Sermon Guide - Sunday, November 8, 2026

Current Series: The Revelation

The Antichrist. Armageddon. The Beast. *666.* For centuries, the book of Revelation has fascinated, frightened, and confused Christians, but what if we've been so focused on decoding its mysteries that we've missed its main message? *The Revelation* is a 3-month journey through the Bible's final book, exploring its controversial prophecies, warnings to the Church, and breathtaking vision of the future. Along the way, we'll separate Scripture from speculation and discover that Revelation wasn't written just to make us afraid of what's coming. It was written to reveal **Jesus Christ** - the King who reigns over all other powers, the Lamb who conquers evil, and the Savior who promises that pain, death, and darkness won't have the last word. **The future belongs to Jesus, and that should change how we live right now.**

Today's Message: Part 13 - *The Beginning of the End* (Revelation 20)

What movie, show, or game have you watched that felt like it was never going to end?

What real-life pattern or cycle would you love to see end for good?

> **Revelation 20:1-6** - I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time. I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony about Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years. *(The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.)* This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.

After all the damage that Satan had done, John saw a single angel take him into custody. **What does that tell us about the way Christians should think about and respond to forces of spiritual evil at work today?**

> **1 John 4:4** - He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

The people who refused the beast appeared to lose everything, but John saw them on thrones. **Where have you seen faithfulness to Jesus look like failure by the world's standards?**

How do you imagine the thousand-year reign of Christ? How will it be different from life on earth as we know it?

Why will some people still be unhappy under Christ's reign? What sorts of complaints do you think they'll lodge?

> **Rev. 20:7-10** - When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth-*Gog and Magog*-and gather them for battle. In number they are like sand on the seashore. They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God's people, the city he loves. But fire came down from heaven and devoured them. And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

Why would people resist a ruler whose goodness they've had every opportunity to see? (See *Genesis 3:1-6*)

What role do pride and other sins play in humanity's tendency to rebel against God's authority?

What ongoing sins and secrets are you still trying to keep from Christ today? What are the first steps necessary to give it all to Him?

> **Rev. 20:11-15** - Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. The earth and the heavens fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what they had done. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.

Who will be judged before the "great white throne"?

How did Jesus explain this day of judgment in Matthew 25:31-46?

What clues does the Bible offer about the "books" that will be opened? *(See Psalm 135:16, Psalm 56:8, Malachi 3:16, Revelation 20:12)*

What parts of your life would you be most afraid to see in those books, and why?

What is the "book of life"? Whose names will be in it? *(See Philippians 4:3, Psalm 69:28, Revelation 3:5, 13:8, and 17:8)*

How can a person know for sure that their name will still be in the Book of Life on Judgment Day?

In the end, death will be forced to give up its dead, and then death itself will be thrown into the lake of fire. What does that image add to the Gospel's promise of Resurrection? What might it mean for people who are grieving the loss of loved ones this week?

Your Notes: