

Life Group/Personal Study

Unleashing Truth in Revelation • Week of July 19

“Revelation was probably written in the AD 90s, or it could have been written in the AD 60s. During these periods, Christians experienced increasing pressure and persecution... In the face of such persecution, Revelation dramatically reminded Christians of the source of their hope and vindication and firmly challenged them to remain faithful. The Christians in the province of Asia may have appeared weak and powerless to the world, but Revelation repeatedly reminded them, as it still reminds us, that the God they served is Almighty. God controls history; he has accomplished our salvation and continues to work out his purposes.” (from SETTING – Introduction to the Book of Revelation, NLT Study Bible, Tyndale, p.2160)

Once an enemy declares war, there are basically two responses: bow or stand. In the first century, war was declared on Christians when Rome demanded allegiance to Caesar over Christ. Christ-followers would not deny their Savior, and thus, suffered persecution. Jesus had said, “I have come to set the world on fire, and I wish it were already burning! I have a terrible baptism of suffering ahead of me, and I am under a heavy burden until it is accomplished. Do you think I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I have come to divide people against each other!” (Luke 12:49-51) Allegiance to the Lord Jesus brings division. Being lukewarm is not an option.

Read Revelation 12:10-18

1. Satan is our accuser before God (see Job 1:6, Zechariah 3:1). Though the battle has been won through the death and resurrection of the LORD’s Christ and ultimate victory through the sharp sword of His word (Revelation 19:15), there is a daily battle over our soul. What is our part? How do we defeat the accuser, according to Revelation 12:11?

Why is the devil so angry with God’s people, according to vv12-17?

2. The wilderness is not punishment but preparation. Sometimes in the Scripture, exile has been for protection and the sparing of a remnant of faithful followers. Think of a time the Lord protected or spared you through a wilderness (or exile type) season. How did the Lord use it for a time of preparation?

Did your wilderness experience precede a personal ‘breakthrough’ or a greater revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ? (think about it and be prepared to share your story)

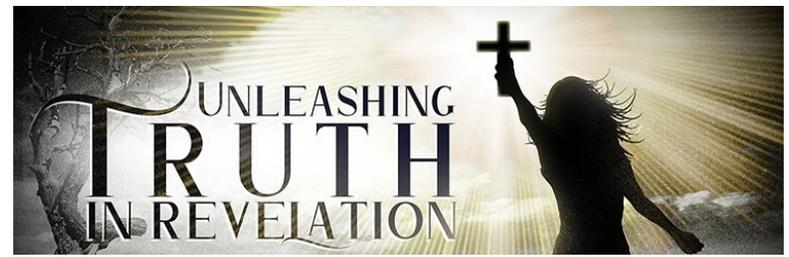
“When the dragon realized that he had been thrown down to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child... Then the dragon tried to drown the woman with a flood of water that flowed from his mouth. But the earth helped her by opening its mouth and swallowing the river that gushed out from the mouth of the dragon” (Revelation 12:15-16).

If you have surrendered your life to Christ, you belong to God and the armies of heaven will fight for you. Though we are not perfect, we are perfectly redeemed by the precious blood of the Lamb (John 1:29, 1 Peter 1:18-20, Revelation 1:5 and 5:9). Our primary goal is not to defeat Satan. Our first goal should be to remain faithful to Christ. Do you have a deep resolve to be committed to Christ no matter what may happen? Ask Him now to help you. There will be a time when we all must take a stand. Will you bow to the enemy or stand for Christ?

3. Loyalty prepares us for Royalty. Read 1 Peter 2:4-12. You are chosen by God Himself. A royal priest with authority to intercede for others. A holy nation with citizenship already in heaven with God. You are God’s very own possession over whom He protects and fights. In response to God’s great love, what does faithfulness to Christ look like for you in your day-to-day life?

On your part, what can you do this week to better align your life with Christ?

Jesus says that it is TRUTH that sets us free. Unleashing truth in revelation means you choose to live out God's Word each day, and it may be in very practical ways. Faithfulness may go unnoticed by others, but heaven is always watching. God stands by His eternal covenant. And if you belong to Him (and we all can through simply, childlike faith in Christ) God will always stand by you. Will you take a stand for Christ?



Text: Revelation 12:10-18

Plain Truth:

God has _____ the _____ yet
the battle of our _____ is ours
to _____.

1. Wilderness Living is _____
not _____.
2. _____ prepares us for _____.

One Year Bible Readings

July 19: 1 Chronicles 28:1-29:30, Romans 5:6-21, Psalm 15:1-5, Proverbs 19:18-19
July 20: 2 Chronicles 1:1-3:17, Romans 6:1-23, Psalm 16:1-11, Proverbs 19:20-21
July 21: 2 Chronicles 4:1-6:11, Romans 7:1-13, Psalm 17:1-15, Proverbs 19:22-23
July 22: 2 Chronicles 6:12-8:10 Romans 7:14-8:8, Psalm 18:1-15, Proverbs 19:24-25
July 23: 2 Chronicles 8:11-10:19 Romans 8:9-25, Psalm 18:16-36, Proverbs 19:26
July 24: 2 Chronicles 11:1-13:22 Romans 8:26-39, Psalm 18:37-50, Proverbs 19:27-29
July 25: 2 Chronicles 14:1-16:14 Romans 9:1-24, Psalm 19:1-14, Proverbs 20:1

July 18 & 19, 2020