



## Teaching the Bible Classically with Dr. Fred Putnam

### Lecture 13: The Revelation

#### Outline:

##### Revelation

- Most people have never read the whole book. If you have students read through the whole book, students may say that this is a confusing book.
- There is no answer key to this book's meaning.
- This book is an epistle from God to Jesus to give to John to give to Jesus' servants.
- Blessed is everyone who reads the words of this book and those who hear it. This book was written to be read aloud.
- Practice having someone stand up and read parts of the book, so they may hear it out loud.
- This book contains the mini-epistles in Revelation 2-3 written to the seven churches. These seven churches were on a mail route through western Asia Minor.
- This is the book of The Revelation of God.

##### Disagreement/confusion

- There is a lot of disagreement about what this book means and when the book happens/is fulfilled.
- This disagreement doesn't mean that we shouldn't try to understand it. It is a book that says we are blessed to read it and hear it.
- Who are we to think that we can get it right after such a long period of disagreement? Can we come to more insight than we currently have?

##### The Revelation as it relates to the Old Testament

- God sitting on a throne:
  - Revelation 4
  - Exodus 24, Ezekiel 1, Daniel 7
  - Why is God portrayed this way? What is the significance of God sitting down? Why does John see it this way, and why is it mentioned so often?
- The constant use of like:
  - What did John actually see? It was different somehow



- This use of like in his visions ought to warn us against assuming that what he says is exactly what he saw.
- How would I portray something that is only “like” other things?
- Images of light stretch throughout the book of Revelation.
  - Light is the first thing created.
  - Isaiah 60
  - John 1
  - Why is light so important?
  - Why is light such a prominent Biblical thing?
  - What is the significance of light?
  - What does darkness represent, and why is that so common?

### **Allusions to Old Testament**

- See themes and images that connect parts of the Bible to each other.
- Biblical authors were not inventing things, but were influenced by earlier writers.
- This is like comparing the Aeneid to the Odyssey to see Virgil’s dependence on Homer.
- How does this message relate to what has already been communicated?

### **What are all of the names of Jesus in the book of Revelation?**

- Why is he called each of these names at that point in the book?

### **Study with Imagination**

- Ask the students to imagine what they are reading about.
- Have the students enter into this particular story.
- We are clearly meant to visualize these things as we read it.
- The book is written to seize our imaginations.
- Who or what is described in this vision?
- What is going on?
- What happens?
- What is this vision about?
- Is this about what it says? Is this about something else?
- What does this story mean?
- Has this happened yet? What would we expect if we think it is still future?

### **Projects for Students**

- Give students the opportunity to draw some of these things.
- Set some of these words to music.
- Study how some of these words have been put into music.

### **Revelation ends with an invitation.**

- Revelation ends with an invitation and a warning.
- Both of these go back to Deuteronomy where Moses says the same thing.