



Revelation



Reading the Bible Together

October 2016

What is 'In Sync' Bible Reading?

'In Sync' encourages us as a congregation to read the same Bible book through a month. As we do so, we can consider the main message and the key themes of a whole book of the Bible, and then share with others what we have learnt through our Bible reading.

'I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways. I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word.' (Psalm 119:16)

Questions to consider

Reading the Bible does not have to be an intellectual study. Anyone can read the Bible and by God's grace understand it. The main thing is that we pray for God's help as we read.

Here are some questions to help you think through what you are reading:

1. What have I learnt about God and about Jesus?
2. What does this teach me about humanity and myself?
3. What has most encouraged me from this book?
4. How does this teach me to love the Lord my God with all my heart, soul and mind? (Matt 22:37-40)
5. How does this teach me to love my neighbour as myself? (Matt 22:37-40)
6. Is there anything else I should learn here to be 'equipped for every good work' (2 Tim 3:17)

Revelation : What can we expect?

Revelation was written by the apostle John on the island of Patmos in the Aegean Sea. It is a series of symbolic and prophetic visions seen and recorded by John, who identifies Jesus as the divine author of the book (1:1).

Revelation can be divided as follows:

- Prologue (1:1-20)
- Letters to the seven churches (2:1-3:22)
- A vision of heaven (4:1-5:14)
- The seven seals (6:1-8:5)
- The seven trumpets (8:6-11:19)
- Seven significant signs (12:1-14:20)
- The seven bowls (15:1-16:21)
- The triumph of Almighty God (17:1-20:15)
- A new heaven and a new earth (21:1-22:5)
- Epilogue (22:6-21)

Some of the imagery of Revelation is hard to understand and there are differences of interpretation amongst Christians as to what is being taught in Revelation concerning the end times, before and after the glorious return of Jesus to earth. This often focuses on the 1,000 years (millennium) in Revelation 20 and the identification of the beast whose number is 666 in Revelation 13.

Revelation unveils the unseen spiritual war that is being waged and in which the church is involved. It focuses on the triumph of Jesus and the complete and ultimate sovereignty of God over all things as He brings human history to a close. There is the warning of judgment for those who reject Jesus and there is the prospect of a glorious new world for those whose trust and hope is in Jesus. It is a book that provides much comfort and encouragement to Christians who are experiencing persecution as it declares that in the end Jesus wins.

How to read?

Reading a chapter a day will enable you to read through Revelation in a month.