**Rundown of the Night:**

**Equipment:** Tape, chart paper, markers, Bibles, chairs, large table in centre

**Prepare: a chart paper with topics that people can write about**

Reading scripture: (15 mins)

Walking around and writing on the paper about the topics: (10 mins)

Tim: Apocalypse: the time is near…. (10 mins)

Vivian: “I am…..” (10 mins)

Anita: Application enter the darkness of night with the light of the day (10 mins)

Application from rest of Revelations: Talk about what you applied to your life out of this chapter and give a brief 30 sec summary (30 mins)

1. Jackson

2. Jackson

3. Lawrence Wong

4. James Wang

5. Lucas

6. Lucas

7. Chloe

8. Abraham

9. Charis

10. Celine

11. Nick

12. James Wong

13. Roland

14. Loretta

15. Anita

16. Tim

17. Vivian

18. Jonathan Ling

19. Nat wong

20. Aaron

21. Maurice

Pray

Announcements

**Revelations 22 Summary:**

Revelations is an *apocalyptic* book with a purpose to:

* + - * 1. Help readers view their present predicament in light of the unseen realities of the future
      * 2. Help readers view their lives in light of the unseen realities of the present- because things are not as they seem
      * Apocalypse—> means an unveiling, a pulling back of the curtain

“The time is near”

* + - * Used twice in the book of Revelations
      * *1:3 - “Blessed is the one who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and keep the things which are written in it; for the time is near”*
      * *22:10- “ Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near’”*
      * This is echoed in Jesus’ pubic ministry “the time is fulfilled, the kingdom of God has come near” Mark 1:15
      * Kairos—> in greek it means the “right, or opportune moment” that’s what we are waiting for! this is the word that John used for the *time* is near
      * We’ve been waiting for a long time though, since the days of AD 30 when Jesus did his ministry

Question: What is it time for? How do we know when the time is near?

* 1. For Jesus to be known by all the world
     + - *1:7- “He is coming with the clouds and every eye will see him even those who pierced him”*
       - It is critical to note that this *coming* term is not *will come -* it is already happening
       - Jesus’ coming causes much of the upheaval in our world (6) the conflict between the ways of this world and the ways of Jesus
  2. For Jesus to have his way
     + - Revelations is bracketed by “I Am” sayings (1:8, 1:17, 21:6, 22:13)
       - I am the Alpha and the Omega, I am the first and the last, I am the beginning and the end
       - These all expand on each other, they are NOT repetitions!
       - Arche —> in greek means “the head/source” but in the sense where subsequent things are based off the source and pattern of the first. Jesus is the head of everything, the source of all life. Everything in creation is stamped with the character of Jesus Christ!
       - Telos —> in greek means “the end” where it is the inherent destiny. Ultimately, every human being is to be like Jesus Christ
  3. For humanity to realize our inherent destiny
     + - Why are we waiting? So that one more will come home, so that one more person will be saved!

“I am the root and the descendant of David, the Bright Morning Star” (22:16)

* + - * Jesus is the root, the foundation of all the glory in David’s reign, all the greatest kingdoms + ideals
      * Though we have encountered multiple “I Am” statements, the morning star is the last of all “I Am” sayings and the last title that Jesus gives himself
      * Jesus is declaring that He is the messiah recorded in the prophecy of Balaam in *Numbers 24:17 “a star shall come out of Jacob and a sceptre shall rise out of Israel”*
      * It echoes “*the time is near”* because the morning star only rises when night has reached ultimate darkness- similarly when Jesus arrives, we know that darkness has been defeated. As the morning star “pulls the morning with it” Jesus is pulling the kingdom in behind him”
      * Do not judge by appearance - things are not as they seem. Though the morning stair is small, it is able to defeat the night
      * Application: do you see Jesus in the midst of your circumstances? Is he the morning star to your struggles?

How do we respond to this information

* 1. Resist the agenda of the night and the ways of the night
     + - How are we behaving while we wait for the return of Jesus? Are we engaging in sinful acts— carousing, drunkenness, sexual promiscuity, sensuality, strife, jealousy? (Romans 13:13)
  2. Put on the armour of light
     + - What can we equip ourselves with so that we walk in line with gospel truth day in and day out?
  3. Enter the darkness of night with the light of the day
     + - I like this one a lot, while we acknowledge that we still are in the midst of darkness, how can we be beacons of light for those who don’t yet know Christ? We are not called to be stagnant but rather to go out to reach people *where they are,* to talk sheep with the shepherds, and fish with the fishermen in our world.

**Reflections:**

For me, this chapter’s biggest takeaway was understanding a little more about why Jesus chose to use the “bright morning star” statement as the last descriptor of himself. It reminds me that things are not as they seem and that a small seemingly insignificant star is enough to pull in the morning in the same way that Jesus is able to pull in the kingdom to this dark and broken world. This chapter also encourages me that with the power of God, I can “enter the darkness of night with the light of the day”. Though we live in a world that is full of sin, I am reminded that the light of Christ shines through each of us and because of that we can have significant impact in reaching those who are hurting and everyone who needs Jesus.

I know that Revelations has been a hard book to dissect and oftentimes, we are not able to fully answer all the questions we have or explain all the symbols and imagery. Rather than choosing a right or wrong, a yes or no, a black or white, I would encourage us all to dwell in the gray zones of maybe “I don’t have to fully understand everything” in order to put our hope in Jesus. Though it may be unsettling to be in these spaces, it may be in fact allow us to take a more mature stance not just at Revelations but at all the other crazy things happening around and within us.

Some of you find if difficult to see the “point” of these studies other than “Jesus will come back and we are waiting for Him”. Though not entirely wrong, I hope that each chapter of Revelations brought some new insight, unveiled a little more of what it means to be a disciple of Christ, and helped you view your own lives today in light of both the unseen realities of the present and the future.

**Revelations 22**

**The River of Life**

**22**Then the angel[a] showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb **2**through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life[b] with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. **3**No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants[c] will worship him. **4**They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. **5**And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

Jesus Is Coming

**6**And he said to me, “These words are trustworthy and true. And the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place.”

**7**“And behold, I am coming soon. Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.”

**8**I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed them to me, **9**but he said to me, “You must not do that! I am a fellow servant[d] with you and your brothers the prophets, and with those who keep the words of this book. Worship God.”

**10**And he said to me, “Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near. **11**Let the evildoer still do evil, and the filthy still be filthy, and the righteous still do right, and the holy still be holy.”

**12**“Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done. **13**I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”

**14**Blessed are those who wash their robes,[e] so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates. **15**Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

**16**“I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.”

**17**The Spirit and the Bride say, “Come.” And let the one who hears say, “Come.” And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.

**18**I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, **19**and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.

**20**He who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

**21**The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all.[f] Amen.