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Week 8 – The Voice of John (Part 1)

**Introduction:**

**Three Common Approaches to the Book of Revelation:**

- ➔ \_\_\_\_\_ Approach – sees the Book as an allegory of struggles between good and evil for God's people throughout history
- ➔ \_\_\_\_\_ Approach – sees the Book as mostly or completely fulfilled in the 70 A.D. destruction of Jerusalem
- ➔ \_\_\_\_\_ Approach – sees the Book as mostly futuristic prophecy of the Last Days leading up to the Second Coming of Jesus

**The Divine Design of Revelation:**

Revelation 1:19-20

Jesus commands John to write about three distinct things:

1. What you have \_\_\_\_\_ (the vision of Jesus – ch. 1)
2. What is taking place \_\_\_\_\_ (the message to the Church – ch. 2-3)
3. What will take place \_\_\_\_\_ these things (future – ch. 4-22)

The phrase “after these things” or “later” is *meta tauta*

**Comparison of Matthew 24 and Revelation 6**

Matthew 24:4-5	Seal 1 - False Christ	Revelation 6:1-2
Matthew 24:6-7	Seal 2 - Wars	Revelation 6:3-4
Matthew 24:7	Seal 3 - Famines	Revelation 6:5-6
Matthew 24:7-8	Seal 4 - Pestilence & Death	Revelation 6:7-8
Matthew 24:9-13	Seal 5 - Martyrdom	Revelation 6:9-11
Matthew 24:29-30	Seal 6 - Cosmic Disturbance	Revelation 6:12-17

**Signs of Nearing the End:**

1. Disaster and \_\_\_\_\_ increasing (Matthew 24)
2. The Re-Gathering of \_\_\_\_\_ (Ezekiel 37)
3. A Technological \_\_\_\_\_ (Daniel 12)
4. A Global \_\_\_\_\_ (Revelation 13)

**How Do I Live in Light of This?**

We are never to be obsessed, but we are to be observant. Let's live our lives with His Kingdom priorities guiding us: faith, family, gospel mission and love!

## QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

### Personal Life:

1. When is the last time you read the Book of Revelation cover to cover? If you've never read it, what has prevented you from doing so? If you have read it, what are your impressions of its message?

### Ponderings:

2. Did the explanation of the "Divine Design" of Revelation make sense to you? If so, do you think you could navigate the book more successfully following the outline that Jesus Himself provided in Revelation 1:19? Discuss...
3. Given that Revelation is one of the most challenging books of the Bible to interpret, do you think it's possible to be simultaneously confident in and humble about its message? Discuss...
4. Of the four major "signs of the times" discussed in the weekend message, which seems most obvious to you, and are there any that you questioned? Discuss...
  - Disaster and Conflict Increasing
  - The Re-Gathering of Israel
  - A Technological Explosion
  - A Globalized Economy
5. Some have asked the question, "If the world (including America) is going to head in this direction anyway according to prophecy, what's the use of trying to prevent such things as globalism or increased conflict and chaos?" How would you respond to such a question?

### Promptings:

6. Even though there is much information given in Scripture about signs of the end times, we are never encouraged or commanded to be consumed with or preoccupied by the subject. Rather we are to be constantly looking for and awaiting Jesus Christ.

In what way(s) do your priorities, values and passions reflect an eager anticipation of Christ's return? Discuss...