



Faith Lutheran Church + Grand Blanc, MI + www.faitgb.org

Bible Reading Journey

Key Study Points by Rev. Dr. Todd Biermann

Each day, using the notes on this page:

- Pray for Spirit-filled insight as you read God's Word.
- Look for Law and Gospel themes that point us to Jesus.
- Apply the readings to your life.
- Pray to Jesus, as the readings inspire you, for yourself, your family, your church and your world.

Historical Context: The three epistles of John were written by the apostle John later in his life, between 85 and 95 AD. He likely wrote from Ephesus, where he was an evangelist for about 30 years.

Law & Gospel Themes: John's greatest focus is on the Church as a family that is united in the love of Jesus. He begins 2 and 3 John by referring to himself as the "elder" and his recipients as beloved children. This refers to his role as a representative of Jesus to His Church, made up of those called to be children of God (1 Jn 3:1) through faith. In deep love for the Church, John calls them to true love (1 Jn 4:7-

12), unlike the false, selfish teachers. He holds up Jesus as true God & man who, alone, paid the price (propitiation) for the sin of the "whole world" (1 Jn 2:2). The way of "light" is true love (1 Jn 2:9-11). As we "abide" in Jesus & His Word (1 Jn 4:13, 2 Jn 9), we'll never deny the Spirit and face damnation (See 1 Jn 5:16f).

Life Application Starters: What does "elder" John teach about the role of a father in his home or a pastor in his congregation? How does a stable home where children abide in the unconditional love of Jesus teach them to be

eternal children in the family of Jesus? How can a Christian congregation provide the same teaching for God's "children" of all ages? What sin has not been paid for by Jesus' crucifixion? Do we need to fear the sin that leads to death? (SEE TLSB Pg. 2181)

Prayer Starters: To respect & pray for our "elders" in our homes and churches who faithfully represent Jesus to the beloved children of God. That we are all faithful children of God who love as He loved us. That we never deny the Spirit and refuse to repent. That we abide steadfast in Jesus' love in these end times.

Daily Readings and notes:

Monday: 1 John 1:1-10

Tuesday: 1 John 2:1-27

Wednesday: 1 John 2:28-3:24

Thursday: 1 John 4:1-21

Friday: 1 John 5:1-21

Saturday: 2 John 1-13

**Dec./
January's
Memory
Verses:**

1 John 1:9f, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful & just to forgive us our sins & to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar..."
1 John 4:7, "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God..."
Jude 24f, "Now to him who is able...to present you blameless...be glory...now and forever. Amen."
Rev. 5:9b-10, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth."
Rev. 21:4, "[God] will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more..."
Rev. 22:17, "The Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come.'"

Author of 1, 2 & 3 John: John, the apostle and evangelist **Date:** 85 - 95 AD

New Insights:

Questions to Pursue Further:

Insights from My Accountability Partners:

My Personal Prayers:

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Historical Context: For 3 John see week 101. Jude was likely written by a half brother of Jesus, not an apostle, but an associate with them, in ~68 AD. Revelation was written by John, the apostle, in either 68 AD (under the persecution of Nero) or 95 AD (near the end of his life).

Law & Gospel Themes:

Jude wrote to warn against false teachers. He cites 9 references from the OT (5-15) to warn of God's judgment against rebellion (SEE Chart on TLSB Pg. 2189). Yet, he also encourages the faithful to rescue those entrapped in lies (23). He gives hope through a glorious doxological closing (24f).

John recorded his revelation from the LORD to celebrate the exalted reign of the Victor, Christ Jesus, and to comfort and encourage the Church, the Bride of Christ, for her mission in these final days until Jesus returns in judgment (SEE TLSB Pg. 2216). Jesus IS in control. Satan and evil will NOT prevail. The Church WILL endure and spread to all nations until Jesus returns.

Life Application Starters:

What urgency is placed on us by God's consistent judgment on rebellion? How should we treat the ignorantly deceived as opposed to those who are

blatantly rebellious against the truth of God's Word? How does it help to see Revelation as a book of images and figures for the comfort of Christians rather than as a timeline of world events? To what degree can Satan and evil assault us individually and as the Church?

Prayer Starters: Regularly pray Jude 24f as a source of comfort, power and hope as we await Jesus' return in judgment. For all to heed Christ's warning of judgment, repent and be ready when He returns. To courageously tell of Jesus as LORD and Savior every day to all people before He returns in judgment.

Daily Readings and notes:

Monday: 3 John 1-15

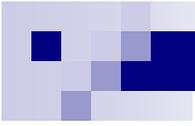
Tuesday: Jude 1-25

Wednesday: Revelation 1:1-20

Thursday: Revelation 2:1-29

Friday: Revelation 3:1-22

Saturday: Revelation 4:1-5:14



**Dec./
January's
Memory
Verses:**

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1 John 4:7, "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God..."
Jude 24f, "Now to him who is able...to present you blameless...be glory...now and forever. Amen."
Rev. 5:9b-10, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth."
Rev. 21:4, "[God] will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more..."
Rev. 22:17, "The Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come.'"

Author of 3 John: John, the apostle **Date:** 85 – 95 AD **Author of Jude:** Jude, a half brother of Jesus **Date:** ~68 AD
Author of Revelation: John, the apostle, likely in exile on the island of Patmos **Date:** 68 or 95 AD

<i>New Insights:</i>	<i>Questions to Pursue Further:</i>
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Historical Context:

Revelation was written by John, the apostle, in either 68 AD (under the persecution of Nero) or 95 AD (near the end of his life).

Law & Gospel Themes:

Chapters 4 and 5 are the heart of Revelation focused on Jesus as the exalted and reigning LORD of the universe who will sustain and then save His Bride, the Church. 5:9&10 are a good "capsule" picture of this theme. Jesus is the Lamb slain for the salvation of all who receive Him. The Church is His Kingdom in action on earth to bear witness to all. We have power over evil through Jesus. Chapters 6-21 are a

series of visions of the end times and coming day of judgment. 6:1-8:5 depicts Jesus opening the seven seals; a sign of His authority and deliverance of His Bride. 8:6-11:19, with the blowing of seven trumpets, has a mission focus for John and the Church. More on Chapters 12 and 13 next week.

Life Application Starters:

The shedding of blood to cover sin is a theme that has been prominent through our entire Bible journey, pointing clearly to Jesus as the Lamb slain for us. How does Rev. 5:9&10 apply this theme to bring comfort and purpose to us

who are in the Church, the Kingdom of God on earth? Knowing Jesus holds all the ultimate power of the universe, how does this impact your daily life in service to Him? As the Bride of Christ, what can all of us in the Church learn from the example of a faithful Christian wife as she relates to her husband and children in God's way?

Prayer Starters: In thanks that we are covered by the blood of Jesus through Baptism, Holy Absolution and the Lord's Supper. To be faithful priests who boldly share God's Word of judgment and deliverance.

Daily Readings and notes:

Monday: Revelation 6:1-8:5

Tuesday: Revelation 8:6-9:21

Wednesday: Revelation 10:1-11

Thursday: Revelation 11:1-19

Friday: Revelation 12:1-17

Saturday: Revelation 13:1-18

**Dec./
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Rev. 21:4, "[God] will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more..."
Rev. 22:17, "The Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come.'"

Author of Revelation: John, the apostle, likely in exile on the island of Patmos **Date:** 68 or 95 AD

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Law & Gospel Themes:

A third scene of the End Times, depicted in Rev. 12:1-14:20, is a battle between the Triune God and three evil opponents: Ch. 12 features a dragon (Satan), 13:1-10 has a 1st beast (embodying political power that opposes God) and 13:11-18 has a 2nd beast (a "false prophet" who seeks to destroy the Church from within). While we don't take the number of the beast, 666, as a literal mark or try to tie it to one enemy

of God, we do use God's perfect Word of Truth to identify the complete imperfection of the lies of Satan that are evident in his servants on earth. Ch. 14 highlights the delivery/harvest of God's elect (144,000 is not literal, but represents completeness, 12x12x10x10x10) by the Lamb, Jesus. Chs. 15f warn of God's wrath against evil. Chs. 17-19 foretell God's defeat of Babylon, the Prostitute, and the coming celebration marriage feast for the Bride, the Church.

Life Application Starters:

As the Bride who has been rescued by the great dragon slayer, Jesus, how

does this comfort you in the face of Satan's attacks? What hope is ours in a political realm that is often opposed to the Christian Church? Stay in the Word of God daily so you can identify and destroy the lies of Satan and his servants. YOU are one of the 144,000 through faith in Jesus and He has a great marriage feast waiting for you on Judgement Day. Rejoice!

Prayer Starters: To stand firm amidst the dragon's flames, protected by Jesus' embrace. That God's Word, read daily, will enable us to see and destroy Satan's lies in the world and the church.

Daily Readings and notes:

Monday: Revelation 14:1-20

Tuesday: Revelation 15:1-8

Wednesday: Revelation 16:1-21

Thursday: Revelation 17:1-18:8

Friday: Revelation 18:9-24

Saturday: Revelation 19:1-21

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Verses:**

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Revelation was written by John, the apostle, in either 68 AD (under the persecution of Nero) or 95 AD (near the end of his life).

Law & Gospel Themes:

Revelation concludes with hopeful words of comfort for we who are in the Church, the Bride of Christ. We are in the "1000 years" in which the Church WILL continue as the Kingdom of God on earth until Jesus returns as judge. Those "raised" to life through the Means of Grace have their names "written in the book of life" (20:15) and are reigning with the power of Jesus on earth. The fullness of this reign will come in the

"new heaven" and "new earth" on Judgment Day, when the "Bride of Christ" will dwell with Jesus in the "new Jerusalem" (21:1f) in glorious light forever (21:22f). Anticipating this consummation of our joyous life with Jesus, we, His Bride, join the Spirit of God (22:17) in saying "Amen. [YES!] Come, Lord Jesus!" (22:20).

Life Application Starters:

What comfort is there in knowing Jesus is guiding history on His perfect timeline in this era of the Church, His Bride, and that more WILL continue to join us until He returns? In what sense have we

already risen from the dead? Who/what can ever remove your name from the Lamb's "book of life"? Why should we be eager for Jesus to come in judgment? What should we be doing while we patiently await His coming? How do you envision the marriage feast that awaits us?

Prayer Starters: Pray in joyous thanksgiving for all the riches you have received through this entire Bible reading journey. Pray for comfort and strength through God's Word as you continue to study and meditate on it daily until our Bridegroom comes!

Daily Readings and notes:

Monday: Revelation 20:1-15

Tuesday: Revelation 21:1-27

Wednesday: Revelation 22:1-21

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Verses:**

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