



## A ROARING LAMB

revelation 1:1-3



"What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us...for this reason the gravest question before the Church is always God Himself, and the most portentous fact about any man is not what he at a given time may say or do, but what he in his deep heart conceives God to be like." (A.W. Tozer, "Knowledge of the Holy")



Secular humanism is a worldview that claims that *humanity* can achieve its own happiness; as a result, it often prioritizes feelings, empowers emotions, and exalts the person.



# To reclaim a proper and exalted view of Jesus Christ



Though evil often seems dominant and unruly in our world, an end is coming and Christ is ruling.



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But in Revelation, everything changes – every vision and description of Jesus in Revelation is one of majesty, power, and glory.



#### READ - HEAR - HEED



The verb read means "to read out loud."



#### **Revelation 1:1-2**

"The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave
Him to show to His bond-servants, the things
which must soon take place; and He sent and
communicated it by His angel to His bond-servant
John, who testified to the word of God and to the
testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw."



Genre helps us appreciate how to best understand the content



Revelation is a very unique book because it comprises three different literary genres: It is an apocalypse (v. 1), a prophecy (v. 3), and a letter (v. 4)



It was designed to pull back the veil and allow the churches to see the world the way it truly is, and the way it eventually will be.



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### Philippians 2:8-9

"Being found in appearance as a man, He (Jesus) humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name."



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#### **Revelation 22:10**

"Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book..."



### 1. Read 2. Hear



#### 1. The 'end' is only half the story

verse 1, "...things which must soon take place..." and verse 3, "...for the time is near."



#### 1. The 'end' is only half the story

The word *time* in verse 3 "refers to epochs, eras, or seasons."



"In eschatology and apocalyptic literature, the future is always viewed as imminent...The church in every age has always lived with the expectancy of the consummation of all things in its own day. 'Immiment' describes an event that is 'possible any day, impossible no day.'"
(Alan Johnson)



## 2. We need to recover the roar of the Lamb



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After the seventh seal (8:5), the seventh trumpet (11:19), and the seventh bowl (16:18) of judgement each are accompanied by lightning and thunder. This connects the judgements with the throne – the Lamb is roaring.



## 3. To see the world as it truly is



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The serpent of old is still the prince of darkness of this world who is actively deceiving, scheming and lying



# 3. To see the world as it truly is

Jesus is exalted, He is ruling from His throne, He is the roaring Lamb, and His judgement is imminent and His reign thoroughly complete.



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Read
 Hear
 Heed



#### 3. Heed

Revelation is not designed to fascinate us with symbols and numbers and end time predictions – it is designed to awaken our hearts and minds to fascination and faithfulness to the person of Jesus.



"...the most portentous fact about any man is not what he at a given time may say or do, but what he in his deep heart conceives God to be like."

(A.W. Tozer)



#### 3. Heed

This renewed vision of an exalted Jesus should impress upon us a holy fear to live within this moment as if it's our only moment.



#### 3. Heed

It is a book that is bracketed by promises of blessing (Revelation 1:3 and 22:7)



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