

**INTRODUCTION TO THE
NEW TESTAMENT**

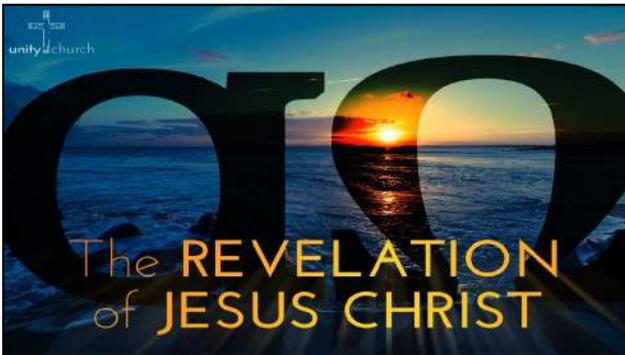
Week 11: Revelation (There is no "s" ©)

Review & Catch Up
Questions, Discussion, Sharing Ideas

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The REVELATION
of JESUS CHRIST

Just why should we study Revelation?

God blesses THE ONE WHO READS the words of this prophecy to the church, and **He blesses** ALL WHO LISTEN TO ITS MESSAGE AND *OBEY WHAT IT SAYS,*

For the time is near!

Just what is Revelation?

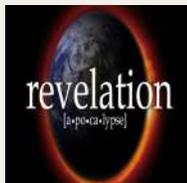
- "Apocalypse" (Greek word translated as 'revelation' (1:1))
- Characteristics of Apocalypse
 - *Began to appear in second century BC as a response to persecution*
 - *Usually pseudonymous**
 - *Extensive symbolism*
 - *Visions from angels*
 - *Deals with eschatology (end times)*
 - *Dualistic conception of history*



*Revelation is does share this characteristic

Just what is Revelation?

- Characteristics of Apocalypse (cont.)
 - *Strong sense of the sovereignty of God*
 - *Use of code words ("Babylon", "The Beast")*
 - *Use of symbolic numbers (i.e. 3 and 7 represent complete, 6 is incomplete)*
 - *Colors, animals, animals/humans*
 - *Fixed symbols used to communicate*



Just what is Revelation?

- “Prophecy” (1:3)
 - This combined with apocalypse in other places (Daniel, Isaiah, Zechariah, Olivet Discourse)
 - John has the inspiration and authority to “write down the words from God”
- “Epistle” (1:4)
 - Presented as a circular letter to seven churches in Asia Minor



Just what is Revelation?

- Most scholars place Revelation squarely in the Jewish Apocalyptic Genre, however, this isn't entirely accurate.
- “Elements of prophecy, apocalypse and letter are combined in a way that has no close parallel in other literature.” Carson and Moo



Unique Elements of Revelation

- Borrow from the OT more than any other NT book
 - Less quotation, more allusion
- John also shows a knowledge of several NT books:
 - Matthew, Luke
 - 1 Thessalonians
 - Corinthians
 - Colossians
 - Ephesians

Revelation 1

1:1 alludes to Dan 2:28-30, 45-47

1:4a echoes Exod 3:14; Deut 32:39; Isa 43:4; 43:10; 44:6; 48:12

1:4b is a paraphrased allusion to Zech 4:2-7 and perhaps Isa 11:2-10

1:5 draws on Psalm 89:27, 37 (cf. Isa 55:4)

1:6 echoes Exod 19:6

1:7 is a composite of Dan 7:13 and Zech 12:10

1:8 is perhaps based on similar clauses in Isa 41-48 (cf. 41:4; 44:6; 48:12)

1:10-11 carries the language of Ezekiel's repeated experiences in the Spirit (cf. Ezek 2:2; 3:12; etc) and also evokes Exod 19:16, 19-20

1:12 draws from Zech 4:2, 10 (cf. Exod 25; 37; Num 8)

1:13-16 draws predominantly from Dan 7; 10, but is apparently pulling from Isa 11:4; 49:2; Zech 4:3, 11-14; Ezek 1:24, 27; 43:2 as well

1:17 follows the pattern of Dan 10:8-20 and echoes Isa 41:4; 44:6; 48:12

Who Wrote Revelation?

- "John" (1:4, 9; 22:8)
- Traditional view is John the Apostle, who also wrote the fourth Gospel
 - Attested to by the early church (except by Marcion)
 - Had a personal relationship with churches of Asia Minor
 - His circumstances match what we know about John from history
 - The saturation of Jewish imagery from the OT implies a Jewish author

Answering Objections to John

- Objection: Stylistic Differences: Revelation breaks many rules of grammar while the fourth Gospel is accurate and clear
 - Response: Similarities still exist in the Greek, and the style may be because of the immediacy of the vision experience and genre
- Objection: Theological Differences between Revelation and John
 - Response: Contrasts are inflated and overdrawn. God's character is the same in both places
- Objection: There is a lack apostolic claim. John never claims to be an apostle, or speaks of gospel events.
 - Response: No need to claim apostleship if readers knew this, gospel events would be out of place

Dating Revelation

- Two major dates are proposed for Revelation in the 60s or in the 90s. The best evidence favors a date in the 90s.
 - *The twelve apostles are not an integral part, John does not identify himself as an apostle, so the apostolic presence is likely pasts.*
 - *Ephesus has lost its first love, and Laodicea is lukewarm, yet Paul's letters (60s) don't reference such conditions*
 - *Laodicea was devastated by an earthquake in AD 62, and if John addressed the church at that time, the address would have focused on other things*

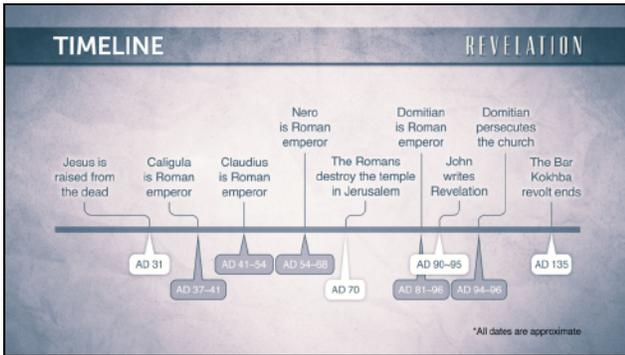
Dating Revelation

- The best evidence favors a date in the 90s (continued)
 - *Revelation 12 sees the persecution as intense (which would fit Jerusalem in the 60s) but also widespread, which would fit better in the 90s. There are other descriptions such as a reference to the Empire Cult (throne of Satan) that developed in the 90s*
 - *Revelation 13 as a critique of the emperor fit better under Domitian than any other emperor...He may have even been seen as Nero come back from the dead.*
 - *There seems to be great connections with the other works of John, and Revelation feels more like a culmination than a precursor*

Dominating Domitian

- Domitian reigned from AD 81-96
- He was insecure, heavy-handed and self-centered
- Demanded to be addressed as *dominus et deus*: "lord and god"
- Self-glorification led to heavy taxes and a test for those on trial: Anyone who refused to offer sacrifices to the emperor would be punished.
- Persecution and execution of Christians would have been the norm for the last four years of his reign!





Locating Revelation: Patmos

- A rocky and rugged island
- Forty miles southwest of Ephesus
- A place of exile used by the Roman authorities
 - John was there "because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus" (1:9)
 - Early tradition that it was the Emperor who sent John there (Origen)
 - More likely John was sent to Patmos to get him out of the way.





Outlining Revelation: Approaches

- Structure in Revelation is debated, many conclusions are made based on how we interpret the book.
- Major disagreements: Chapters 4-22
- Major divisions may be based on phrasing:
 - "In the Spirit"
 - "What must come to pass"
 - "Come and See"



Revelation: Basic Outline

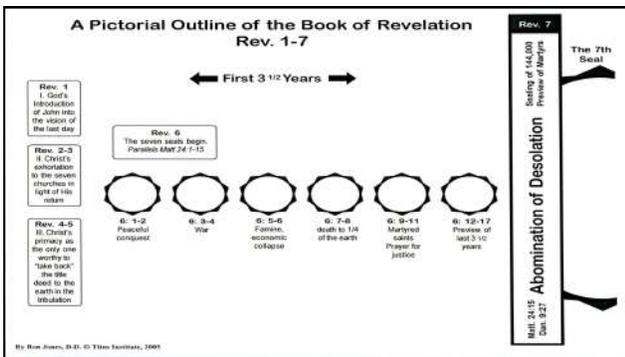
- I. Introduction (1:1-8)
- II. Jesus Among the Seven Churches (1:9-20)
- III. The Letters to the Seven Churches (2-3)
- IV. The Throne, the Scroll, the Lamb (4-5)
- V. The Seven Seals (6:1-8:1)
- VI. The Seven Trumpets (8:2-11:19)
- VII. Various Persons and Events (12-14)
- VIII. The Seven Bowls (15-16)
- IX. Babylon: The Great Prostitute (17:1-19:5)
- X. Praise for the Wedding of the Lamb (19:6-10)
- XI. The Return of Christ (19:11-21)
- XII. The Thousand Years (20:1-6)
- XIII. Satan's Doom (20:7-10)
- XIV. The Great White Throne (20:11-15)
- XV. New Heaven, New Earth, New Jerusalem (21:1-22:5)
- XVI. Conclusion and Benediction (22:6-21)

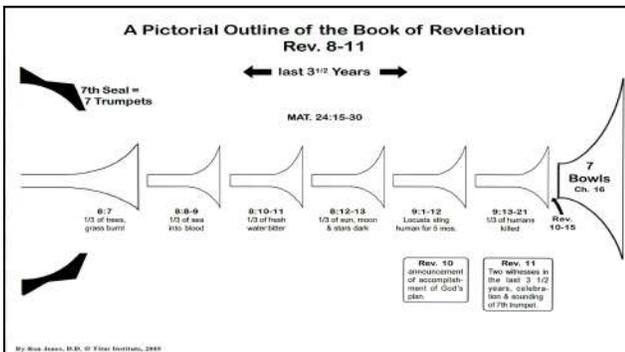
Revelation: Basic Outline

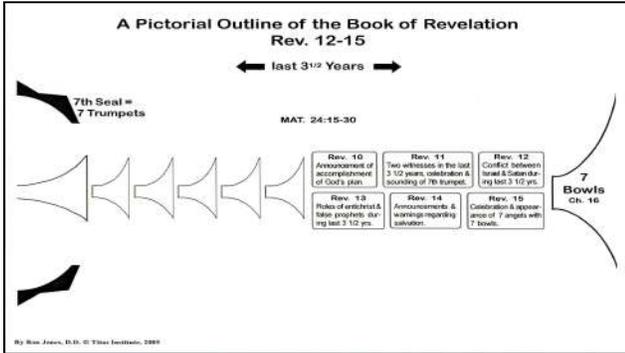
- I. Prologue (1:1-20)
- II. Message to Seven Churches (2:1-3:22)
- III. A Vision of Heaven (4:1-5:14)
- IV. The Seven Seals (6:1-8:5)
- V. The Seven Trumpets (8:6-11:19)
- VI. Seven Significant Signs (12:1-14:20)
- VII. The Seven Bowls (15:1-16:21)
- VIII. The Triumph of Almighty God (15:1-16:21)
- IX. The New Jerusalem (21:9-22:9)
- X. Epilogue (22:10-21)

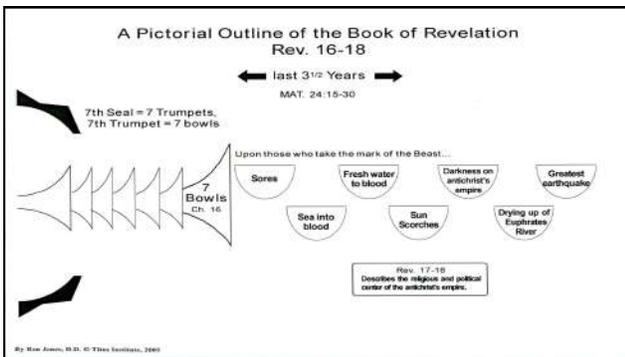
REVELATION		
"The things which you have seen . . ." Personal and biographical	"The things which are . . ." Christ's letters to the seven churches	"The things which will take place." (Revelation 1:19)
CHAPTER 1	CHAPTERS 2-3	CHAPTERS 4-22
Scope	History; looking back	Prophecy; looking ahead
Style	Dialogue	Observations and questions
Scene	On earth	Shifts between earth and heaven
Theme	Christ's future triumph over the forces of evil and His re-creation of the world for the redeemed	
Key Verses	1:7, 19; 22:12-13	
Christ in Revelation	Jesus is the coming King of Kings and Lord of Lords, who will return as Judge and King to usher in the kingdom of God on earth (19:11-20:8).	

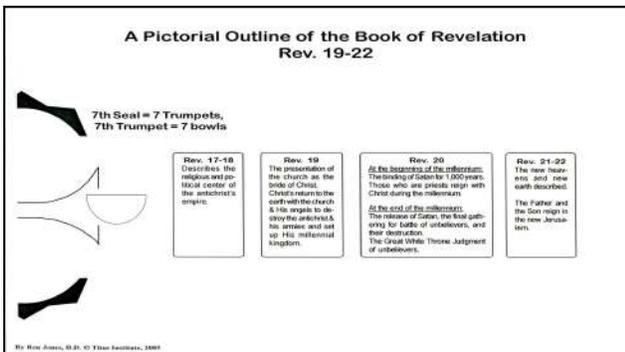
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Reading and Interpreting Revelation: Special Considerations and Approaches

Symbolism in Revelation

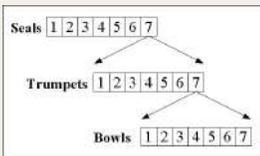
- Many times in the book John uses the phrase "like" or "as"
- Symbols are important, but shouldn't be over-interpreted.
- Not everything is meant to be something of note
- Not everything corresponds to something today: i.e. Antichrist



"Confused St. Henskins, when I said I meant that literally, that was just a figure of speech."

Time isn't linear...at least not always

- In Revelation we have different view points: From earth and from heaven.
- Some events are from different perspectives, and other events open a new description of events.
- Seals-trumpets-bowls are sometimes overlapping.



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graph TD
    S[Seals 1-7] --> T[Trumpets 1-7]
    T --> B[Bowls 1-7]
  
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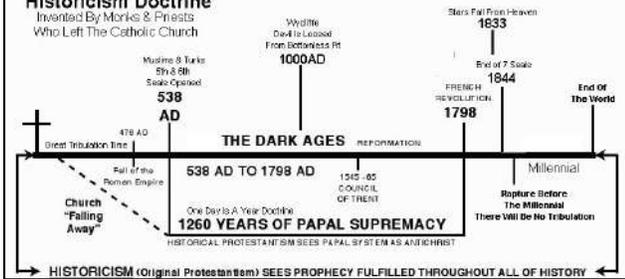
Interpreting Revelation: Preterist

- Also called "contemporary-historical"
- Most common approach
- All of the visions grow out of and describe events in John's own day
- John's purpose is to exhort readers to remain faithful as they wait for God's eternal Kingdom



Interpreting Revelation: Historical Approach

Historicism Doctrine
 Invented By Monks & Priests
 Who Left The Catholic Church



Interpreting Revelation: Futurist

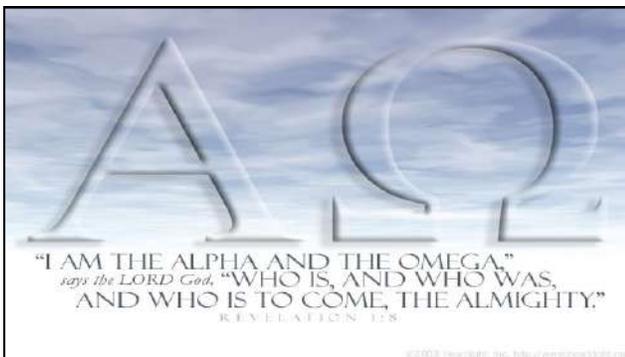
- Everything from Chapter 4 to the end finds its fulfillment in the very last days of human history
- Moderate views see some of the events as taking place in history before the end.
- This is the view of many conservative Biblical scholars
- This view can lead to some dangerous consequences

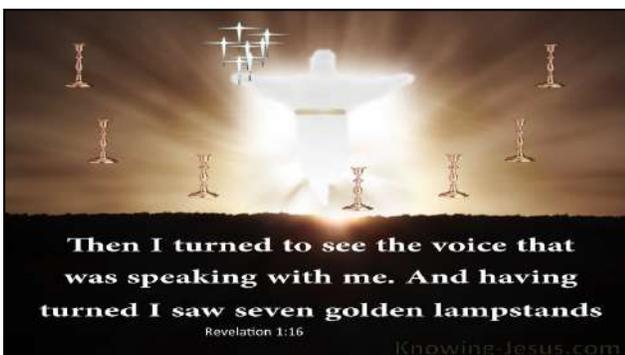


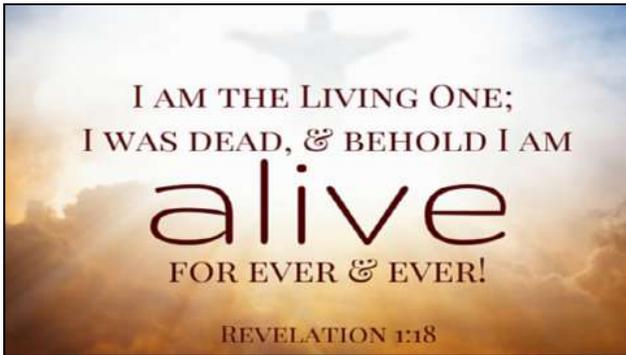
Interpreting Revelation: Idealist

- Symbolism is designed to help us understand God and history in a general way.
- Revelation teaches: "the action of great principles and not special incidents"
- This approach tends to ignore the fact that John paints many events in the book as "what must take place"









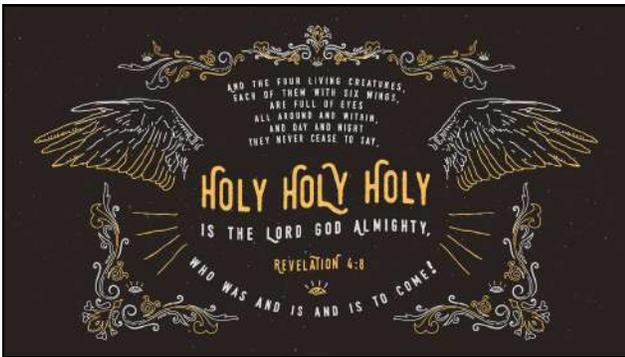


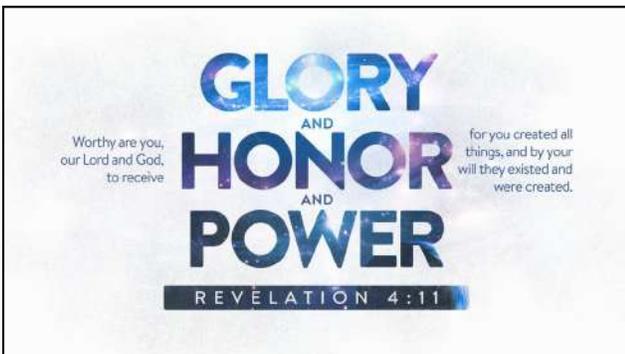
7 Letters: 7 Characteristics

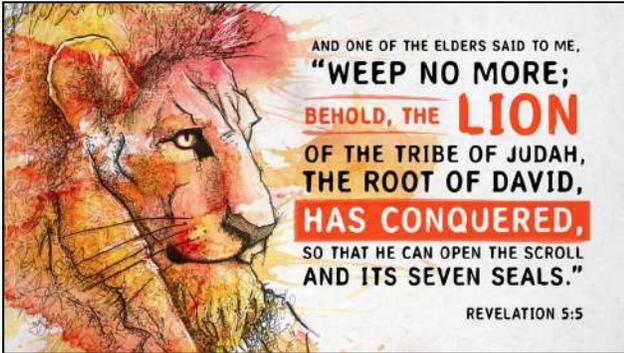
1. A greeting to the "angel" or "messenger" of the church
2. Description of the risen Christ (drawn from 1:9-20)
3. Praise for the church (exception: Laodicea)
4. Criticism of the church (exception: Smyrna, Philadelphia)
5. Warning
6. Exhortation: "He who has ears..."
7. A Promise

seven letters to seven churches

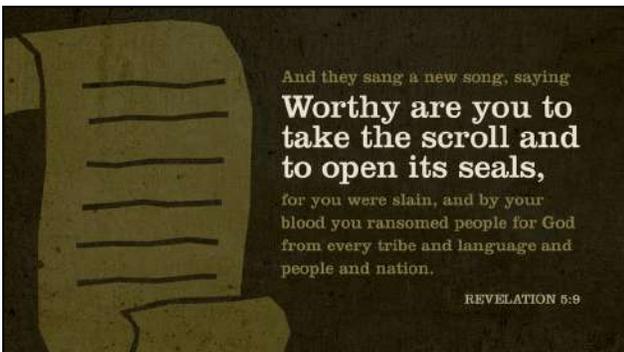




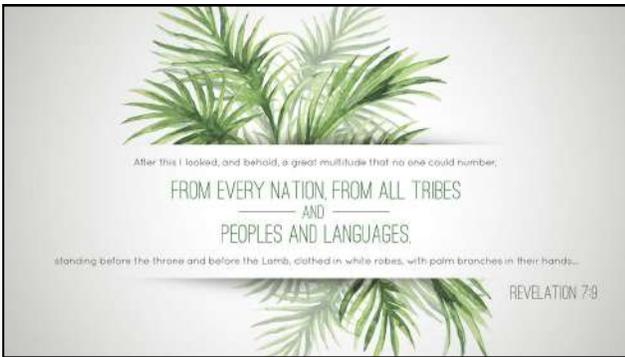


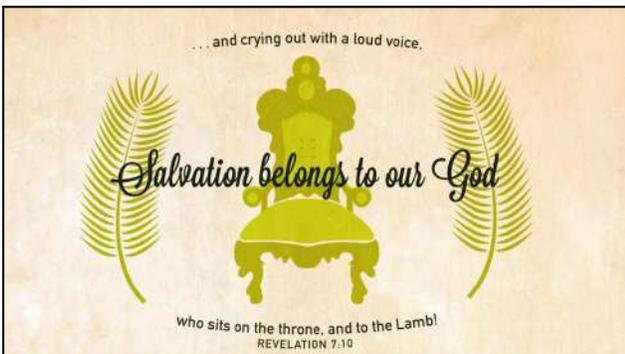














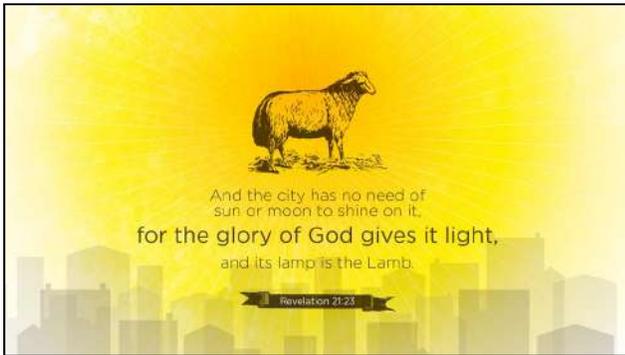


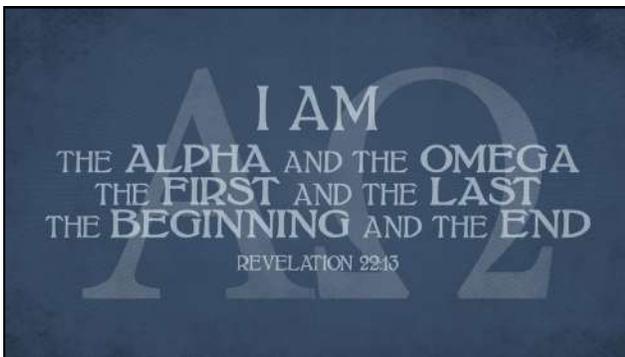












Revelation: Unique Contributions

- Theological Contributions: Sovereignty of God, Worth of God, Christology
- Eschatology is the Greatest Contribution
 - *A detailed description of end times (though sometimes symbolism is stretched too far)*
 - *Helps us shape our view of the past and present*
 - *Reminds us of the reality of evil and God's judgment*

Assignments, Wrap Up

- Discussion Board (due by April 28): Which church described in Rev. 2-3 is closest to your church? Compare and contrast and then describe one action point you can do to follow the advice of Jesus given that church
- Application Project: Submit your application project and be prepared to present at our next class session. You will have 10 minutes to present an overview of your project and summarize the session you have chosen to share as part of your project. You will be graded on both what you submit and your presentation.
- Submit your reading log by Saturday, April 28- An email with the percentage of reading you have completed is sufficient.
- Prepare for your last test (This will be due no later than May 5th).

He who testifies to these things
says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen.

Come, Lord Jesus!

Revelation 22:20
