



# Devotional

Oct. 4 - Dec. 30

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## **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)

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

**Day 364: December 29, 2020**

**Full Plan: Revelation 18:1–20:15**

**Abbreviated Plan: Revelation 20:11–1; 21:1–27**

The final battle! Perhaps we can't help but make some pop-culture connections to Frodo vs. Sauron, Harry vs. Dumbledore, and Rey vs. Palpatine. But let's remember: This is not the Bible's final battle. And the dispensationalists who would want us to believe that the final battle is coming have it all wrong. The Bible's final battle already happened on the cross, and the empty tomb proclaimed the victor. So Revelation is not about foretelling how the battle will end. It's a reminder of who has already won, and how we need to act like it and stay faithful. It's like a football coach telling his team, down at halftime, "Look, fellas. You've already won this game. You just don't see it. Now go out there in the second half and act like it."

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

**Day 365: December 30, 2020**

**Full Plan: Revelation 21:1–22:21**

**Abbreviated Plan: Revelation 22:1–21**

Revelation 21-22: The words of the Bible conclude, but the Word of God in Jesus continues as we live out the hope and promise of Christ in the world. "Come, Lord Jesus," indeed. Amen! Happy New Year! And thank you for being on this journey! As you reflect on this Bible Project 2020, what difference has this made in your life? And what of this journey will you continue, moving forward?

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

**December 27–30, 2020: Weekly Devotion by Whitney Smith**

Alleluia! We serve the Resurrecting King! The last few chapters of the bible speak over and over of renewal and resurrection brought by God. The Creator has sculpted a new Heaven, a new Earth and a new Jerusalem. Intentions are clear as the Resurrecting King says "Behold, I am making all things new" (Revelations 21:5).

We then receive a glimpse of made-perfect, most-beautiful. When the Creator finishes the masterpiece, what dimensions does it have? What hues? What facets? What is HOLY? God is HOLY. What about people? Well, we all know we are not perfect, but the One on the throne declares, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man." (Revelations 21:3). Where God dwells is HOLY.

How does this made-perfect happen? It is freely given. The new

Jerusalem is brought down from Heaven from God (Revelations 21:2). The water of life is given without payment (Revelations 21:6). We are sons and daughters of God. A new sinless community with God and each other is revealed. The beginning was Eden with an innocent humanity, the end is the new Jerusalem with a redeemed humanity. The text says, "And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple, and its lamp is the Lamb. And the city has not need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light and its lamp is the Lamb" (Revelations 21:22-23) God is the provider, Jesus, the Lamb illuminates the truth of God. God is everywhere. All is holy. The purpose of creation - to be in communion with The Creator is fulfilled! God is making all things new! Amen!