

“The Reality of Revelation”
Revelation 1:4-20

On www.biblegateway.com, there is a free *Asbury Bible Commentary* that would be a good companion to your Scripture Readings.

Keep reading the scriptures out loud this week as John intended (1:3).

Monday - Ephesians 1:1-2, 6:23-24

John follows the typical Hellenistic letter introduction and conclusion. Compare John's letter and Paul's letter to Ephesus.

Tuesday - Zechariah 12:10; Revelation 1:7

This is the closest John gets to directly quoting the Old Testament. However, in the 404 verses of Revelation, John has 518 references to earlier scripture. We cannot understand Revelation apart from the Old Testament. The rest of the readings this week give us a taste of this.

Wednesday - Exodus 26:30-35; Revelation 1:12, 20

The golden lampstand imagery comes from the Tabernacle/Temple, see a larger description in Ex. 25:31-38.

Thursday - Daniel 7:9, 13-14; Revelation 1:13

The title “son of man” of the expected Messiah come from Daniel.

Friday - Daniel 10:4-9; Revelation 1:13b-17

John's description of Jesus and his response to his encounter with Jesus echoes Daniel's visionary Messianic encounter.

Saturday - Isaiah 49:2; Revelation 1:16

The strange sword in the mouth description is an image from Isaiah about the expected Messiah. Jesus and Paul both adopt this language also (Matthew 10:34 and Ephesians 6:17).

Sunday - Ezekiel 9:2-4; Revelation 1:13

The clothing of Jesus comes from Ezekiel's visionary experience with the expected Messiah.

John's use of Old Testament scriptures is not to say his vision isn't real or isn't his own, but that he's describing what he saw with the descriptive language he has at his disposal (a language familiar to his original readers) to describe the otherwise indescribable.

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Sunday, September 20, 2020

John's encounter with Jesus is given to us so WE can encounter Jesus.

Preparing for Encounters with Jesus

1. KNOW WHO YOU ARE

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood (1:5)

2. KNOW YOU ARE CONNECTED

[He] has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve... I, John, your brother and companion in suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus... (1:6, 9)

3. KNOW HOW TO BE IN THE SPIRIT

On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit... (1:10)

4. KNOW YOU DON'T KNOW EVERYTHING

I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me... (1:12)

Responding to Encounters with Jesus

1. FALL DOWN

“When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead.” (1:17a)

2. GET UP (1:17-19)

“Then he placed his right hand on me...” (1:17b-19)