

“Cracking the Code”

1. If you had to guess, what do you think is the purpose of Revelation? That is, for what purpose was Revelation written? And for what purpose is it in the Bible?

Now read the ending of the book, Revelation 22:12–21. What encouraging promises do you see in these verses? What warnings are there? Based on this passage, what would you say is the purpose of Revelation?

2. Take a look below at the five guidelines for understanding Revelation. Do any of these guidelines surprise you? Which would most change your current understanding of the book?
 - a. *Revelation was not written primarily about our circumstances and events.*
 - b. *Revelation uses symbols drawn from the Old Testament.*
 - c. *Revelation gives us heaven's perspective on what is happening on earth.*
 - d. *Revelation does not give a linear, sequential account of events.*
 - e. *Revelation is not a handbook on the last years before The End.*
3. What issues do you see being addressed as you read key verses from the ends of the letters to the seven churches (2:5, 10, 16, 24–25; 3:3, 10–11, 19–20)? How does this refine your understanding of the purpose of the book?
4. What difference does it make? Do you see any potential harm in misunderstanding Revelation?

Recurring Questions

- » How have you seen God working in your life or the lives of those around you this week?
- » What prayer requests would you like to share with the group, including prayer for any spiritual struggles you may be experiencing?