

DAILY BIBLE READING PLAN

12-31-2023 // WEEK 52 NOTES

John 16 - 21 • 1, 2, 3 John • Revelation 1-22

Book of John

Chapters 16 - 17

Jesus is still in the **Upper Room Discourse**. These are words specifically for his disciples. They are from his heart to ours, to help us in our times of need. **John 16** has powerful words about prayer and praying in the name of Jesus. We can pray for anything, anywhere, any time. And don't miss **John 16:33**, where Jesus says that his disciples will have tribulations in this world. But we should rejoice because Jesus has overcome the world. And if he lives in us if we believe in him (which he does!), we overcome with him! **John 17** is the high priestly prayer. Jesus prays for his followers and church (that's you and me). He desires us to be one as he and the Father are one. He wants us to believe in his Word (**verse 17**) which makes us holy and is absolutely true.

Chapters 18-19

These chapters are the **story from John's perspective on Jesus's arrest and his going to the cross**. His interaction with Pilate in **chapter 19** is most intriguing—especially when he says that Pilate has no authority that hasn't first been given to him by Jesus. What a statement of absolute power and authority by Jesus.

Chapters 20-21

Here are the stories regarding Jesus's resurrection. **Chapter 20:21** says that as the Father sent his Son into the world, so the Son/Jesus sends us into the world. We must be like salt, in the world. **Chapter 21** is a unique story of one of **Jesus's resurrection appearances**, where Jesus restores Peter to his call to be the missionary to the Jews. Jesus also tells him of his ultimate death and martyrdom, but encourages Peter to remain faithful until the end.

Finally, don't miss the final verses where John says the **purpose for writing his gospel was that people would believe in Jesus**. That was his passion (it should be ours as well). He was the consummate evangelist.

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1, 2, 3 John

The writer of these three epistles/letters to the church were written by the apostle John. He also authored the gospel of John and the book of Revelation.

In **1 John 1:9** we have the wonderful verse that if we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us of all unrighteousness. We all sin. We continue to do wrong, even after coming to faith in Jesus. His enormous grace is always there for us. We don't sin knowing we can misuse Jesus's grace. But when we do mess up, forgiveness is always there for us.

The major theme of these letters is for **Christians to love one another**. Since God is love, if we have Jesus in our hearts, the evidence of this reality is our love for one another.

As you read these epistles, notice especially John's words in 1 John about the End Times. They are relevant and important for today. Written 2,000 years ago, we see them being fulfilled in our times.

Revelation

Though at first it seems to be a difficult book to understand, it's really not. Yes, there are vivid images and startling visions that need explanation, but once understood, the book of Revelation becomes alive. We are even told in **chapter 1** that we are blessed when we read it aloud.

It's a revelation from God about human history given in a vision to the apostle John. It should be a strong encouragement that God controls all of history and our lives. Therefore, we don't need to worry about anything.

In it we learn about the beauty and magnificence of heaven (**ch. 1**). We learn what Jesus loves about his church, and several things he doesn't (**ch. 2,3**). We also learn about the worship that takes place around the throne of God (**ch. 4,5**). And it's in the book of Revelation that we find the clearest depiction of how God will pour out his wrath upon the world for all its sins, and those who rebel against him, during the

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Great Tribulation (**ch. 6-18**). Then the Second Coming will occur (**ch. 19**). We also see a glimpse into the Millennial Kingdom (**ch. 20**) and finally, we see heaven coming to earth (**ch. 21,22**).

The book of Revelation reveals **Jesus as a lion and a lamb**. He is the only one who can redeem and restore the brokenness of this world, revealing his plans of the new heaven and new earth. It's the restoration of Eden before the Fall where Jesus will reign in his Millennial Kingdom with those who have been faithful to him.

You have now read through the entire Bible in a year! Thank you for reading along. I hope my thoughts have been helpful to you all as we seek to understand "Scripture as a Second Language".

David