

A Spoonful of Revelation

A daily devotional on the book of Revelation



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This is a sample of
A Daily Spoonful of Revelations

The actual devotion is 80 pages.

All quoted scripture is from the King James Bible only!

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Purpose

One of the most life-changing and life-guiding influences any person can have is reading the Word of God. Within its pages the reader will find God's words on how to live; how to die; whom to have as friends; how to get to heaven; how to have an exciting, successful life; how to please God; how to know God's plan for your life, and hosts of other important revelations. Yet, as valuable as the Bible's contents are, too few read its preserved words and advice. The Book of Revelation is mostly about futuristic occurrences, but it still contains doctrines that today's Christians should understand.

In an attempt to get more to read the Bible and understand it, I have created this short, devotional series. Although there are many daily devotionals available, this one is different. Most other devotionals have a short, uplifting paragraph or two to bless the reader, several verses, and a recommended reading for the day.

The "Spoonful Devotional" encourages the reader to read at least one chapter a day. A chapter from the King James Bible is included in the day's reading. No matter how busy one's life, if it is a priority to know God's will and way, all should be able read one chapter of the King James Bible in this devotional each day.

To help more understand what the Bible teaches, there is a short commentary included about one principle taught from the day's chapter. It may not necessarily be the most important doctrine taught in that chapter, but it is a teaching from the day's reading. In "A Spoonful of the Book of Revelation", the commentaries are more of a synopsis of the chapter than the commentaries of other books in this series, but are still only a portion of what is taught in the chapter. After reading each brief explanation and the Scripture, one will certainly have more of an understanding of the Word of God when the book is finished.

After completing this book, the reader will have learned several biblical doctrines. The one thing I have noticed, since being a Christian, is that many Christians do not have a knowledge of biblical teachings. Many have only a basic knowledge of God's Word that they may have gotten out of a church service, or another source rather than their own reading and studying. Some just assume they know what the Bible says or what they think is right or wrong. It is God's Word, and it is up to us to read, study it,

and learn what God has preserved for us to learn.

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." II Timothy 2:15

Unfortunately, many today are not big readers. That may be why so few have read the entire Word of God. To help that type of reader still glean principles from God's Word, I have attempted to keep all discussions of the chapters' contents short — usually from 500-800 words. Because of these size restraints, much of what is discussed is very brief.

Also, to be helpful, a short "Thought for the Day" is included. The quote is one short quip which may encourage one to contemplate what was taught in the commentary for the day's reading.

Prior, to the reading of the day's chapter, there are a few words that should be understood when reading the Word of God. This short list is not intended to be a dictionary, but an attempt to define some words that may be used differently in the reading than what is commonly understood today.

After each reading there are short exercises, or puzzles, to help the readers comprehend some of what they have just read. The answers to the questions are found at the back of the book.

The size of the devotional is larger for a reason. In hopes that more will read and study the Bible, I have designed it so a Sunday school teacher, pastor, classroom teacher, or any ministry that is encouraging their people to study the Bible, will make copies of the lesson and freely distribute them. It can be copied on normal 8 x 11.5" paper on a copy machine or printed out on a computer printer. The graphics in most lessons are black and white, so they will print well on non-commercial, monochrome printing devices. I am giving the purchaser of this devotional permission to make as many copies as they can use, and hand out to their people.

This world is changing for the worse — on a daily basis. If more knew, believed, and obeyed the words of God there would be less decline in morality, less sin, and more godly living. I have made an attempt to portion biblical doctrine in small palatable portions so more would read it.

Is God's Word important to you? Have you always wanted to read it, but never "got around to it"? Well, here is an opportunity for you to

read and learn more about the Bible — one
small “spoonful” a day!

Revelation 1

Daily Nugget:

The book of Revelation is the most popular of the prophetic books of the Bible. While on the Isle of Patmos (vs. 9), Jesus (vs. 1) revealed futuristic things to John.

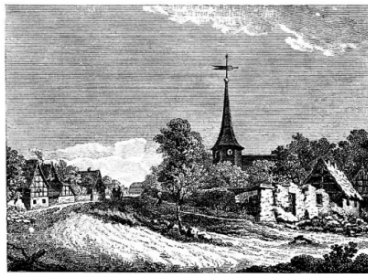
In this unveiling of things to come, Jesus instructed John to write the things that he saw and heard in a book (vs. 11), so that all could read what will happen (vs.3). Hundreds of Old Testament prophecies about Jesus and His first coming have come true. Hundreds of other prophecies about other happenings also have come true. It is just a matter of time until all that is recorded in *The Revelation* is fulfilled.

John was to send what he recorded to seven churches of that time (vs. 11). There were certainly more than seven churches at this time, so there were other reasons why the revelator was to give those particular churches copies of what Jesus showed the apostle.

As we will read in the next two chapters, these churches had had some in their membership that were doing right, but there were others that were doing wrong. The revelations given to them were designed to give those that were doing wrong an opportunity to repent and do right.

These seven churches erred in not living as they should. They were examples of what many other churches of all ages have done. Although these first century examples were a long time ago, sin has not changed; so churches even today have similar problems. The rebukes to these churches can also be a wake-up call to any church, in general, that has a similar spiritual problem.

Another reason for exposing the errors of these seven churches, and I believe the most important for our modern time, is that these seven



churches' spiritual conditions were a picture of the attitudes of churches throughout history. As Revelation is a prophetic book (vs. 4), the seven churches pictured seven church ages that would one day come. There are never two churches alike, but during certain times in history, there were predominate spiritual behaviors among churches.

Some say that the:

- ✿ Church in Ephesus (vs. 11) pictured early churches that had “lost their first love”.
- ✿ Church of Smyrna pictured the persecuted churches during the second and third centuries.
- ✿ Church at Pergamos pictured the heretical church age with rampant idolatry and other sin.
- ✿ Church at Thyatira pictured the Dark Age churches (before the 16th century).
- ✿ Church at Sardis pictured the Renaissance church.
- ✿ Church at Philadelphia pictured the great revival among churches at the end of the 19th century.
- ✿ Church at Laodicea pictures the lukewarm, apostate churches of this church age.

These things spoken of in this book are for us to learn. They were revealed so we would know what was to come. It is not the dark, mysterious book that many feel it is. Granted it does take knowledge of the other parts of the Bible to understand it more clearly, but God has it preserved for our edification. He promises a blessing (vs. 3) to all that read it.

Today's Thought:

The church is a gift from God; some assembly required.

Words to Understand:

Alpha: first letter in the Greek alphabet; also used to denote beginning of something. This usage (vs. 8) is also referring to a person as it is a capitalized proper noun.

Omega: last letter in the Greek alphabet; used also to indicate the end of something. This usage (vs. 8) is also referring to a person as it is a capitalized proper noun.
revelation: revealing a truth of God; making something clear to another that was not previously understood by them

Today's Reading:

1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John:

2 Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw.

3 ¶ Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.

4 John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne;

5 And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,

6 And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

7 Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

8 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.

9 ¶ I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,

11 Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.

12 And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks;

13 And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.

14 His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire;

15 And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters.

16 And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.

17 And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last:

18 I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

19 Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter;

20 The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.

Understandest thou what thou readest?

1. What are three ways to get a blessing from John's Revelation? _____

2. To how many churches was John addressing this letter? _____
3. Who revealed these futuristic events to John? _____

Revelation 3

Daily Nugget:

John's warning to churches of his time and the revealing of future church ages continues in this chapter. He concludes by discussing the three remaining churches.

✿ A church at Sardis that was spiritually dying. They may have had the word "church" on the sign out front, but they had departed from following God's commandments.

However, as far as the church had drifted in general, Jesus' plea to John was that there was still an opportunity for them to repent and hold fast to what they had originally been taught (vs. 2-4). There were still a few in the church that were doing right. There was still hope.

All seven of the churches in Rev. 2-3 were actual churches of John's time. They also represented church ages to come. The church in Sardis was a picture of churches from A. D. 1500 to about A. D. 1750¹. Although the churches at the time were generally dead, ritualistic, and unbiblical, there were some individuals like those in the Sardis church that did not sway. They were men like Martin Luther and other faithful men of this Reformation Period.

✿ Although many churches of John's time had drifted away from the doctrines taught by Christ and the apostles, there was still a church that had some spiritual strength (vs. 8). It was the church of Philadelphia. As the name "Philadelphia" implies, it was a church that was known for brotherly love. This church pictured the church age between A. D. 1750 and A. D. 1900. It was during this period of time that there were many great revivals throughout the world. It is believed to have been started by George Whitefield's ministry, and followed by men like John Wesley, Charles G. Finney, and D. L. Moody.

Great doors (vs. 8) were opened and missionaries went into the world giving the Gospel throughout the world. Countries



such as Africa, China, India, Japan, and Korea were reached.

✿ The seventh church John warned was the church of the Laodiceans. This was a "luke warm" ministry (vs. 16). They had riches and many things the world had to offer, but they were doing very little for the Lord. God saw them as "wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked" (vs. 17). Their failure to do anything for the Lord disgusted the Father (vs. 16).

Unfortunately, this church pictures the church age we are currently in. Like all church ages, not all churches are the same. There has always been a remnant doing God's will and way, but the majority of churches at this time are much like the church of Laodicea. There is more concern for the social interests of man than the spiritual. Clubs, committees, eloquent speakers, paid musicians, church appearance, and not offending anyone have a higher priority than do the needs of a man's souls. Preaching "Thus saith the Lord" is rarely heard anymore, and if it were, there would be many offended and those that would desert the church. Physical wealth does not cover up the fact that the majority of churches are not heeding the tugging of the Holy Spirit and in God's eyes are "... poor, and blind, and naked."

No matter the climate of the majority of luke-warm, worldly churches, until the Lord comes there is still time for a personal repentance and a return to God's ways of righteousness. The door of opportunity for personal revival is still open at this time; until Jesus returns again! Our individual, local church still has the opportunity to be like the church of Philadelphia.

"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock; if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me." Rev. 3:21

¹Clarence Larkin. *The Book of Revelation*. Pages 20-27. Philadelphia, PA. Rev. Clarence Larkin Estate. 1919

Today's Thought:

"We don't go to church; we are the church." — Southcott

Words to Understand:

"defiled their garments": dirtied their "robes of righteousness" with sin, spotted their testimonies

"I will come on thee as a thief": take you by surprise.

raiment: clothing

rebuke: correct, show errors

spue: spit

zealous: passionate, full of enthusiasm

Today's Reading:

1 And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.

2 Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God.

3 Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.

4 Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy.

5 He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.

6 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

7 ¶ And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;

8 I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.

9 Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.

10 Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

11 Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

12 Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.

13 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

14 ¶ And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;

15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

22 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Understandest thou what thou readest?

1. What was the problem with the church of Sardis and the Sardis church age?

2. What was the church at Philadelphia and the Philadelphian church age known to have done right?

3. What is the current church age? _____
4. Find the seven church ages in this word search puzzle:



Words to Find:
Ephesus
Smyrna
Pergamos
Thyatira
Sardis
Philadelphia
Laodicea

Glossary

abominable: detestable; vehemently disliked, hated
Alas: an exclamation of grief and disappointment
Alleluia: an endearing exclamation
alpha: first letter in the Greek alphabet; used to denote beginning of something
arrayed: dressed, adorned
“arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold ...”: clothing of this type is used in the Bible to indicate wealth, royalty, and often leadership
Balaam: Balaam was a heathen diviner that the Midians and Moabites wanted to curse Israel so they could conquer Israel (Numbers 22).
blasphemy: irreverent, disrespectful words against God
bondman: one bound to serve another without wages
brimstone: an inflammable, yellowish rock containing sulphur
censer: a metal vessel used to carry incense. It usually had a handle to carry it.
“Come up hither”: come up to heaven
“court which is without”: an area outside the temple where those that were not involved directly in the worshipping could stand.
cubit: a measurement from the tip of the middle finger to the end of one’s elbow; usually considered to be 18 inches
curse: In this usage (Rev. 22:3) it is referring to the punishment God put on the earth, and its contents because of the Adam and Eve’s sin.
“defiled their garments”: dirtied their “robes of righteousness” with sin, spotted their testimonies
elders: Men assigned some leadership position over others
fornication: In this case, “fornication” is not referring to sexual sin. Idolatry and worshipping the leadership here constitute “fornication” against one’s own self (I Cor. 6:18). The usage here is about spiritual relations that are not with God.
foursquare: square; all sides are the same length
furlong: a measurement for distance; considered to be about 1/8 of a mile
girdle: a band or belt
guile: sneaky, deceitful
indignation: anger
iniquities: sins
“I will come on thee as a thief”: take you by surprise.
kindreds: people related by birth or marriage
Lamb (Rev. 5:8, 12): a lamb was quite often an animal used in Jewish sacrifices. Here, because of other references, and the fact that it is a proper name (it is capitalized); it is talking about a person. This Person is none other than Jesus Christ. He certainly is worthy!
Nicolaitans: a sect that was prevalent during the time of the early church. They were said to have obeyed some Old Testament dietary laws, encouraged idolatry, denied God to be the creator, and practiced some of Balaam’s teachings.
odours: scents, products that were prized for their pleasant smells
olive trees: in this case they represented testimonies and examples for God. The olive tree often represents Israel in the Old Testament
Omega: last letter in the Greek alphabet; used to indicate the end of something
omnipotent: the unlimited power that only God has
passed away: removed; also used to denote something died and is no longer alive
raiment: clothing
rebuke: correct, show errors
reed¹: a measuring tool; often it was a piece of calamus (sweet cane)
resurrection: when the dead come back to life

¹ Unger, Merrill F., Unger’s Bible Dictionary, Chicago, Moody Press, 1979, pg. 720

Answers to Questions

Revelaton 1:

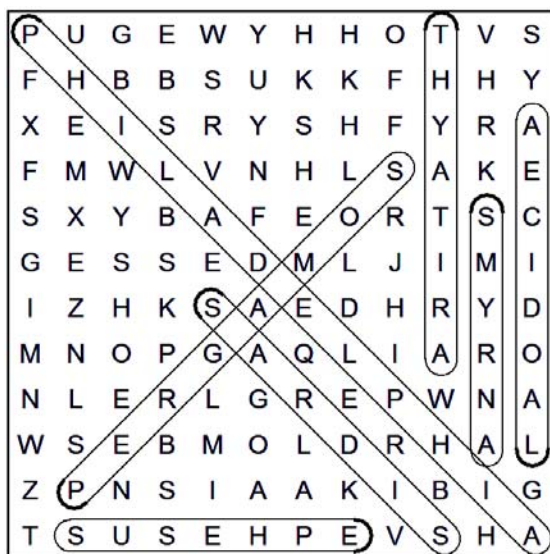
1. By reading, hearing and keeping (remembering, practicing) the things that are in The Revelation (vs. 3)
2. Seven (vs. 4)
3. Jesus (vs. 1). Also identified by His description in vss. 5,18.

Revelaton 2:

1. They battled those that did evil, those that claimed they were apostles and were not, and the practices of the Nicolaitians (vss. 2, 6).
2. Poverty (vs. 9), Jew in name only opposition (vs. 9), prison (vs. 10), death (vs. 10)
3. The doctrine of Balaam which included idolatry, eating what was sacrificed, and fornication (vs. 14).
4. They allowed Jezebel to teach them to commit fornication, idolatry, and sacrifice to the idols (vs. 22).

Revelaton 3:

1. They claimed to be Christian, but were spiritually dead (vs. 1).
2. They kept God's Word (vs. 10)
3. Laodicean (vs. 14)
- 4.



A Spoonful of

Revelation

This daily devotional is different than most other devotionals. Instead of reading a random verse and a short illustration about the principle taught in the verse, this devotional is designed to get the reader to read at least one chapter a day from the book of Revelation and to teach him at least one important lesson from the day's reading.

A short, 500-800 word commentary highlights one of the principles taught in the day's chapter. This study is not a complete long-winded study of the chapter.

Following the commentary is a short quote about the principle taught in the commentary, several definitions of difficult or unusual words found in the reading, a chapter from the King James book of Revelation, and several short questions requiring the reader to think about what they have read.

This study is also designed for the Sunday school teacher's or pastor's usage. As many as required pages can be printed or copied, and given out to a class that is studying Revelation. It is a handout that will help the class or congregation learn principles taught in the book of Revelation.

The time when many of the things spoken about in Revelation is getting closer. Understand more about what God says will happen in the last days. Learn what the book of Revelation shows the reader.