

Study Guide for *Triumph of the Lamb*, by Dennis E. Johnson

Extra Reading for the course: "The Book of Revelation"

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Read Dennis E. Johnson, *Triumph of the Lamb*

REVIEW QUESTIONS

Chapter 1

1. In his preface, the author explains that there are certain portions of Scripture that we should be especially familiar with in order to understand The Book of Revelation. What portions are they?
2. The author explains that Revelation is a book to be seen, that it is a "book of symbols _____."
3. Does Johnson believe that Revelation should be interpreted literally?
4. Numbers are often significant to represent important concepts in Revelation. What numbers are mentioned in the book as especially important?
5. The author teaches that we should keep in mind that God intended Revelation to be a message to encourage believers from which century?
6. The author states that Revelation is a book "for a church _____."
7. What is the pervasive theme of Revelation, which produces worship and adoration, according to the author?

Chapter 2

1. Briefly describe the author's outline of the book of Revelation.

Chapter 3

1. To make a point about interpreting Revelation, Johnson uses the illustration of the "Magic Eye" phenomenon, in which you have to look behind the surface pattern to see another image behind it. What image should we look for behind the surface pattern of the Book of Revelation?
2. According to Johnson, which coming of Christ is promised in Revelation 1:7?

3. What does it mean that Christ is called the "Alpha and Omega"?
4. What is symbolized in Revelation 1:13-14 by describing Christ as one "like a son of man", with hair "white like white wool, like snow"?

Chapter 4

1. Identify the unique aspect of the message for the church in Ephesus.
2. Identify the unique aspect of the message for the church in Smyrna.
3. Identify the unique aspect of the message for the church in Pergamum.
4. Identify the unique aspect of the message for the church in Thyatira.
5. Identify the unique aspect of the message for the church in Sardis.
6. Identify the unique aspect of the message for the church in Philadelphia.
7. Identify the unique aspect of the message for the church in Laodicea.

Chapter 5

1. When the throne room is opened in Revelation 4 and 5, what are the twenty four elders and the four living creatures doing?
2. What is the significance of having authority to open the seven seals of the scroll (Revelation 5 and 6)?
3. What does John see when he is told that the "Lion of the tribe of Judah" is able to open the seals of the scroll, and he turns to look?

Chapter 6

1. According to Johnson, what does the rider holding a bow on the white horse, revealed in the first seal, represent?
2. According to the author, what does the rider on the red horse holding a sword, revealed in the second seal, portray?
3. According to the author, what does the rider on the black horse, carrying a pair of balance scales, revealed in the third seal, represent?
4. According to the author, what does the rider on the ashen (pale) horse, revealed in the fourth seal, represent?

5. What does John see when the fifth seal is opened?
6. What is the author's view of the meaning of the two groups in Revelation 7, the 144,000 and the great multitude that no one could count?
7. What happens when the seventh seal is opened (Revelation 8:1)?

Chapter 7

1. In general, what do the seven trumpets represent (Revelation 8-11)?
2. According to the author, what is the meaning of the delay between the sixth and the seventh trumpets?

Chapter 8

1. According to Johnson, what is the meaning of the fact that the second scroll (the little scroll, Revelation 10) is sweet in the mouth, but bitter in the stomach?
2. The author states that in Revelation, cities symbolize _____, not merely buildings and streets.
3. According to the author, when Revelation mentions "the holy city," to what is it referring?
4. The two witnesses in Revelation 11 represent _____ who bear a message of impending judgment and a call to repentance.
5. According to the author, what is the "central drama" of the Book of Revelation?

Chapter 9

1. What does the pregnant woman represent (Rev. 12)?
2. What does the red dragon represent (Rev. 12)?
3. What is represented by the war in heaven between the dragon and the angels (Rev. 12:7-10)?
4. How does the author understand the meaning of the first beast (Rev. 13) who comes out of the sea?
5. According to 1 John, how can we recognize an "antichrist"?
6. How does the author understand the 42 months during which the beast from the sea has authority to act?

7. What is "gematria"?

8. The author believes that the number 666 (Rev. 13:18) most likely refers to what political leader?

9. According to the author, what does the beast from the *earth* symbolize (Rev. 13:11-14)?

Chapter 10

1. What is unique about the seven plagues contained in the seven bowls of wrath (Rev. 15-16)?

.2 According to the author, what do the two harvests in Revelation 14 represent?

Chapter 11

1. What do the judgments of the seven bowls of wrath echo?

2. What does the name "Har-Magedon" ("Armageddon") mean, according to Johnson (Rev. 16:16)?

3. What city is the "great city" that will be split into three parts by an earthquake (Rev. 16:19), according to the author?

Chapter 12

1. What does the great Harlot, also called Babylon, represent, according to Johnson (Rev. 17)?

2. How does the author interpret the seven kings of Revelation 17:9-10?

Chapter 13

1. How does Johnson interpret the meaning of "Gog and Magog"?

2. Describe the key concepts of each millennial position.

3. Why does Johnson believe that the millennium must occur before the great final battle?

Chapter 14

1. According to the author, what does the New Jerusalem symbolize?

2. What are the dimensions of the New Jerusalem?

Appendix B

1. Identify the main point of each school of interpretation.

- 1) Historicism
- 2) Futurism
- 3) Preterism
- 4) Idealism (recapitulation)