**A STUDY IN REVELATION**

**(Intro) (Teacher’s copy)**

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

**TEACHER STATEMENT: Whatever mind set you have about Jesus coming into this study, get ready for it to change. Not saying it’s wrong just that it is probably too small. I don’t think it is possible for us to know all of what Jesus is. Because he is so tremendous. With that being said, our purpose for this study must be to know Jesus more and deeper than ever before.**

**We as teachers (Will and I) will concentrate on the foundation of the passage essentials. Your part is to dig into the details. IOW: We are here to help you see the forest, so you can then see the trees (Read and study for yourselves with better understanding).**

**We will give you the background Commentaries and books we use, along with knowing our foundation is always the Bible. And where we can, we will explain the why or how we came to the understanding or conclusion about a passage.**

**Before we get to far and someone gets scared off because they may not understand, let me ease your mine, “The bottom line of Revelation is, Jesus will return and He shall overcome all the ugly and evil. We win”. That is if you are a Believer.**

**If you are afraid of all the end times and 2nd coming of Jesus, then you need to reevaluate your relationship with Jesus.**

**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.**

**TEACHER QUESTION: Why do you think this information is important to this study?**

**... To understand the times and conditions of the people during this time period.**

 **(Persecution by the Romans and the Jews)**

 **…. So we don’t take it out of context….**

**Who wrote the book? (1,1; 1,4)**

* **John the Apostle (inspired by God)**

**What have you always thought is the “Key Theme” to Revelation?**

* **Most say the “End Times”**

**What is the definition of “Revelation”?**

* **Unveiling, as revealing a mystery so you can understand.**
* **Meant to bring understanding.**

**So, if Revelation is meant to bring understanding, why does it seem so confusing like a class on quantum physics?**

* **Because Revelation is like taking a college level class without ever taking a class in High School.**
* **You need to read and study and know the Old Testament before trying to understand Revelation**
* **A lot of Bible pieces come together when Revelation is better understood.**
* **IOW: When you understand God’s plan for tomorrow, you then will understand God’s purpose for today.**

**What is Revelation meant to reveal?**

* **Reveal JESUS**

**Who was Revelation written too? (1,3)**

* **A group in Asia Minor (modern-day Turkey).**
* **Normal people who would have heard it read and been expected to understand (thus the word OBEY)**

**Why do you think Revelation was written?**

* **To encourage Christians to persevere to the end and warn them against falling away (understand this more when we get to the 7 churches)**
* **To encourage and strengthen during a time of great persecution.**

**Understand that not all Bible Scholars agree and Will and I are not the final authority on the subject.**

**(Will takes over with “Different ways people have interpreted the book”)**

* **(preterist) As something that’s already happened**
* **(idealist) As something that’s happening symbolically**
* **(futurist) As something that will happen**
* **(historicist) As something that happens progressively through history**

**What is gained from reading and hearing Revelation? And how does make you feel? (1,3)**

* **God blesses**
* **Either Happy or Fearful**

**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.**

* **Revelation is a mix of genre, Epistolary (story told through letters) meant to be read out loud in its entirety (1,3) and**
* **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 definition from EXPOSITORY Commentary- Apocalyptic genre was intended to interpret present earthly circumstances in light of the supernatural world and of the future, and to influence both the understanding and the behavior of the audience by means of divine authority.**

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

**“The symbolism of the book should produce HUMILITY in us as interpreters, for we must confess we don’t always know how to interpret the symbols”. 1(EXPOSITORY Commentary)**

**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.**