



Cuyahoga
Valley Church

SERMON STUDY GUIDE

Week of 9.6.26

Revelation 1 // Joe Valenti

Please take the opportunity to revisit the CVC Equip
Portrait of a Healthy LifeGroup on a regular basis

CONNECT (10 MIN)

- ① As CVC dives into studying the book of Revelation together in our sermon series, “A Tale of Two Kingdoms,” what emotions, thoughts, and feelings do you have about studying this book together - and why? Are you feeling excited, apprehensive, indifferent, or something else entirely? Take a moment to talk through these feelings and thoughts in your LifeGroup.

EXPLORE (30 MIN)

Create Context (5 min):

HERE is the Sermon Recap video playlist on Vimeo.

Study & Discussion (25 min)

Read Revelation 1.

- ① Before you attend your LifeGroup, if you haven’t already, take some time to read Pastor Joe’s blog post, “How We’re Approaching Revelation Together” at <https://cvconline.org/how-were-approaching-revelation-together/>.
 - What’s one thing that stands out to you or is particularly interesting to you in this blog post?
 - Take a moment to review the 7 Key Theological Emphases that we’ll be focusing on during this sermon series.
 - Which one of these emphases most encourages you as you encounter it, and why?
 - Are any of these emphases confusing to you? If so, which ones, and how?
 - If you’ve studied Revelation at all in the past, which one of these strikes you as unique or different from the way you’ve studied this book before, and why?
 - Read the Nancy Guthrie quote at the very end of Pastor Joe’s blog post. What about this quote stands out to you, encourages you, or challenges you in a specific or particular way?

② Reread Revelation 1:12-16. Then read Daniel 7:9-10 and 13-14.

- What similarities in language do you see in these verses from Daniel 7 and the verses from Revelation 1?
- Pastor Joe mentioned on Sunday that the Revelation 1 weaves together language found in Daniel 7 that refers to the Son of Man and to God - and applies them both to Jesus. Why is this significant, and what does it signify?

③ Consider the portrayal of Jesus in Revelation 1. Reread Revelation 1:17-18 in particular. Consider these words that Pastor Joe shared in his sermon on Sunday:

“So John hits the floor, and Jesus does what He always does with people who fall at His feet. He puts His hand on him and He says, ‘You don’t have to be afraid. I’m in control.’ The whole chapter condensed into two words: Fear not.”

- All of us are tempted at times to see Jesus through the lens of our own expectation, our own experiences, or our own fears. But it is Scripture, not our thoughts or feelings, that truly defines who Jesus is and what He is like. How does the picture of Jesus in Revelation 1, and the way that Joe described that picture on Sunday, bring you hope and encouragement today?
- When you hear that Jesus is in control, and that because of that you do not need to be afraid, do you really believe this? If so, how does your life reveal your belief in Jesus’ control and power? If not, what’s holding you back from trusting that Jesus is who He says He is?

④ As you close your time together in your LifeGroup, take a few moments to consider and discuss with one another the “Questions to Consider” that Pastor Joe shared throughout his sermon on Sunday. Be as honest as you can be, with yourself and with those in your LifeGroup.

- How am I allowing the hurry and distractions of my life to drown out the voice of Jesus?
- What am I tempted to love, serve, or prioritize other than Jesus?
- Where have I been tempted to compromise my faith because following Jesus is costly?
- What am I afraid of right now that would look different if I really believed that the risen Jesus is present with me and powerful for me?

RESOURCES

A Tale of Two Kingdoms Recommended Resources: https://cvconline.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/TaleOfTwo_Resources_CVC.pdf

CVC Blog: <https://cvconline.org/category/articles/>

PRAY AND APPLY

- Pray that as we begin this series, God would help us read Revelation as it's meant to be read: not a code to decode, but a reality to receive.
- Pray that seeing Jesus as John saw him – robed in glory, blazing with holiness, holding his church – would produce genuine worship in us, not familiarity.
- Pray for believers around the world enduring significant tribulation for the name of Jesus, that they'd know his presence and hold fast.
- Pray for courage to stay loyal to Jesus as Lord in the specific places we're tempted to compromise for comfort, approval, or safety.
- Pray for anyone anxious about the state of the world, that they'd hear Jesus's own words to John – "fear not" – and rest in his reign.



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WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please take a moment to share these announcements with your group.

INVITE

EXPLORE CVC Membership Class- September 13

Membership moves us from an observer to a participant and from a consumer to a contributor. It is a public affirmation of a commitment to Christ and to a specific local body. To consider membership, your first step is attending Explore CVC. To become a member of our church, attendance at two classes is required. The first class is called Explore CVC, and the second is Join CVC. Completion of both is necessary for membership. [Register here!](#)

Baptism - September 20

We are excited that you have indicated your desire to be baptized! Click [here](#) to learn more about baptism and apply for upcoming opportunities.

Pizza with the Pastor - September 27

We'd love the opportunity to get to know you and help you get to know us. Join us for Pizza with the Pastor, It's a relaxed, informal time to connect with one of our pastors, hear more about CVC, ask questions, and discover your next steps. Join us at CVC in Lower Level 114 at CVC after the 11:15 service. Register [HERE](#)

JOIN CVC - October 11

To become a member of our church, attendance at two classes is required. The first class is called Explore CVC, and the second is Join CVC. Completion of both is necessary for membership. Explore CVC is required before you can take Join CVC.

[Register here.](#)