



# Devotional

Oct. 4 - Dec. 30

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of “That doesn’t sound right.” followed by a bible verse. We are blessed that we have access to the Word of God and relationship to keep us in truth! With the message of John, we can all be reminded of whose we are and the tools we have to continue to live in the truth.

## **WEEK TWELVE (DECEMBER 20–26)**

### **Day 355: December 20, 2020**

**Full Plan: 2 John 1–13**

**Abbreviated Plan: 2 John 1–13**

2 John was written to a female leader of a house church, a modern day Susanna Wesley. Our spiritual responsibilities should not just be relegated to Sunday mornings, but must include who we are at home, and impact how our families grow in Christ. (vs. 4)

What God is revealing to me today, and how I will apply it to my life:

### **Day 356: December 21, 2020**

**Full Plan: 3 John 1–15**

**Abbreviated Plan: 3 John 1–15**

3 John is the shortest book in the Bible, but it contains one of its simplest and most poignant verses: “Beloved, do not imitate what is evil but imitate what is good.” (11) Adopt that as your daily filter,

and you will begin to live life as God intends.

What God is revealing to me today, and how I will apply it to my life:

### **Day 357: December 22, 2020**

**Full Plan: Jude 1–25**

**Abbreviated Plan: Jude 1–25**

Jude’s message is straightforward: don’t be immoral, don’t follow a perverted version of the faith. Those who do are “waterless clouds” (12) prone to prevailing winds. Instead, “keep yourself in the love of God,” (21) which is a good rule to live by today.

What God is revealing to me today, and how I will apply it to my life:

### **Day 358: December 23, 2020**

**Full Plan: Revelation 1:1–2:29**

**Abbreviated Plan: Revelation 1:1–19**

Revelation 1-2. Everyone has a blind spot: those aspects of character and private behavior that we don’t want others to see. In

these letters to the churches, God first affirms their noble qualities, the ones that are visible to the public, but then also says, “But I have this against you,” and names their faltering faith, their worship of other gods, their adherence to false teachers. Hearing the truth about our private lives hurts, but it’s necessary toward living life as God intends.

What God is revealing to me today, and how I will apply it to my life:

**Day 359: December 24, 2020**

**Full Plan: Revelation 3:1–5:14**

**Abbreviated Plan: Revelation 2:1–29**

Of the seven letters to the churches, it’s the one to Laodicea that seems most relevant today. It’s for lukewarm Christians who choose a faith of convenience rather than full commitment. It’s the last letter in the opening of Revelation, and it is the most relevant to us today.

What God is revealing to me today, and how I will apply it to my life:

**Day 360: December 25, 2020**

**Full Plan: Revelation 6:1–8:05**

**Abbreviated Plan: Revelation 3:1–22**

Revelation 7:9 is a powerful passage in the book. It is an image of the kingdom of God, in which there is no ethnic or socioeconomic division and there is unity of purpose: to praise God. It is a vision of the church which we can work toward today.

What God is revealing to me today, and how I will apply it to my life:

**Day 361: December 26, 2020**

**Full Plan: Revelation 8:6–11:19**

**Abbreviated Plan: Revelation 4:1–11; 5:1–14**

Before “Hunger Games” and “Divergent,” Revelation was the original dystopian novel: a vivid vision of a future that we can avoid if we persevere and resist in the present. It is less about what will happen tomorrow, and more about staying faithful today.

What God is revealing to me today, and how I will apply it to my life:

## **December 20–26 2020: Weekly Devotion by Jay Kuhns**

Wow. This week has been an overwhelming series of messages; warnings about obedience to God and the wrath that could come if we stray from our faith. From the pleadings to focus on love and the teachings of Jesus, then the battle between self-serving and others-serving, we were gently reminded to focus on Christ above all else. The challenge of false teaching in a faith-driven society (fake news?) was again a powerful reminder to focus on the Son of God. These messages ring so true today, that I found myself feeling as if I was reading a contemporary text, not an ancient one.

But then we transitioned to Revelation. What exactly does one make of this book? Are the warnings, the imagery of the lamb, and the horrific devastation that is rained down upon the earth as the trumpets are blown real? Has God offered a glimpse behind the curtain of eternity to see that He is more than willing to come full circle to the time of our ancestors in Genesis, Exodus, and the other early books we read back in the beginning of the year? Or, has the Father signaled something different? If the second coming is truly meant to be something spectacular, these early passages of Revelation certainly get our attention.

Perhaps that attention is exactly what God is counting on as we complete our year long journey? Maybe, He wants us to be absolutely focused on the messages He has sent since the world was created? It just might be that the power and intensity of these early verses are setting us up for something special?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for the patience you have shown us throughout human history. Despite our failings, self-

serving behavior, and wandering into a sinful life, you somehow show us mercy when we don't deserve it. Thank you for grabbing our attention, and focusing us on what is most important. Amen.

## **WEEK THIRTEEN (DECEMBER 27–30)**

### **Day 362: December 27, 2020**

**Full Plan: Revelation 12:1–14:20**

**Abbreviated Plan: Revelation 12:1–18; 13:1–18**

Revelation 14:12-13 summarizes the whole purpose of the book: to encourage Christians to stay faithful and for the church to endure, so that at the end of one's life, we can know that our labors were not in vain. It's an everyday epitaph.

What God is revealing to me today, and how I will apply it to my life:

### **Day 363: December 28, 2020**

**Full Plan: Revelation 15:1–17:18**

**Abbreviated Plan: Revelation 14:1–20**

The Song of Miriam & Moses is thought to be the oldest piece of scripture in the Bible (Ex. 15:21). We come full circle here in Revelation 15:3-4, with the song of Moses, and bowls of wrath that echo the ten plagues. The Bible ends with where it begins, with a reminder of God's power to deliver us from captivity, and make right that which has become wayward and wicked. As we close out another year and look to the one ahead, we would do well to remember that "Great and amazing are your deeds, Lord God the Almighty!" (15:3)