

Victorious: Revelation 1:1-20

May 17, 2020

Discussion Guide

CHECK UP:

Memory Work Review: *For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.* - 1 Corinthians 15:2-8

- What has God been teaching you this past week?

OPEN:

- How familiar are you with the book of Revelation?
- Who or what has been your primary influence for understanding the book of Revelation?

SERMON QUESTION(s):

- When do you think it is ok to disagree on viewpoints in scripture? What constitutes as a difference of sound interpretation versus when someone is plain wrong? (in essentials unity, in non-essentials liberty, and in all things love)
- Why is understanding the genre of a text important (particularly when it comes to the book of Revelation)?
 - o What is lost if the apocalyptic images are taken literally rather than figurately?
- What is your response to the information that prophecy is only 17% predictive in scripture? How does that impact your view of biblical prophecy?

READ and ASK: Revelation 1:1-20

- What does John call his writing? Biblically, what does that mean?
- What does it mean to "take to heart what is written?"
- To whom is the book addressed? Why is that important in understanding the text?
- What is John's condition as he sees these visions and writes this letter to churches?

- What does it mean that God is the Alpha and Omega?
- How does this text remind you of the power, authority and brilliance of Jesus?
 - o What overall impression does this text give you about Jesus?
- What truths given in this text would have been especially encouraging for churches that were struggling with persecution or threat of persecution?

APPLY:

- What commitment can you make today to get the most out of the book of Revelation?
- What pressures can/could make you feel like giving up on Jesus? What truths keep you going in those times?
- What does it mean to you that Christ, in all his splendor and majesty, made the effort to calm John when he was frightened?
- What changes do you need to make in your life to appropriately reflect the truth that Jesus could return at any time?

Memory Work: *When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: "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. -*

Revelation 1:17-18

Revelation Resources:

- Victorious by Matt Proctor (I would highly recommend this well researched devotional study)
- Breaking the Code by Bruce Metzger
- Revelation's Rhapsody by Robert A. Lowery
- Revelation and the End Times by Craig R. Koester
- Leaving the Rapture Behind by Larry Pechawer
- <https://www.shanejwood.com/>
- Revelation by Shane Wood on Rightnow Media.