

DO NOT A Study of Revelation BE AFRAID

SERMON STUDY GUIDE

Text: Revelation 1:1–20

Supporting Texts: Daniel 7:9, 13–14; Matthew 17:1–8; Revelation 2:8–10

Bottom Line:

Jesus is more glorious than you remember, closer than you think, and stronger than what you fear — so do not be afraid.

Key Idea:

Revelation was not written to scare people. It was written to scared people. Before Revelation shows us beasts, bowls, judgment, and conflict, it shows us Jesus: the First and the Last, the Living One, the One who holds the keys of death and Hades.

READ

Read **Revelation 1:1–20** aloud.

Revelation begins not with a timeline, but with a Person: “The revelation of Jesus Christ.” John writes to real churches under pressure, reminding them that Jesus is risen, reigning, present with His people, and victorious over death.

Pay special attention to **Revelation 1:17–18**:

“Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.”

DISCUSS

1. When you hear the word **Revelation**, what do you feel first: curiosity, confusion, fear, skepticism, hope, or something else?
 2. Why do you think many Christians are more familiar with Revelation’s symbols than with Revelation’s picture of Jesus?
 3. The sermon says Revelation was not written to scare people, but to the scared. What fears do you think this book was meant to address?
 4. John falls at Jesus’ feet “as though dead.” What does this tell us about the glory of Jesus?
 5. Jesus responds by placing His hand on John and saying, “Do not be afraid.” What does this reveal about His heart?
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COME AND SEE

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Revelation Is About Jesus

The first words are “The revelation of Jesus Christ.” Revelation is not primarily about decoding future events. It is an unveiling of Jesus: who He is, what He is doing, and how His people should live while the world feels unstable.

See also: **John 1:14; Colossians 1:15–20; Hebrews 1:1–4**

Revelation Is for the Church

John writes to seven real churches in Asia. They were tired, pressured, persecuted, compromised, faithful, wealthy, weak, and afraid. Revelation speaks to real disciples trying to remain faithful in a confusing world.

See also: **Revelation 2–3; John 16:33; Acts 14:22**

Jesus Is More Glorious Than We Remember

John sees Jesus clothed with priestly and kingly glory, with eyes like fire, a voice like rushing waters, and a face shining like the sun. Familiarity can shrink our vision of Jesus. Revelation enlarges it again.

See also: **Daniel 7:9–14; Matthew 17:1–8; Philippians 2:9–11**

Jesus Is Closer Than We Think

Jesus stands “among the lampstands,” which represent the churches. He is not distant from His people. He walks among them, tends them, knows them, corrects them, and holds them.

See also: **Exodus 25:31–40; Leviticus 26:11–12; Matthew 28:20**

Jesus Is Stronger Than What We Fear

Jesus says, “I am the First and the Last.” He has been through death and come out alive forever. He holds the keys of death and Hades. The future is not a blank screen for our worst fears. The future has a face.

See also: **Isaiah 44:6; 1 Corinthians 15:20–28; Revelation 21:1–5**

FOLLOW ME

1. Look Up: Recover Awe

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Fear often makes the threat feel huge and Jesus feel small. Worship reverses the sizes.

- What fear, headline, problem, or pressure has become too large in your imagination?
- Which image of Jesus in Revelation 1 most stretches or comforts you: His eyes, voice, face, hand, robe, sword, or keys?

Reflect:

What would change in your week if you looked at Jesus before looking at your fear?

2. Look Around: Recognize His Presence

Jesus is among the lampstands. He is present with His churches, even the struggling ones.

- How does it change your view of the church to know Jesus walks among His people?
- Where do you need to let another believer know what you are carrying?

3. Look Ahead: Remember Who Holds the Keys

Jesus does not say, “Nothing hard will happen.” He says, “Do not be afraid,” because He is the Living One who has conquered death.

- What future fear most often visits you at night?
- What are you afraid you will not survive, endure, or be able to handle?
- How does Jesus’ resurrection speak to that fear?

4. Let Revelation Reframe Your Fear

Revelation does not remove every frightening thing. It reveals the greater reality behind them.

- What fear has been discipling you lately?
- What line from Revelation 1 answers that fear?
- What would it look like to live this week as if Jesus is already reigning?

GO AND BE

This week, practice three movements.

Look Up

Read **Revelation 1** aloud once a day. Choose one image of Jesus and sit with it for two minutes.

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Ask:

What does this reveal about Jesus?

What fear does this answer?

Look Around

Send one honest text to a trusted Christian friend:

“Here is what I am carrying this week. Would you pray for me?”

Look Ahead

Write your top three fears. Next to each one, write one line from Revelation 1.

Examples:

- Afraid of the future — **“I am the First and the Last.”**
- Afraid of death or loss — **“I hold the keys of death and Hades.”**
- Afraid no one sees — **Eyes like blazing fire; “I know.”**
- Afraid you are too far gone — **“To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood.”**
- Afraid the world is coming apart — **“The ruler of the kings of the earth.”**

CLOSING PRAYER