
“But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come.” (Mark 13:32 – 33)

Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near. (Revelation 1:3)

When We Read Revelation...

1. Keep in mind the _____ of the writing...

I, John, *your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus*, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. On the Lord’s Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet, which said: “Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea.” (Revelation 1:9-11, page 460 *The Story*)

Jesus wants to encourage them to remain steadfast in their loyalty and faithfulness to God in the face of hostile powers of darkness and persecution.

2. Keep in mind the _____ of writing...

Apocalyptic Scripture: God is in control! God will have the last word! Evil will be judged and faithfulness is worth it even if it costs you your life.

The Last Chapter

3. Keep in mind the _____ of the writing...

I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, and among the lampstands was someone like a son of man, dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. The hair on his head was white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters....coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance. When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades. Write, therefore, what you have seen: both what is now and what will take place later." (Revelation 1:12-17, page 460 *The Story*)

Three focal points of Jesus...

A. Jesus has the final say over _____! (Revelation 2-3)

B. Jesus has the final say over _____! (Revelation 4-19)

C. Jesus has the final say over _____! (Revelation 20)