

Life Group/Personal Study

Unleashing Truth in Revelation • Week of August 16

Jesus first came to the world humbly, a baby – the Son of God – born to a virgin. According to the angel’s message, the shepherds would recognize Him wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger. God’s Son “grew in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and all the people” (Luke 2:52). But as Jesus’ ministry went public, division rose over His identity and purpose. He said, “Do you think I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I have come to divide people against each other! From now on families will be split apart, three in favor of me, and two against—or two in favor and three against” (Luke 12:51-52). God’s Son would *become* the only sacrifice (acceptable to God) for forgiveness of sin. Thus, Jesus Christ causes division.

There is coming a time of ultimate division when Jesus Christ returns again. Christ’s second coming to this earth will bring God’s judgment: “Nation will go to war against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in many parts of the world. But all this is only the first of the birth pains, with more to come. Then you will be arrested, persecuted, and killed. You will be hated all over the world because you are my followers. And many will turn away from me and betray and hate each other. And many false prophets will appear and will deceive many people. Sin will be rampant everywhere, and the love of many will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end will be saved” (Matthew 24:7-13).

Read Revelation 19:11-21

1. Describe in detail what John saw in vv 11-13.

Who accompanies the One who is called ‘Faithful and True’ according to v14?

What comes from His mouth (v15)?

What is on His robe, at His thigh (v16)?

John sees the King of all kings, the Lord of all lords coming in glorious victory! He rides a white horse and wears a robe dipped in blood. His title, ‘Word of God’ reminds us this is the One described in John 1:1-2, 14—

“In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. He existed in the beginning with God... So the Word became human and made His home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen His glory, the glory of the Father’s one and only Son.”

2. Jesus Christ alone is righteous so He alone can judge. His first coming was to offer forgiveness, His second coming to bring judgment. Read Psalm 32:1-7. Why is it important to accept the forgiveness Christ offers *now*? (see also Isaiah 55:6-7).

What is beautiful about confessing our sin before the Lord, according to 1 John 1:9? And confessing our sins to each other, according to James 5:16?

The Lord does not want anyone to drown in the floodwaters of judgment (Psalm 32:6b) nor does He want anyone to perish. God desires all people to be saved and understand the truth; the Lord calls all people to repentance (1 Timothy 2:4 and 2 Peter 3:9). Jesus Christ alone is our sovereign ruler. He has a name written on Him that no one understands but Himself. The name of Jesus Christ, though glorious and precious to those who believe upon Him, is a name cursed and profaned among others. Christ has another name unspoken (unmarred) by humanity.

3. Read Revelation 3:12 (read it again, carefully). One day, ‘all who are victorious will become pillars in the Temple of my God, and they will never have to leave it’. What else will ‘all who are victorious’ receive (or have written on them) according to this verse?

The Lord Jesus Christ reigns in absolute power in a realm beyond human experience. He alone is recognized as the ultimate authority in the spirit world. As believers we should not take issue with others when we encounter division or disagreement, and thus, are tempted to demonize other individuals or write-off entire people groups. Our enemies are not flesh-and-blood enemies, but forces in the unseen world that are on mission to steal, kill, and destroy.

4. Read Ephesians 6:10-13 and Hebrews 1:1-4. With these words in mind, how can you encourage yourself in the Lord’s power and *authority* today?

How can you be more bold to love like Christ, even in the face of persecution?

Allow this truth – that Jesus Christ is seated in the place of honor and forces of darkness must bow to Him – to penetrate your troubled thoughts for a moment. Allow this fact to turn your prayer into a praise. Start today (now!) thanking the Lord for what He is *already* doing and *going to do* on your behalf (or those for whom you are burdened). You may not ‘feel’ it at first, but your feelings will catch up with your faith. Say aloud:

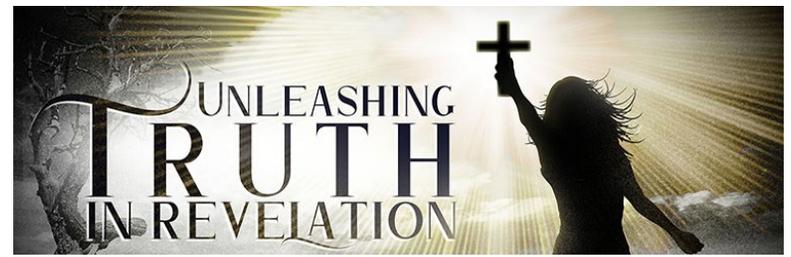
“Lord, I know all authority has been given to you in heaven and earth. I know you care about me and my concern over _____. I trust you, and so I thank you for _____. Help me turn from sin and receive your forgiveness. Give me wisdom to know what my part is. But Lord, I will trust you, and so I thank you now for answering this prayer. You are Way-Maker, Miracle Worker, Promise Keeper, Light in the Darkness. In Jesus’ Name. Amen.”

Close by reading **Psalm 33**.

Life Group Leaders, pray for anyone in your group who would like to receive Jesus Christ into their hearts. Also, pray for opportunities to introduce family, friends, neighbors to Christ’s love.

One Year Bible Readings

August 16: Nehemiah 11:1-12:26, 1 Corinthians 10:14-33, Ps. 34:11-22, Prov. 21:14-16
August 17: Nehemiah 12:27-13:31, 1 Corinthians 11:1-16, Ps. 35:1-16, Prov. 21:17-18
August 18: Esther 1:1-3:15, 1 Corinthians 11:17-34, Psalm 35:17-28, Prov. 21:19-20
August 19: Esther 4:1-7:10, 1 Corinthians 12:1-26, Psalm 36:1-12, Proverbs 21:21-22
August 20: Esther 8:1-10:3, 1 Corinthians 12:27-13:13, Psalm 37:1-11, Prov. 21:23-24
August 21: Job 1:1-3:26, 1 Corinthians 14:1-17, Psalm 37:12-29, Proverbs 21:25-26
August 22: Job 4:1-7:21, 1 Corinthians 14:18-40, Psalm 37:30-40, Proverbs 21:27



**Text: I Corinthians 5:1-13
Revelation 9:11-21**

Plain Truth:

The _____ Christ is not a _____ to use but a _____ to _____.

1. Jesus Christ alone is _____ so he alone can _____. (vv. 11–12, 15)
2. Jesus Christ alone is our _____ ruler. (vv.12, 16)
3. Jesus Christ is _____. (vv.13–14)