**A STUDY IN REVELATION**

**(Intro)**

**ICEBREAKER: HOW DO YOU PICTURE JESUS? What do you want to gain from this study?**

**BACKGROUND: Written AD 90’S, during the reign of the Roman emperor Titus Flavius Domitian. The Emperor had demanded that he be worshiped as “Lord and God”, and the refusal of the Christians to obey his edict led to severe persecution.**

1. **Why do you think this background information is important to this study?**
2. **Who wrote the book? (1,1; 1,4)**
3. **What have you always thought is the “Key Theme” to Revelation?**
4. **What is the definition of “Revelation”?**
5. **So, if Revelation is meant to bring understanding, why does it seem so confusing like a class on quantum physics?**
6. **What is Revelation meant to reveal?**
7. **Who was Revelation written too? (1,3)**
8. **Why do you think Revelation was written?**

 **“Different ways people have interpreted the book”)**

* **(preterist) As something that’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
* **(idealist) As something that’s happening \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
* **(futurist) As something that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ happen**
* **(historicist) As something that happens \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ through \_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
1. **What is gained from reading and hearing Revelation? And how does make you feel? (1,3)**

**A foundational understanding that will help when we are interpreting Revelation and that is the Genre and the Literary Structure that the book was written in a mix of genres**

* **Epistolary (story told through letters) meant to be read out loud in its entirety (1,3)**
* **Prophetic – predictive, foretelling events,**
* **Apocalyptic genre - is a supernatural unveiling of what is about to take place. A divine disclosure is given, usually by angels to some prominent person.**

**Apocalyptic literature’s most important characteristic is its SYMBOLIC LANGUAGE.**

**Footnote: What seem confusing to us, like “Jesus having a double-edged sword for a tongue” would be easily understood by first century listeners. Possibly a word picture for someone of extreme authority speaking and you would hang on to every word.**