

Resolve: Week 1

Takeaway: A diminished vision of Jesus leads to a diminished view of self.

Read: Revelation 1

What stood out to you from this passage?

Things You Need To Know:

- Revelation was written by the Apostle John around 90-95 AD on the Island of Patmos.
- Revelation has elements of three different literary types:
- **Letter** - This letter would have been circulated amongst the seven churches referenced in chapters 2-3 and includes the traditional opening and closing elements of a letter from that time.
- **Prophecy** - Revelation references more Old Testament passages and themes than any other book in the New Testament which gives this book its prophetic undertones. The majority of Old Testament references come from Daniel, Isaiah, Ezekiel and Zechariah along with Exodus.
- **Apocalypse** - The genre of apocalypse in John's day was not uncommon and the word apocalypse did not mean the same thing as what the word means today. In John's day, the definition of apocalypse was "to make known, make manifest or disclose what before was unknown." With that in mind, Revelation is an unveiling of what was previously unknown and this is accomplished through Jesus' revelation to John.
- In some cases, like in Revelation 1:19-20, the meaning of the imagery and/or symbols will be revealed. In this case, Jesus explicitly tells John what the seven stars and seven lampstands represent.
- When reading Revelation, we must look to the message that is trying to be conveyed more than the details, for many of the details are symbolic.
- Be careful to not read your modern agenda into this text.
- *Further Study:* Read Daniel 7:1-14 and then reread Revelation 1. Write



down the similarities you see between the two.

Questions:

1. What is your background with the book of Revelation? (What do you know about it? What have you heard about it? Have you read it before?)

2. What hesitations do you have about Revelation?

3. Take a look at the three titles given to Jesus in verse 5. These titles would have been a great comfort to John's first readers. How do they comfort and give confidence to you in your day-to-day life?

Faithful Witness:

First to rise from the dead:

Ruler of Kings on Earth:



4. When John says “I was in the Spirit” (v. 10), what do you think that meant? What immediately followed that?

5. What stands out to you most about the description of Jesus? (v. 10-15)

6. What encouragement do you find from Revelation 1?

