

Daily Scripture Readings

"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty." ~ Revelation 1:8

September 3-9

Sunday	John 17:1-5
Monday	John 17:6-19
Tuesday	John 17:20-26
Wednesday	Genesis 2:4-14
Thursday	Genesis 2:15-25
Friday	Genesis 3:1-13
Saturday	Genesis 3:14-24

September 10-16

Sunday	2 Timothy 3:12-17
Monday	Revelation 1:1-3; Luke 11:28
Tuesday	Revelation 1:4-5a; Isaiah 11:2
Wednesday	Revelation 1:5b-8; Daniel 7:13-14
Thursday	Revelation 1:9-16; Zechariah 4:1-2
Friday	Revelation 1:17-20; Hosea 13:14
Saturday	Revelation 2:1-3; 1 John 4:1

September 17-23

Sunday	Revelation 2:4-7; Ezekiel 31:8-9
Monday	Revelation 2:8-11; Matthew 5:3; James 2:5
Tuesday	Revelation 2:12-15
Wednesday	Numbers 22:1-6; 25:1-3; 31:16
Thursday	2 Peter 2:1-3, 14-16
Friday	Revelation 2:16-17; Exodus 16:33-35
Saturday	Revelation 2:18-23

September 24-30

Sunday	1 Kings 16:29-33; 18:13; 19:1-2; 2 Kings 9:7-22
Monday	Revelation 2:24-29; 2 Peter 1:19-20
Tuesday	Revelation 3:1-3; 2 Peter 3:10
Wednesday	Matthew 24:36-44
Thursday	Revelation 3:4-6; Ecclesiastes 9:8
Friday	Exodus 32:30-35
Saturday	Revelation 3:7-10; Isaiah 22:22

The Book of Revelation

We are journeying through the book of Revelation this fall. Revelation can feel strange, disorienting, and totally unfamiliar. Yet it is a beautiful and profoundly hopeful book - one of the most encouraging and convicting books in all of Scripture. Our goal will be to clear the deck of speculation, to seek to read Revelation on its own terms, and to let the book remind us of the call to radical discipleship here and now.

Tips for Reading Revelation

1. Read the book prayerfully and with humility.
2. Remember that Revelation is prophecy. Biblical prophecy is not the newspaper written in advance, but a "forth-telling" of God's will and purposes, for a particular people, at a particular time and place. Therefore, it offers not a code to crack, but instructions on how God's people can be faithful.
3. Remember that Revelation is Apocalypse. The word Apocalypse means "unveiling." Its purpose is not to confuse or obscure, but to reveal! Like Sci-Fi or Fantasy, Apocalyptic Literature makes use of larger than life images and symbols to show us a reality beyond what we can ordinarily see and perceive. Therefore, we should take the book seriously, but not literally. Pay special attention to when the author, John, shifts the camera lens from earth to heaven, or heaven back to earth.
4. Remember that Revelation is a pastoral letter from John to seven churches in Asia Minor (present day Turkey) during the second half of the 1st Century AD. It was written to address their specific situation. Therefore, Revelation can never mean what it never meant to John and his original readers.

Images and Hyperlinks

Eugene Peterson said, "There is a multiplicity of significance in nearly every image" in this book. Revelation contains more images than any other book in the New Testament. Interestingly, more than half of the verses in Revelation allude to ideas, images or characters in the Old Testament (even though there are no direct quotations). These allusions function like "hyperlinks" – connecting us back to other places in the library of Scripture (most notably, Genesis, Exodus, Ezekiel and Daniel). Our Daily Scripture Readings this fall will make some of these allusions clear by pairing the Revelation reading with another reading from Scripture.

"Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near." Revelation 1:3