

The Book of Revelation

Study Guide

LESSON
THREE

THE KING AND HIS KINGDOM



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HOW TO USE THIS LESSON AND STUDY GUIDE

This study guide is designed for use in conjunction with the associated video lesson. If you do not have access to the video, the study guide will also work with the audio and/or text versions of the lesson. Additionally, the lesson and study guide are intended to be used in a learning community, but they also can be used for individual study if necessary.

- **Before you watch the lesson**
 - **Prepare** — Complete any recommended readings.
 - **Schedule viewing** — In the Notes section of the study guide, the lesson has been divided into sections that correspond to the video. Using the time codes found in parentheses beside each major division, determine where to begin and end your viewing session. IIM lessons are densely packed with information, so you may also want to schedule breaks. Breaks should be scheduled at major divisions.
- **While you are watching the lesson**
 - **Take notes** — The Notes section of the study guide contains a basic outline of the lesson, including the time codes for the beginning of each section and key notes to guide you through the information. Many of the main ideas are already summarized, but make sure to supplement these with your own notes. You should also add supporting details that will help you to remember, describe, and defend the main ideas.
 - **Record comments and questions** — As you watch the video, you may have comments and/or questions on what you are learning. Use the margins to record your comments and questions so that you can share these with the group following the viewing session.
 - **Pause/replay portions of the lesson** — You may find it helpful to pause or replay the video at certain points in order to write additional notes, review difficult concepts, or discuss points of interest.
- **After you watch the lesson**
 - **Complete Review Questions** — Review Questions are based on the basic content of the lesson. You should answer Review Questions in the space provided. These questions should be completed individually rather than in a group.
 - **Answer/discuss Application Questions** — Application Questions are questions relating the content of the lesson to Christian living, theology, and ministry. Application questions are appropriate for written assignments or as topics for group discussions. For written assignments, it is recommended that answers not exceed one page in length.

Notes

I. Introduction (0:20)

The central theme of the kingdom of God runs through the entire book of Revelation.

II. Kingship (3:44)

A. God's Kingship (4:02)

God is the omnipotent king and ruler over all creation.

Revelation emphasizes God's active, powerful reign over the universe.

God appointed humans to rule over and administer his kingdom under the headship of covenant administrators:

- Adam
- Noah
- Abraham
- Moses
- David
- Christ

God established David's dynasty as the conduit of God's blessing and judgments for his people.

In the last days, God would renew his covenant through a righteous Son of David.

Because Jesus died to free us from our sins, we're now a kingdom and priests.

God's special kingdom will endure until it conquers and fills the whole world.

B. Christ's Kingship (4:02)

Jesus' kingship is a human office; therefore, Jesus is God's vassal or servant king.

The name Christ means “anointed one” and refers to the office of Davidic king.

Jesus fulfills all the aspects of the new covenant that were anticipated in the Old Testament.

Jesus secured his place as God’s vassal king through his death and resurrection.

Jesus is reigning as king over the church and is expanding his kingdom.

III. Benevolence (26:08)

God’s benevolence as the suzerain of the covenant:

- Sent his Son to die for our sins
- Makes us part of his kingdom
- Exempted his people from judgments
- Gave prophetic warnings to the churches
- Defends his people in the midst of spiritual war

Spiritual warfare is the war between God and the evil spiritual powers in this world.

Christians are assured victory in spiritual war because of God's benevolence.

A. Old Testament (32:30)

The Old Testament is filled with accounts of battles.

Invisible spiritual battles were fought between God and his holy angels on one side, and Satan and his demonic armies on the other side.

God identified himself as Israel's warrior king that led them into battle.

Hezekiah understood that a battle with the Assyrians was both physical and spiritual.

B. New Testament (39:55)**1. Christ's Victory (41:03)**

Jesus' life, death, resurrection, and ascension were a victory over sin and God's spiritual enemies.

Christ's resurrection and ascension extended God's benevolent protection to his people.

2. Holy Spirit's Power (42:29)

God has empowered us by his Holy Spirit so we can resist demons.

Christians are to put on the full armor of God to protect us in spiritual war.

C. Book of Revelation (47:11)

John alerted Christians to the spiritual conflict between Christ and his enemies.

John assured his audience that God was their benevolent protector.

God's benevolent protection:

- Secured Victory: Christ has already secured victory for his faithful people.

- Applying Victory: The Holy Spirit is applying Christ's victory to the lives of believers.

- Finalizing Victory: When Christ returns, God will finalize his victory over our spiritual enemies by utterly destroying them.

IV. Loyalty (56:00)

John wrote to encourage the churches in Asia Minor to remain loyal to God.

John's original audience faced at least four types of temptation to be disloyal:

- Trade guilds: Tempted believers to engage in idolatry
- Roman Empire: Tempted Christians to worship pagan gods
- Judaism: Tempted Jewish Christians to abandon Christ and return to traditional Judaism
- Wayward Christians: Tempted Christians to engage in pagan practices

A. Perseverance (58:45)

Definition: Remaining faithful to God in belief and actions despite temptation, opposition or discouragement.

John called his readers to persevere or overcome.

Five Types of Perseverance:

- Faith

“Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see” (Heb. 11:1).

John called his readers to be strong in faith and resist the systems of the world.

- Love

Revelation calls all believers to keep their love for God alive and strong.

- Witness

Faithful churches stood in stark contrast to the culture around them.

The truth of Christ’s salvation made the witness of believers critically important.

- Moral Purity

Exhortations to moral purity are found frequently in the letters to the churches.

- Doctrine

Revelation calls believers to maintain true doctrine.

Revelation gives us practical instruction on *how* to persevere.

B. Worship (1:12:28)

Revelation has a remarkable emphasis on worship.

Revelation makes the connection between suffering and worship clear.

Three reasons to praise God:

1. Past Redemption (1:14:50)

Christ's work of redemption in the past makes God worthy of worship.

Every believer should offer worship and praise to God in response to the salvation we've received.

2. Present Honor (1:16:56)

God has given us present honor by making us his kingdom of priests.

The Old Testament looked forward to a day when all of God's people would be both kings and priests.

The church is now a kingdom of priests that reigns over the earth.

Jesus deserves worship because he has honored his people by appointing them as his priests and kings.

As God's priests, believers actually minister to the Lord in heaven.

3. Future Blessings (1:24:50)

God deserves our worship because of the future blessings he's promised.

Examples of worship:

The elders in heaven (Rev. 11:16-18).

The multitude wearing white robes and carrying palm branches (Rev. 7:9-10).

Every believer can look forward to blessings in the future knowing that Jesus has conquered all of God's enemies.

V. Consequences (1:31:10)

Humanity will receive consequences when Christ returns to bring in the kingdom of God in all its fullness.

A. Final Curses (1:32:46)

Three elements that will be included in the final curses against God's enemies:

- Destruction

Satan and all demonic forces will finally be completely defeated.

- Defeat

Revelation describes the destruction of the kings and nations that are God's enemies.

- Condemnation

Every unbeliever will receive God's final judgment.

B. Final Blessings (1:39:58)

The universe will be renewed for God's faithful people to enjoy forever.

Three final blessings:

1. Renovation of Creation (1:41:00)

The first heaven and earth will pass away.

The old creation will be renovated or renewed.

In the new heavens and new earth, the curse God placed on creation will finally be lifted.

One of the richest symbols John used was the picture of the river of life that nourishes the Tree of Life.

2. Global Temple (1:50:00)

In the Old Testament, God set aside holy spaces where he manifested his presence in a special way.

In the new heavens and new earth, God will manifest his special presence throughout the entire world (Rev. 21:3, 22-23).

The renewal of the world will create this global temple because of the work of Jesus Christ.

3. Never-Ending Reign (1:53:42)

Only Jesus Christ will be enthroned in the New Jerusalem, and only his reign will never end.

VI. Conclusion (1:56:35)

3. How did God demonstrate his benevolence in the Old Testament?

4. How did God demonstrate his benevolence in the New Testament?

5. How did God demonstrate his benevolence to his people in the book of Revelation?

6. Why is perseverance an expression of loyalty to God?

7. Why are we supposed to express our loyalty to God in worship?

8. What are the consequences that result from loyalty and disloyalty to God?

Application Questions

1. What comfort should the kingship of God and Christ give you in your present circumstances?
2. What encouragement can we gain from knowing that God protects his faithful people from demonic powers?
3. How are the ministries you are currently engaged in helping you live in the reality of Christ's victory over God's spiritual enemies?
4. How can you use the message of the Holy Spirit's power in Revelation to help you in spiritual warfare?
5. How should Christ's work of redemption in the past inspire us to worship today?
6. What are some attitudes and actions we should exhibit knowing that God has honored us as kings and priests?
7. How should you worship God in your present circumstances for the blessings God will give you in the future?
8. What are some ways the book of Revelation has motivated you to remain loyal to God?
9. What attitudes and actions should we exhibit toward unbelievers knowing that God will condemn his enemies in the final judgment?
10. What are some of the blessings you look forward to in the new heavens and new earth?
11. How can the vision of God's future global temple give you hope now?
12. What is the most significant thing you learned in this lesson?