

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Bible Text: Revelation 1:1-11; 21:1-4; 22

Lesson Focus: Revelation is a message of hope for all Christians, especially those who are persecuted or suffering.

Big Question: Does Revelation predict and describe the end of the world?

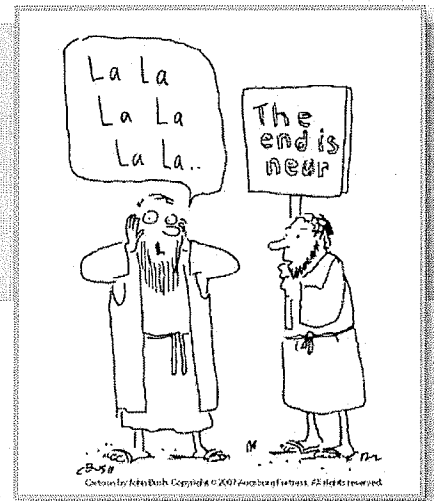
Key Words: REVELATION, CHRISTIAN, CONVERT, FAITHFUL, RAPTURE

BIBLE CONNECTION

-] The book of Revelation was likely written in 95 c.e., making it one of the youngest books in the Bible.
-] John was probably a Jew who became Christian. He was very familiar with both the Hebrew scriptures and Jewish traditions (Revelation 4:6b-8; Isaiah 6:1-3; Ezekiel 1).
-] John was aware that his listeners were Christians living in the pagan Roman world. They often suffered greatly for their faith (Revelation 3:7-13).
-] John offered his book as comfort and strength for the faithful people who suffered and as a wake-up call for those who were not living faithfully (Revelation 14:9-13).
-] He wanted people to see that the difficulty of the present would pass because God's justice would triumph (Revelation 20:11-15).
-] John used the image of a *new* Jerusalem to explain that the current separation between heaven (God) and earth (creation) would end. God would come to dwell with the people (Revelation 21-22).
-] People often use the book of Revelation to try to predict when Jesus will return. This is an incorrect use of the book (2 Timothy 2:14-19).

CARTOON CONNECTION

-] How would you respond to someone who said the world was going to end tomorrow?
-] Have you heard about the "rapture"? What do you think about the idea of a rapture happening before Jesus returns?
-] Do you think it is important to prepare for Jesus' return? Why or why not?



STUDENT BOOK CONNECTION

Here We Stand Student Book page 83: Top Five Misconceptions about the Book of Revelation

-] Which misconceptions in this article do you think is the most important to correct? Why?
-] In what ways can the book of Revelation be used in worship?
-] What do you think is the most important message of Revelation?

Here We Stand Student Book page 58: Top Five Scary Monsters in the Bible

-] Why do you think John described such frightening characters?
-] Why is symbolism of monsters so important in Revelation?

Here We Stand Student Book page 85: How to Tell When the Apocalypse Is Imminent

-] Why do you think Martin Luther said this about planting a tree?
-] How can you remain faithful and hopeful today?

LIFE CONNECTION

Revelation 3:10-11 reminds us to keep God's word. During the week, take note of things people say or do that put pressure on you to push God out of first place in your life. Take note of how you responded to the pressure. Consider how you might be able to encourage others or bring them comfort and strength when they are faced with these challenges. Write down your ideas.

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Word Search

Fill in the blanks in the following sentences, then find those words in the puzzle.



1. The book of _____ tells about a vision that was seen by John.
2. John uses the image of a new _____ to show that God and people will be reconciled.
3. The message of Revelation is one of encouragement and hope for the people waiting for Jesus to _____.
4. According to John's vision, God's justice will be enforced on the last day, also known as _____.
5. _____ is the process that changes all things on earth on the last day.
6. The idea that Jesus will meet all of the faithful people in the air before the trials of the last day is called the _____.
7. We all live in _____ of Jesus' return, and our days should be spent in _____ for his return.
8. The people who first read or heard Revelation showed great _____ as they faced persecutions, trials, and even death because of their faith.

Answers: 1. Revelation 2. Jerusalem 3. return 4. judgment day 5. Transformation 6. rapture 7. anticipation, preparation 8. faith