

# UNDERSTANDING APOCALYPTIC LITERATURE

## RECAP

**Did Holy Spirit teach you anything about your heavenly citizenship this past week? If so, share with the group.**

## IDEA 1

The book of Revelation is one of those books that many people avoid.

**What has been your experience of the book of Revelation? Avoidance? Skepticism? Confusion? Excitement? Confidence? Explain why.**

**What questions or thoughts do you have about understanding apocalyptic literature?** (e.g the use of symbols, images, numbers used to communicate meaning, not chronological)

## IDEA 2

There are many references in Revelation to other parts of the Bible. If we want to understand and interpret what we are reading in this book, it's helpful if we are marinating ourselves in Scripture.

**Discuss ways you can marinate yourself in Scripture as you study the Book of Revelation as a House Church.** Some ideas could include:

- Read the chapters of Revelation covered in the sermon out loud when you meet for your House Church
- Use the Overcomer Bible Study guide to direct your personal time of Bible study. (Click [HERE](#) for helpful introductory information on Revelation)
- Read and study the context of the Old Testament references made in Revelation. (Click [HERE](#) for a list of OT references referred to in Revelation)

Are there any other thoughts or questions that come to mind about the sermon that you would like to share?

## SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

Apocalyptic literature seeks to go beyond the intellect and touch our emotions and imaginations. It paints a picture of what you will read everywhere else in the Bible but explains it in a way that touches us only as a significant work of art can.

**Take a moment to read slowly through John’s vision of Jesus in Revelation 1:12-18. Pause between each verse. As you do, put yourself in this moment and allow your imagination to paint a picture of this encounter with Jesus.**

**Pay attention to any thoughts, feelings or descriptions of Jesus that stand out to you. What might Jesus be saying to you in this moment?**

*12 When I turned to see who was speaking to me, I saw seven gold lampstands. 13 And standing in the middle of the lampstands was someone like the Son of Man.[h] He was wearing a long robe with a gold sash across his chest. 14 His head and his hair were white like wool, as white as snow. And his eyes were like flames of fire. 15 His feet were like polished bronze refined in a furnace, and his voice thundered like mighty ocean waves. 16 He held seven stars in his right hand, and a sharp two-edged sword came from his mouth. And his face was like the sun in all its brilliance. 17 When I saw him, I fell at his feet as if I were dead. But he laid his right hand on me and said, “Don’t be afraid! I am the First and the Last. 18 I am the living one. I died, but look—I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and the grave.”*

**After this time of imaginative prayer, ask if anyone would like to share about their experience.**

## APPLICATION

Revelation 1 is an important reminder for us to not numb the urgency to declare Jesus as Lord.

**What could opportunities of Witness look like for you this next week? Ask Holy Spirit to help you anticipate those moments and respond with a renewed sense of urgency as you seek to “declare Jesus as Lord” this week and beyond.**