

Jesus and the Book of Revelation



SABBATH—APRIL 14

READ FOR THIS WEEK'S LESSON: 1 Corinthians 10:1–11; Revelation 12:1–17; Revelation 19:11–15; Ephesians 1:20.

MEMORY VERSE: “ ‘Here is what I will do for anyone who has victory over sin. I will give that person the right to sit with me on my throne. In the same way, I had victory. Then I sat down with my Father on his throne’ ” (Revelation 3:21, NIV).

DO A QUICK READING of the New Testament, and you will see an important truth: the New Testament is connected to the Old Testament. Again and again, New Testament writers use Bible verses from the Old Testament. Jesus did the same thing. He often talked about how different things in the Old Testament needed to happen (read Mark 14:49).

We see this same connection between the Old Testament and the book of Revelation too. In fact, it is very difficult for the book of Revelation to make any sense without help from the Old Testament. More than any other book in the Old Testament, the book of Daniel helps us to understand the book of Revelation the most. That is one reason why we often study these two books together.

The book of Revelation uses many verses from the Old Testament. These verses show us Jesus. The book of Revelation is all about Jesus. It shows us the things Jesus did for His people and the things He will do for us in the last days. Any study about the last days must put Jesus at the center. The book of Revelation does exactly that. This week, we will look at Jesus in the book of Revelation.



The teachings in the book of Revelation are connected in a special way to the messages in Daniel.

The book of Revelation is all about Jesus. Any study about the last days must put Jesus at the center.

TOPICS IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION (1 Corinthians 10:1–11)

Both Daniel and Revelation can be divided into two separate topics: (1) history and (2) things that will happen in the last days. Both topics are connected very closely together in each book. We can look at the record of history in each book as an example of what will happen in the last days. So, our study of what happened in Old Testament history can help us to understand what will happen in our time. This important rule of Bible study can be used with other books of the Bible too.

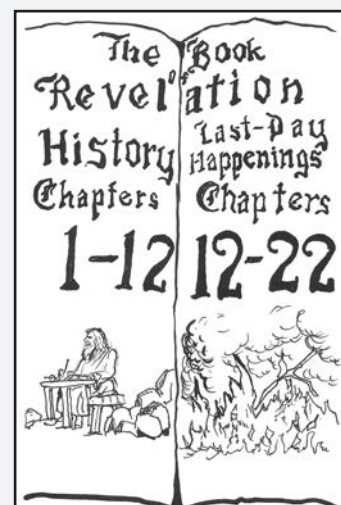
Read 1 Corinthians 10:1–11. How do we see in these verses the rule of Bible study we just talked about?

Last week we learned that some of the stories in Daniel showed things that would happen in the last days. (Examples include Daniel 3:6, 15, 27 and Daniel 6:6–9, 21, 22.) When we study these stories, we understand more about some of the things God’s people will face in the last days. The book of Revelation tells us more about these things. Maybe the most important idea that the stories in Daniel teach us is that God will save us in the end. Revelation also teaches us that God will give His followers victory.

We can divide the book of Revelation into separate topics, chapter by chapter. Chapters 1–11 deal with the topic of history. Chapters 13–22 deal with the topic of things that will happen in the last days. There are, of course, some chapters that may belong to both topics, as we shall see.

Read Revelation 12:1–17. Where should we put this chapter? Should we put it under the topic of history? Or should we put it under the topic of things that will happen in the last days? Explain.

As we can see, Revelation 12 belongs to both topics: history and things that will happen in the last days. Why? Because chapter 12 talks about many different wars in history: (1) Satan fights against God and is thrown out of heaven (Revelation 12:7–9); (2) Satan attacks Baby Jesus (Revelation 12:4); and (3) Satan attacks God’s church (Revelation 12:14–16). After this discussion about history, Revelation talks about the attack on God’s people in the last days (Revelation 12:17).



The book of Revelation can be divided into two separate parts. Chapters 1–11 are about history. Chapters 13–22 are about last-day happenings. Chapter 12 belongs to both groups. It is about history and last-day happenings.

PICTURES OF JESUS (Revelation 1:5)

Read the verses below. Some of the verses give different names for Jesus. Some of the verses describe Jesus and the things He has done, is doing, and will do for us. What does each of these verses teach us about Jesus?

Revelation 1:5 _____

Revelation 1:18 _____

Revelation 5:8 _____

Revelation 19:11–15 _____

Revelation 21:6 _____



The word picture of Jesus as the Lamb helps us think about His coming to earth to die for our sins.

These verses are just a few of the many verses in Revelation that show us Jesus and what He does. Jesus is the Lamb. This picture of Jesus as the Lamb helps us think about His first coming when He came to earth and died for our sins. “The Jews killed lambs when they left Egypt. Christ [Jesus] is our lamb. He has already been killed as a gift on the altar to God for us” (1 Corinthians 5:7, NLV). Jesus says that He is “ ‘the Living One. I was dead, but look, I am alive forever. I have power over death and hell’ ” (Revelation 1:18, NLV). This verse helps us remember Jesus’ death and His waking up again from the dead. “[Jesus] said to them, ‘It is written that Christ [the Savior that God chose to die for our sins] should suffer and be raised from the dead after three days’ ” (Luke 24:46, NLV). Revelation 19:11–15 shows Jesus as a powerful King at the Second Coming. At that time, He will come back to this earth in power and glory to judge. “ ‘The Son of Man will come again with his Father’s glory and with his angels. At that time, he will reward everyone for what he has done’ ” (Matthew 16:27, ICB).

As Christians, we believe in Jesus’ life, His death, His waking up from the dead, and His Second Coming. How can we learn every day to make these beliefs the most important part of our lives and the reason for every choice we make?

JESUS' WORK FOR US RIGHT NOW IN HEAVEN (Revelation 4:1, 2)

We learned that the book of Revelation can be divided into two different topics: (1) history and (2) the things that will happen in the last days. But there is another topic found in Revelation, and it deals with the Hebrew sanctuary. The Hebrew sanctuary was the place where Jesus was worshiped in Old Testament times before Solomon's temple was built. The sanctuary topic can be seen in Revelation's other two topics: (1) history and (2) things that happen in the last days.

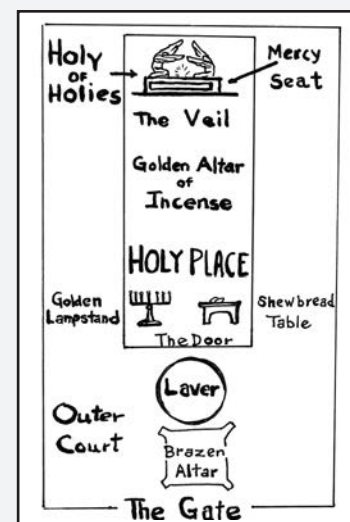
The Hebrew sanctuary begins with the courtyard. The courtyard was the place outside the sanctuary. Here we find the altar where animals were killed. These animals showed Jesus' death for our sins. After the animal died, the priest went into the first room in the sanctuary. Jesus did this same thing after He went back to heaven. He, too, went into the first room in the sanctuary in heaven (Revelation 1:13).

Read Revelation 4:1, 2. What does the open door mean? Where does the action described in these verses happen? Read also Acts 2:33; Acts 5:31; Hebrews 10:12, 13; and Revelation 12:5 for the answer.

Jesus was made our High Priest soon after He went back to heaven. A high priest is someone who works to save His people. As our High Priest, Jesus offers His blood to wash away the sins of everyone who by faith believes in Him. God the Father made Jesus our High Priest in the Holy Room in the temple in heaven. God opened the door to this room for us because of Jesus' victory on the cross.

Read Revelation 11:19. Here we find John watching in vision as the temple in heaven is opened. John sees the ark. The ark was a special piece of furniture that held the Ten Commandments. The ark was put in the Second Room of the Hebrew sanctuary on earth. Why is it so special that John could see the ark?

The ark in heaven helps us to think about the Most Holy Room in the temple in heaven. The ark also shows us Jesus' work for us in that Second Room. His work gives us hope that all heaven is "working together to help God's people to be loyal to Him in the last days."
—Ellen G. White, *My Life Today*, page 307, adapted.



Another topic found in the book of Revelation is the Hebrew sanctuary. The sanctuary was the place where Jesus was worshiped in Old Testament times before Solomon's temple was built.

JESUS IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION: PART 1 (Revelation 1:1–8)

Everything in the book of Revelation, from its topics to its message, has one purpose: to show us Jesus.

That is why the book of Revelation begins with these words: “The things that are written in the Book are made known by Jesus Christ” (Revelation 1:1, NLV). The name of the book, “Revelation,” means “something that is made known.” In Greek, we would write the name of the book as “Apocalypsis Iesou Christou.” This wording can be written as: (1) “things made known to us that come *from* Jesus” or (2) “things made known to us *about* Jesus” (Revelation 1:2). Also, the name “Revelation” means that we are meant to understand the book. So, people who say Revelation is too hard to understand are mistaken. After all, why would Jesus include the book of Revelation in the Bible if we were never meant to understand it? That idea makes no sense!

What does Revelation 1:1–8 teach us about Jesus?

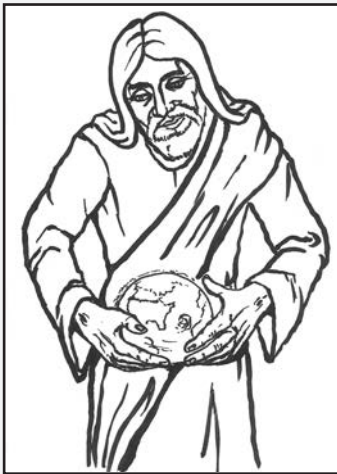
Jesus first appears in the book of Revelation as “the ruler of the kings of the earth” (Revelation 1:5, ERV). Near the end of the book, John describes Jesus as “the God who rules over all [people]” (Revelation 19:15, NIV). This verse shows us that our loving Lord and Savior has full control over everything that happens on this earth. This fact can give us deep peace when life seems confusing and when nothing that happens seems to make any sense to us.

In Revelation 1:5, John shows us clearly that Jesus is our Savior. John writes, “[Jesus] is the One Who loves us and has set us free from our sins by His blood” (NLV). This verse helps us think about Jesus’ death for us on the cross. His death cleanses us from all sin. Jesus’ death makes us right with God. Jesus’ death makes us holy (1 Corinthians 6:11). In Revelation 1:1–8, we find the promise that Jesus saves us. He is the One who washes away our sins. That is something we never could do for ourselves.

What does Revelation 1:7, 8 teach us about Jesus?

Jesus will come again. Everyone alive on the earth will see Him come back. Then Jesus will put an end to suffering, pain, and death for His people.

How can Revelation 1:8 give us hope in bad times?



**Our loving Lord and Savior
has full control over
everything that happens
on this earth.**

JESUS IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION: PART 2 (Revelation 22:7)

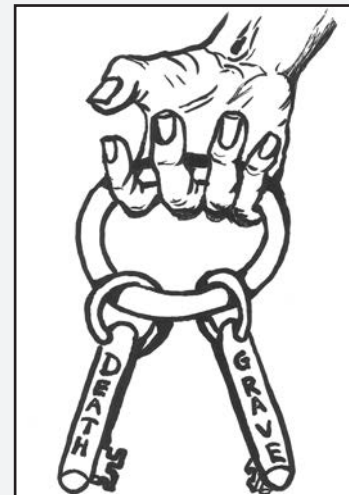
Read Revelation 1:10–18. What does Jesus say about Himself in these verses?

In these verses, Jesus stands in the first room of the sanctuary in heaven. The sanctuary in heaven is the place where God is worshiped. When John sees Jesus appear here, John falls at Jesus' feet in fear. Jesus comforts John. Jesus tells John not to be afraid. Then Jesus tells John that He, Jesus, is the First and the Last. The word "First" comes from the Greek word "Alpha." The word "Last" comes from the Greek word "Omega." These names of Jesus show us that Jesus is God and He lives forever. Later, Jesus talks about His death and His coming back to life from the dead and the hope that it brings. Jesus has the keys to death and hell. Jesus tells John this truth so John will know that Jesus has power over death and the grave. Jesus tells John the same thing He told Martha when her brother Lazarus died: " 'I am the One Who raises [wakes up] the dead and gives them life. Anyone who puts his trust in Me will live again, even if he dies. Anyone who lives and has put his trust in Me will never die. Do you believe this?' " (John 11:25, 26, NLV).

Jesus does with us the same thing He does with Martha and then with John. Jesus reminds us of the hope we have in Him. He will wake us up from the dead. All our hopes as Christians center on this precious promise from Jesus. Without this hope, what real hope do we have?

Read Revelation 22:7, 12, 13. What do these verses show us about Jesus?

"Jesus is the Alpha [the First] and the Omega [the Last]. He is the Genesis [the Start] of the Old Testament and the Revelation [the things God makes known to us about the last days] in the New Testament. The teachings in both the Old and New Testaments show us Jesus. Jesus' obedience brings Adam and God back together again in peace and friendship. Jesus defeated all the tricks of Satan, who tried to lead Jesus into sin. Jesus won the victory over sin where Adam failed."—Ellen G. White Comments [ideas], *The SDA Bible Commentary [explanation]*, volume 6, pages 1092, 1093, adapted. Yes, Jesus is the Start and the Finish. He made us in the beginning. He will make us new in the end.



Jesus has the keys to death and hell. That means He has power over death and the grave.

ADDITIONAL THOUGHT: “The book of Revelation makes known to us many things and mysteries about God. The name Revelation itself goes against the false idea that humans cannot understand this book. A ‘revelation’ means something that God makes known. The Lord Himself made known to His servant John the mysteries that are found in the book of Revelation. It is Jesus’ plan that these mysteries shall be open to everyone to study and understand. John wrote the truths in the book of Revelation to the people living in the last days of this earth’s history. John also wrote these truths to those people living in his own time. Some things in Revelation happen in the past. Some of the things in Revelation are happening now. Some of the things in Revelation will happen at the end of the big war between God and Satan. Some of the things that happen in Revelation show us the earth made new and the victory and joys of the people that Jesus saves.”—Ellen G. White, *The Acts of the Apostles [leaders and teachers]*, page 584, adapted.



It is Jesus’ plan for everyone to study and understand the mysteries in the book of Revelation.

We looked at many verses this week in the book of Revelation that show us just how much the book is about Jesus. Read Revelation 3:14; Revelation 5:5, 6; Revelation 7:14; and Revelation 19:11–16 for more verses about Jesus. When we put these verses about Jesus all together, we get a powerful picture of Jesus and everything He means to us.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- ① The New Testament writers use many verses from the Old Testament in their writings. What does that fact mean for us? What should that fact tell us about how important the Bible is to our faith? How can we protect ourselves against anyone who tries to say that the Bible does not have much power in our lives or in the life of the church anymore?
- ② Read over the book of Revelation. Find as many verses as you can about Jesus. Share the verses in class. What else do these verses show you about Jesus’ work for us right now, His power, and His holy life? What comfort do these verses give you?
- ③ We live on a planet where death happens every day. How can we learn to find hope and comfort in the promise that Jesus won the victory over death?