

VICTORY: REVELATION'S HEAVENLY PERSPECTIVE

Reading Revelation Responsibly

Purpose: to give us a heavenly perspective on our earthly circumstances so that every generation of readers can be challenged, comforted and given hope.

→ **Key Steps for Reading Revelation Responsibly**

On Sunday, we worked through the complex images and symbols of Revelation 12:1-6. We utilized the following key steps to help us. Use these steps as you continue your own study of Revelation:

Step One – Read each biblical book holistically and contextually for its unique message. Look for repeated themes or key images. For example, in Revelation - the throne room, the Lamb, the dragon, and the beast(s).

Step Two – Remember, this is vision literature. It requires us to research and discover the images/patterns referenced in Scripture. These images/patterns were known by the original readers and can have a contemporary message of comfort, faith and hope for us.

Step Three – Avoid using Revelation's signs/symbols as a twenty-first century predictive guide. Instead, use the message of Revelation as a lens to view our reality – heavenly perspective for our earthly circumstances.

Step Four – Stay focused on theological themes rather than disputed details. Avoid being preoccupied by questions about the meaning of unknowable or less important aspects of the letter.

→ **Key Focus of John's Revelation**

To summon every generation of readers to follow the Lamb – King Jesus – and to bear witness to what He has done. This is the central focus of Revelation. READ Rev. 12:10-12 & 15:1-4 and be encouraged.

→ **Practice the Key Steps**

We covered Revelation 12:1-6 together on Sunday. Now, with the key steps, read Revelation 13 and do your best to understand what John is communicating to his original readers.

- What images/patterns is John referencing in chapter 13? (check out Daniel 7 and Jeremiah 15:2)
- What about these images/patterns do we not understand?
- What contemporary, theological message(s) from this chapter are helpful for us?