

## **Bible Study for April 18-24, 2022**

**Read:** Revelation 1:4-8

### **Notes:**

The book of Revelation recounts a mystical vision of the risen Christ experienced by a Christian pastor named John. It is a unique type of literature called apocalyptic, which was often used in the times between the Old and New Testaments to convey secret messages written to spread hope to those wearied by oppression. It was like a message written in code, with only the recipients having the key to unlock their meanings so that others looking at them would be confused. This being the case, Revelation is both strange and difficult, which often leads people to either ignore it or distort it. Because of this, the Book of Revelation must be approached with humility and caution.

It is believed that, at the time of writing, Caesar worship was at its highest. It was obligatory for all citizens to appear once a year before a magistrate and declare “Caesar is Lord”, which, while meant to be an act of loyalty to Rome, offended the Christian community who could only proclaim that “Jesus is Lord.” Needless to say, this became a point of friction and led to oppression of the Christian communities.

So John is consistently giving a negative image of Rome, while at the same time offering hope for the distant future. In these verses he describes Christ as a timeless redeemer, the beginning, present, and end of all time. A message for all Christians of all time.

### **Questions to Ponder:**

What kind of books are you into? Sports? Mystery? Technical? Adventure? Poetry? Explain why.

What is a revelation? In this case, who is revealed? For what purpose?

Who is this letter addressed to? Why only these places?

What do you find significant about the references to God in verses 4 and 8?

What are the meanings of the titles given to Jesus in verses 5-6? What 3 things does Christ do for us?

If asked to share 3 facts about Jesus that are especially significant to you, what would you say? Why are those facts important to you?