**Revelation:**

**The Distant Triumph Song**

*We will meet every other week except at 7 pm except in May. Note the schedule below.*

*The zoom link for the first four studies will be:*

[*https://zoom.us/j/99720348347?pwd=Q1pNalY0bTVaZkJzcEtWKzNycXBIQT09*](https://zoom.us/j/99720348347?pwd=Q1pNalY0bTVaZkJzcEtWKzNycXBIQT09)

January 14 Chapter 1 – Jesus in the Midst of the Suffering Church

January 27 Chapters 2 & 3 – The Seven Letters

February 11 Chapters 4 & 5 – The Throne Room of God

February 25 Chapters 6 & 7 – The Seven Seals

March 11 Chapters 8 & 9 – The Seven Trumpets

March 25 Chapters 10 & 11 – The Word Triumphs

April 8 Chapters 12 & 13 – The Seven Visions – The Dragon and the Beasts

April 22 Chapters 14 & 15 – The Seven Visions & The Seven Plagues

May 6 Chapters 16 & 17 – The Seven Plagues & The Woman on the Beast

May 13 Chapters 18 & 19 – Babylon’s Defeat and the Church’s Victory

B*ack-to-back weeks because of May 20 conflict.*

May 27 Chapters 20 – 22 – The Seventh Vision – Our Final Victory

*Starts at 7:30 pm.*

**Historical background**

The Apostle John received this revelation from Jesus while he was exile on the island of Patmos, not far from Ephesus where he had served. The date is likely during the persecution in the later part of Domitian’s reign (81-96 AD). Most date the book about 95 AD.

On the following page is a scan from Dr. Siegbert Becker’s book *Revelation: A Distant Triumph Song* that reveals the structure of Revelation.Although Becker’s book contains references to the Greek, it is written in a way that those unfamiliar with Biblical Greek will still greatly benefit. I highly recommend it as your primary commentary for Revelation.

**How do I read Revelation?**

Dr. Becker makes the point that we read Revelation literally, but not literalistically. A literal reading says that John saw visions just as he described. But in those visions, it is clear that symbolism is used. For example, at the end of Revelation 1, John saw stars in Jesus’ hand as Jesus stood among lampstands. Then the symbolism is explained. The stars are the angels or messengers of the church and the lampstands are the churches.

That verse also illustrates that much of the symbolism of Revelation is first used elsewhere in the Bible. Daniel 12 talks about those who lead many to righteousness will shine like stars, and Jesus said in Matthew 5 that we (the Church) are to let our light shine.

Read the rest of the Bible and know its content well. That is the best preparation for you to read Revelation. There is nothing of significance about the end of the world in Revelation that was not already revealed in Matthew 24 & 25; 1 Thessalonians 4 & 5; 2 Thessalonians 2; and 2 Peter 3.

It is clear that numbers in Revelation have a symbolic meaning:

* 3 is the number for God,
* 4 is the number for the world,
* 7 is the number for God’s covenant or relationship with the world,
* half of 7 (3 ½ or 42 months or 1260 days) are always a time of trouble for God’s church,
* 6 is perhaps man or the devil’s effort to claim to be a god,
* 10 is the number for completeness or perfection.



