of God with the existence of so much evil in the world? For example, was it God’s will for the attack on America to occur on September 11, 2001?

Discussion questions. (pages 192-195)

- 6) How can a God of love also be a God of wrath?

If God is a God of love, how can He ignore sin? How could He ignore a murderer or rapist? Furthermore, His holiness and justice compel Him to deal with sin, and He does so with grace or wrath — grace for those who repent; and wrath for those who persist in their sins. (pages 195-199)

- 7) The world affirms that people are basically good. How does this picture line up with the biblical view as presented in the book of Revelation?

It is false. The Bible teaches that Man is basically evil (Revelation 9:20-21).

- 8) The Bible teaches the end times will be characterized by widespread spiritual deception. What evidence do you see of this today?

Discussion question. Examples: Abortion is okay. Divorce is no big deal. Homosexuality is an alternative lifestyle. Buying a lottery ticket is a civic virtue, etc. (pages 202-204)

- 9) Revelation affirms that Mankind was created for what purpose?

To worship — to experience intimate fellowship with a personal God. (pages 204-206)

- 10) The world teaches that history is a meaningless cycle of events. What does Revelation teach on this issue?

That history has meaning. It had a beginning, and it will have an end, and Jesus is the meaning of it all. (pages 210-213)