

Wed. Mar. 2

Reading: Revelation, 1.1 to 11.19

(As always, the Harris section on Revelation is very informative.)

Writing: Below are a whole bunch of little questions meant only to make you pause over details in Revelation. Having paused over them (and over others that you notice on your own, I hope), you will be in a position to create the interesting essay/discussion questions that we really want to talk about.

Read and try to answer each question. In writing, answer just the ones with an asterisk (*). Answers must be typed and ready in class by Wednesday at ten.

1.1 This is a revelation, of course. How did John get it?

1.5 John sends greetings and blessings not from himself but from three sources. Jesus Christ is the third. What is the third description of him given?

***1.9 What is John sharing with those in the churches to whom he is writing?**

1.12-16 This whole description is a little taste of the magnificent imagery to come! (a) What book of the Hebrew Bible is the source for most of this paragraph? (a) What are seven golden lampstands a reference to? (This and quite a few questions below will require consulting the footnotes.)

2.7 The people of the church in Ephesus have fallen down on loving each other. They must repent. "To everyone who conquers, I will give permission to eat from the tree of life that is in the paradise of God." What must be "conquered" here? (The word will come back a lot.)

2.9 The people of his church are having to deal with "slander" by whom?

***2.10 What lies ahead for the faithful in this church? (At least two things; three, really.)**

2.12 Again, what kind of sword does God wield?

2.14 (a) What bad things have some people in the church of Pergamum been engaged in?

(b) The footnote tells us "fornication" is a metaphor here. Does that make sense, in terms of earlier reading we've done? (An answer may be sniffed in the wind.)

2.17 More promises to those who "conquer." What is promised? (Note that apocalyptic element of secrecy.)

2.23 Now what is promised to those who conquer?

3.3 At what hour will Christ come to punish those who haven't repented?

3.5 More promises to those who conquer. What are they?

***3.9** Another reference to those "those of the synagogue of Satan who say that they are Jews and are not." What will these false Jews have to do to those whom God loves?

- 3.10 Promises, promises. What are they here?
3.16 The folks in Laodicea are lukewarm in their faith. What is to happen to them?
3.21 One more promise to those who conquer. What is it?

4.1-8 Now the real apocalyptic vision begins. Which of the Hebrew prophets we read does this most resemble? (If you don't know, check which prophet is most frequently cited in the footnotes to this passage.

4.8 Do you remember where in Hebrew prophecy this line – “Holy, holy, holy” – comes from? If not, the footnotes help.

5.1 What element of apocalyptic do you recognize here?

5.5: Who is worthy to open the sealed scrolls? What has he “conquered”?

5.11 This book, as a movie, would have an awesome soundtrack. Have you noticed how much singing there is starting in Ch. 4? Indeed, almost every sense is addressed and stimulated in it!

5.11-14 Mark depicts the “failure” entailed in Jesus’s dying on a cross between two thieves after having been mostly unrecognized and misunderstood. How does Revelation depict the slaughter of the Lamb here?

6.1-8 The four horsemen of the apocalypse! You’ll want to know what they bring.

6.9-12 Under the heavenly altar are the souls of those who had been slaughtered for the word of God. What are they awaiting?

6.12-17. Particularly powerful imagery here. (a) Which images do you recognize? (b) What do the powerful of this earth do in the face of this destruction? Recognize this from anywhere?

7.1-10 Here we meet another kind of “seal” in Revelation. (a) If 7 is one of the special numbers in the Bible, what is another special number? (b) Besides the 144,000 from the tribes of Israel, how many others get the seal on their foreheads?

7.13 What color does your robe turn when you wash it in the blood of the Lamb?

7.15-17 A beautiful promise to those who come through the great ordeal. Who will be their shepherd? Have we met this before?

8. 1 The opening of the seventh seal unleashes the final judgment. I’ll let you enjoy the imagery on your own. Do note the special locusts in 8.3-11. Draw them, if you can (1.7 extra credit points). (a) Who do these locusts go after? (b) What will people want to do in those days?

9.12 Note.

9.13 The second woe begins. It is wipe out one third of humankind. (a) How many troops will this take? (b) More to draw! (c) You’d think all this would bring out repentance of the remaining two-thirds of humankind, right? Would you have another thing coming?

10.8-10 Who else ate a scroll?

11.1-3 Those inside the temple will be protected, but for those outside, another period of tribulation follows. (a) How long will it last? The footnote gives one good interpretation of the number, but there are other possibilities. Want to suggest one? In what year do they predict the Social Security system will start paying out more than it takes in? Divide that number by 7. Need I say more? Do you *still* not understand? (b) What is the holy city referred to here?

11.4-10 Different identifications have been made of the two prophets who prophesy here. (a) What will happen to those two prophets? (b) Why will “the inhabitants of the earth” gloat over them?

11.11-19 And then what happened to the prophets? Enjoy the spectacular ending of this section – the second woe.

***Compose two essay questions for a test on this first half of Revelation. It is all right for your question to refer to other course reading. Remember, these must be typed and ready at 10:00 A.M. on Wednesday, March 1.**