



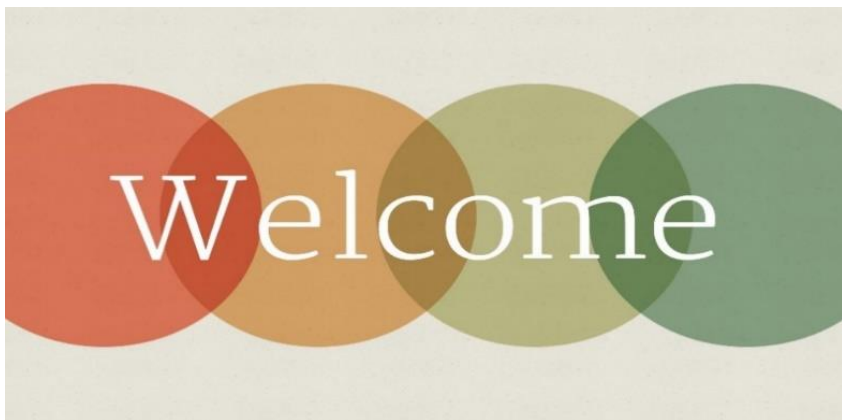
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*Sermons and Studies*  
*April-August 2017*

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Name:

St **MATTHEW**   
Anglican  
Church



If this is your first time we're really glad you're here. We are an Evangelical Anglican Church which means that we shape everything around the good news of Jesus Christ – in our church services and all our other activities.

We want to help you get to know us better. If you fill out your details in the accompanying 'details sheet' (and mark the 'I'm new here' box), we'll send you an email or give you a phone call during the week (whichever you'd prefer) – letting you know a little more about some of the things we're doing right here in Wanniasa, and why we all call this church our home. We want to give you the opportunity to get to know our staff a little better, and help connect you with other people in St Matt's.

You can put the 'details sheet' in the white bucket at the Connect Desk, or give it to one of our greeters on your way out.

If you can, please stick around afterwards for tea, coffee and a bite to eat.

## Church services

God's plan for the church is enormous. Ephesians 3:10 tells us that the church is God's display case of His manifold wisdom. In the church, we see people of different ages and stages, experiences and backgrounds, united in their love for Jesus and for each other. Church often has a bad reputation these days – often for good reason. Christians have messed up the church. But church can and should be the most glorious place on earth. That's why we take church seriously.

All of our services are Bible-centred and designed to help us engage God and learn how to serve Him in the world.

- Sunday at 8am: Relaxed, traditional style
- Sunday at 10am: Contemporary family style with kids program
- Sunday at 6pm: Contemporary style followed by supper
- Tuesday at 11:30am: fortnightly followed by lunch
- Tuesday at 10am: Goodwin Village (Ralph Cartwright Centre)
- Thursday at 10am: Goodwin Village (David Harper House)

Events and activities take place regularly throughout the year, such as men's and women's breakfasts, as well as congregation-specific social events, teaching and training days, outreach events, camps and conferences.

## Life Groups

We recognize the importance of small groups for nurturing newcomers, new Christians and regular church members. Our Life Groups are a great way to get to know and support each other, while strengthening our relationships with God. They allow us to learn more about Jesus, what it means to be a Christian, and how to reach out to people who don't yet know Him.

## Simply Christianity

We run a 5-week course for those who are curious about Christianity, and want to take an adult look at the life and message of Jesus. This course is held at the home of our Rector – all questions are welcome. These are held several times a year on different nights to accommodate all diaries.

## Kids at St Matt's

*Proverbs 22:6 says - Train children in the way they should go, and when they are old they will not turn from it. What a blessing it is to invest in children! The 10am Church service is a great place to bring kids of all ages!*

- **K@Ch (Kids at Church):** helping children follow Jesus, for life! After a Kids Spot in Church, all the children from Preschool to Year 6 have their own time of fun & value where the Bible is taught age appropriately. In 2017, we have begun exploring the Bible book of Genesis.
- **Year 7&8's:** During the Adult Bible Talk, these older children meet together to relate with each other and with God in his Word the Bible. They often also drink hot chocolate together! This term the 7&8's have been learning about their identity from the Bible book of 1 Peter.
- **Creche:** The younger children around the 2-4 age range enjoy a creche play, sing, and read in the red building outside. This also happens after the Kids Spot. There is also a "cuddle room" for parents with babies 0-1 inside the church building.

**More?** There are a number of other children's activities available on Friday nights and mid-week after school.

**Youth:** our Youth programs offer opportunities for young people in Years 7-12 to learn about Jesus with their peers in a casual environment that encourages friendship, frank discussions and fun.

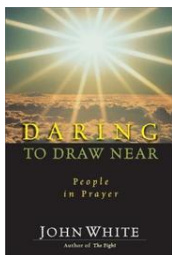
- Youth Group runs on Friday nights from 7-9pm during school term.
- LIFE Groups run on Sundays (during the 10am morning service for younger youth, 4-6pm for older youth)
- We also run an annual 5-day youth camp in the September holidays

## WHAT'S COMING UP?

30 April	12.45pm	Welcoming training
2 May	7pm	Understanding Islam
7 May	12.45pm	Welcoming training
9 May	6.30pm	Prayers for Healing service
	7pm	Understanding Islam course
13 May	8am	Men's breakfast
14 May	12.45pm	Welcoming training
16 May	7[m	Understanding Islam course
21 May	12.45pm	Welcoming training
23 May	7pm	Understanding Islam course
24 May	7.30pm	Monthly Parish Prayer meeting
27 May	2.30pm	Women's Event
28 May	12.45pm	Welcoming training
30 May	7pm	Understanding Islam course
4 Jun	12.45pm	Welcoming training
5 June	7.45pm	Bible study and life group training
6 June	7pm	Understanding Islam course
11 June	12.45pm	Welcoming training
12 June	7.45pm	Bible study and life group training
13 June	6.30pm	Prayers for Healing service
	7pm	Understanding Islam course
17 June	8am	Men's breakfast
18 June	12.45pm	Welcoming training
	1pm	Connect lunch
19 and 20 June	7.45pm	Bible study and life group training
21 June	6.30pm	State of Origin
	7.30pm	Monthly Parish prayer meeting
23/24 June		24 hour prayer vigil
25 June	12.45pm	Welcoming training
26 and 27 June	7.45pm	Bible study and life group training
2 July	12.45pm	Welcoming training
3 and 4 July	7.45pm	Bible study and life group training
9 July	12.45pm	Welcoming training
11 July	6.30pm	Prayers for Healing Service
16 July	12.45pm	Welcoming training
	1pm	Connect Lunch
17 July	7.450pm	Welfare and witness training
22 July	8am	Men's breakfast
23 July	12.45pm	Welcoming training
24 July	7.45pm	Welfare and witness training
27 July	7.30pm	Monthly Parish prayer meeting
29 July	All day	Pastoral Care training
30 July	12.45pm	Welcoming training
31 July	7.45pm	Welfare and witness training
5 August	All day	Canberra Men's Convention







# #1 ABRAHAM:

## THE DAY GOD GREW LARGER

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**Q.** “The quality of a conversation may well be determined by the person who initiates it” (p.13). Is this your experience?

*Read Genesis 18:9-33*

**Q.** Scan your eyes over the passage we just read. Along with p.14 of the book, how did Abraham hear from God? How do we hear from God?

Read the paragraph on p16 beginning with “The God who in the same instant upholds galaxies... **Q.** How does God’s communication skills affect our praying to Him? Think practically.

**Q.** What does John White say about our identity as Christians at the end of p.16 and into p.17? Why is this relevant to prayer?

**Q.** Is praying “if it be thy will” a cop-out? (p.19)

**Q.** What did you make of the “God, How Could You Be Like That?” section? (pp.19-21). What does John White say is true prayer? And how do we become people who pray truly?

**Q.** On what issues do you need to meet God with? Which passages of Scripture do you need to “wrestle with God” over? How will you do this?

➔ Read at home before next week: Chapter 2, Jacob: A Crippling in the Chasm







## #2 JACOB: A CRIPPLING IN THE CHASM

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Q. What is the biggest challenge you've ever faced?

*Read Genesis 32:22-32*

Q. What words or phrases stood out in the above Bible reading? Why?

"If God is almighty and man feeble, why is Jacob not immediately overwhelmed? Does God need to cripple Jacob?" (p.25) Q. How do you answer this question?

Q. Scan pp.26-27. In what ways was Jacob's life a struggle?

Q. Read the paragraph on p27 that begins with: "In these ways he struggled half his life to gain for himself the things God had planned to give him anyway..." How might we do the same, this side of Christ?

Scan p.30. Q. "How is one to act in the face of God's promises?" What are your thoughts? How does your life reflect your answer? If it doesn't, how might it?

Q. What is the difference between God honouring prayers and God-dishonouring prayers on p.33?

Q. What does John White say is the purpose of Jacob's wrestling on pp.34-35? Are there areas that God might be wrestling you on? What might He want to change in you to make you more like Jesus? How might He be doing this, and how should you respond?

➔ Read at home before next week: Chapter 3 – Moses: Shining Faces



### #3 MOSES: SHINING FACES

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**Q.** How was church on the weekend? What did you learn?

*Read Exodus 32:9-14, 31-32; 33:12-23.* **Q.** What words or phrases stood out in the Bible reading? Why?

**Q.** Have you ever been hurt by God's people to an extent that you cheered when they were put in their place? Be honest - without giving harmful details. Why?

**Q.** According to John White, what were the two things that dominated Moses' prayer (see the bottom of page 40)?

- 1.
- 2.

**Q.** Have you ever prayed like this? Why? Why not?

**Q.** "Golgotha only makes sense in the light of Sinai. You can never experience the urgency of intercession until you see sin from God's perspective" (p.43). Really? Why?

**Q.** When you see the sin of people in the church, what stance do you take towards them? "Is the church 'they' or is it 'we'? Do you love 'them' in spite of what you see? Are they still God's people and ours?" (p.45)

Read page 48 together. **Q.** Is this you? Do you want it to be? How might it be?

➔ Read at home before next week: Chapter 4: David – Fellowship Restored

## #4 DAVID: FELLOWSHIP RESTORED

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**Q.** When was the last time you confessed your sin to God? Without naming the sin (unless you feel safe to do so), were you caught by surprise in this sin you committed, or was it part of an ongoing 'habit'?

*Read Psalm 51.* **Q.** What words or phrases stood out in Psalm 51? Why?

"If we are doing *what* we should be doing *when* we should be, we shall be less exposed to temptation. Obedience to God carries protection with it" (p.52). Discuss.

**Q.** In Psalm 51, how did David deal with his sin? How might this be a model for us?

White says "we need a model, for questions bewilder us. Am I truly repentant? Will God hear me? Is the gravity of my sin such that it calls for special treatment? Why did I have to do it in the first place?" (p.53). **Q.** Which of these questions might you need to hear God answer from Psalm 51? Why?

Read the paragraph on p.54 that begins "If some people knew what you have done..." **Q.** Have you experienced these feelings? What makes us put walls around our feelings of guilt and shame?

**Q.** What excuses did David make for his sin? What excuses do we make? Why? (see pages 58-59)

**Q.** How does Jesus provide the answer that David was looking for? See pages 63-64. How might these truths shape our daily existence? Think practically.

➔ Read at home before next week: Chapter 5: Daniel – The man who was greatly beloved

## #5 DANIEL: THE MAN WHO WAS GREATLY BELOVED

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**Q.** Do you ever get the urge to pray? When and why?

*Read Daniel 9:1-19.* **Q.** What words or phrases stood out in the Bible reading? Why?

**Q.** Why does White say that the written Word (the Bible) is more beneficial to us than dreams, visions, spoken words etc? (see pages 67-68)

**Q.** In Daniel 9, Daniel was wrestling with God's promises and the reality of what he was experiencing. When the Scriptures and your experience clashes, which holds sway in your heart and mind? How?

**Q.** Why might White say that tension in life can be good and healthy? (pages 69-70)

Read the paragraph on p.72 that begins "Does God's character grip you?" **Q.** What are your answers to these questions? How could you answer that question?

Read the section "Crippling Fears" on pages 74-76. **Q.** Do you have eyes to see?

Read the section entitled Beyond Self. **Q.** How can we pray like Daniel? How might the truths found in Hebrews 4:14-16 be of help? Be practical.

➔ Read at home before next week: Revelation 1



# REVELATION 1:1-20 SERMON NOTES

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# STUDY #1: THE GLORIOUS UNVEILING (REV. 1:1-20)

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## What is the most bizarre dream you've ever had?

FYI: The reason Revelation is called Revelation, is because of the very first words in the letter: "the revelation from Jesus Christ (1:1). In the original Greek language of the New Testament, the word "revelation" is "apocalypse". For this reason, sometimes the Letter of Revelation is called the Apocalypse. Apocalypse and Revelation mean disclosure, unveiling, or revelation.

*Read verses 1-3.* Q. What essentially is Revelation about according to these few verses? Who is the ultimate source of this message? What is the motivation for heeding the words written in Revelation?

*Read verses 4-8.* Q. Is there anything significant about the greeting that the John brings (vv.4-5a)? Note: the number seven is used for completeness. Seven churches represent all churches, seven spirits = perfect spirit

Q. Who is John talking about in vv.5b-8, and what is he telling us about Him?

*Read verses 9-20.* Q. Who is John, where is He and why is He there (see also verse 2)?

*Read verses 12-16.* Q. How is the speaker described? Who do you think it is speaking to John? Why?

Note: See verse 20 for the interpretation of the seven golden lampstands and the seven stars. To understand where this imagery of Jesus comes from, *read Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 and 10:4-6*. This is a description of Jesus pre-incarnation. When the veil of the incarnation is pulled back, the image we are given of Jesus is pretty awesome!

Q. How do you understand verse 19? Have a good think about it as it determines what follows

Q. If you were asked to tell someone three facts about Jesus, what would you say from Rev 1? Why are these important – to you, to others?



## #2: WHAT JESUS THINKS OF HIS CHURCH (REV. 2 AND 3)

*Read Revelation 2 and 3 - Pray that you would have “ears to hear”*

The aim of this study is for you to gain an overview of the two chapters and see how things hang together.

Q. Do you think the letters were meant only for the specific churches addressed? Justify your answer (take note of the final “command” - 3:20)

Q. Complete the table...

Church	Strength	Weakness	Summary statement
Ephesus			
Smyrna			
Pergamum			
Thyatira			
Sardis			
Philadelphia			
Laodicea			

Q. What are the titles Jesus gives Himself in each message How is each title appropriate? Do the same with the promises to overcomers. How do these titles and promises help you grasp the central message to each church?

Q. What is Jesus teaching His people (then and now) about patient endurance? (see 2:2-3, 7, 10-11, 13, 17, 19, 25-26, 3:4-5, 8-12, 21)

Q. Which of the churches is our church most like in our

Strengths

Weaknesses

Q. What is Jesus’ message for you today then?



## STUDY 3: ENTER THE THRONE ROOM (REV. 4 AND 5)

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**Q.** What first comes to your mind when you think about heaven – what sort of place it is, what happens there, what will it be like etc?

John speaks in picture symbols – don't read literally, the message behind the symbols is what's important. John is invited to the throne room of God. What he sees and describes gives us the necessary perspective to deal with the breaking of the seals that follows.

*Read Revelation 4 and 5*

**Q.** What do you learn about God in Rev 4? For what attributes is He considered praiseworthy?

**Q.** The Old Testament gives important background to many, if not most, of the imagery seen by John in Revelation. How do the following passages help you to understand:

- Thunder and lightening (Exodus 19:16-19; Psalm 18:7-19)?
- The living creatures (Ezekiel 1; Isaiah 6)?
- The Lion (Genesis 49:9; Isa 11:1) – see Rev 5:5

**Q.** The scroll in Rev 5 seems to be a rather important piece of papyrus. What is it that qualifies the Lamb to open it? Does this help you understand what it might contain?

**Q.** Note down everything you learn about Jesus in Revelation 5 (particularly how He overcame, why He overcame, and His status now – v.6)

**Q.** The progression and contents of the songs in these two chapters is quite astounding. Picture the scene – the increasing numbers of participants, the crescendo and conclusion. What insights does this give you into the true nature of worship?

**Q.** Is this your hope and passion?

**Q.** How does this perspective of heaven help the readers who are facing persecution and tribulation today? Q.9 How does this perspective of heaven help you?



## STUDY 4: GROUNDHOG DAY (REV. 6:1 – 11:19)

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The scene is set; God is well and truly in control and the Lamb opens the seals... *Read Revelation 6:1-17, and 8:1*

Q. Briefly summarise the contents / events of each seal

1. First to Fourth Seal (6:1-8)
2. Fifth Seal (6:9-11)
3. Sixth Seal (6:12-17)
4. Seventh Seal (8:1-5)

Q. What do you think the horsemen represent, both individually and corporately?

The next thing John sees is angels with Trumpets. *Read Revelation 8:6 – 9:21*

Q. Trumpets can indicate a day of remembrance (Lev 23:24); a coronation (1 Kings 1:34); triumph (Joshua 6:4) or warning (Jer 4:5ff; Ezek 33:1-6; Joel 2:1). Which is most likely here?

Q. What seems to be the purpose of these Trumpet visions (9:20-21)?

Q. Think about what it means to you that the locusts are freed with God's permission (9:1), that God chooses what they can and can't do (9:3-5), and that death is unleashed upon mankind in response to a voice from the altar (the saints? 9:13-15). Is God cruel? Why or why not?

What does Revelation 6-11 tell us about:

The present and future state of Christians?

The present and future state of non-Christians?

How should this lead us to pray for the world around us?





## STUDY 5: THE GLORIOUS GATHERING (REV. 7:1-17)<sup>1</sup>

*Read Revelation 7:1-17*

Q. What assurance is given in vv.1-8 concerning God's watchful care over His people?

Before looking at Rev 7:9-17, *read the following:*

- *Genesis 12:1-3*
- *Isaiah 49:5-6*
- *Luke 24:46-47*
- *Acts 1:8*

Q. What do the above passages tell us about God's vision for the nations?

Q. Describe the crowd that John sees, and what is its importance (7:9)?

Q. What are the worshippers wearing, and what do you think this attire symbolises (7:9)?

Q. The servants are sealed and numbered, and before God's throne (7:15). How did they come to be there (7:10-15)?

Q. Make a list of the blessings that they enjoy (7:15-17). What do these blessings mean for us?

Q. How does the Revelation 7 'worship' compare with what we do at our church?

Q. What does this passage say to the church of Jesus Christ today in light of facts like 1) there are over a billion people who have never heard of Jesus, 2) there are still several thousand languages with no written translation of the Bible, and 3) whole ethnic groups (what John calls peoples or tribes) still have no witnessing church?

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<sup>1</sup> This study on Revelation 7 borrows from Paul Borthwick, *Missions: God's heart for the world*, pp.37-40



# STUDY 6: BEWARE OF IMITATIONS (REV 12:1 – 13:18)

*Read Revelation 12:1-6.* Q. Describe what we learn about the three characters in 12:1-6 (remember, this is symbolic language)

- The woman
- The dragon
- The child

*Read Revelation 12:7-16*

Q. The great battle is heating up. What details does 12:7-16 give us of the characters, activities and destinies of those involved?

- God
- Satan
- God’s people

Q. When did Satan fall – be hurled? See Luke 11:18

*Read Revelation 13:1-10.* Q. As Christ is God’s representative, so the beast from the sea is the Dragon’s (Satan’s) representative. Detail on the table below how the beast mimics and parodies Christ:

Christ	The Sea Beast
‘On His head are many crowns’ (19:12)	13:1, 10
‘He has a name written on Him’ (19:12, 16)	13:1
‘He shares the power and Kingdom of God (12:10)	13:2
He died and came to life again (2:8); He had been slain but stands (5:6)	13:3, 14
He made us to be a kingdom of priests to serve His God and Father 1:6)	13:4

Q. What do you think the sea beast represents?

*Read Revelation 13:11-18*

Q. How does the second beast parody Christ and His Spirit?

Christ and the Spirit	The Earth Beast
"A Lamb" with "seven horns and seven eyes" (5:6)	13:11
An angel with God's seal; marking the servants of God (7:2-3)	13:16-17
God's people protected by fire; having authority and signs (11:5-6)	13:13
The Spirit, glorifying Christ, declaring what is Christ's (John 16:14)	13:12, 14-15

Q. What do you think the earth beast represents (cf. 19:20)?

Q. For us in Canberra, how might the government or false teaching affect the way we live as Christians (think from the subtle to the obvious effects)?

Q.. It has been noted that where persecution of Christians is the dominant expression in a country (e.g. China, Africa, South America), revival happens. Why isn't there blatant oppression against Christians in Australia? Is this a good or bad thing? Is there anything we need to change?

Q. How can we Christians share in God's victory over Satan and his cohorts?

REVELATION 14:1-16:21 SERMON NOTES

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## STUDY 7: RELEASING THE WRATH (REV 14:1 – 16:21)

Share a situation, either from recent news or from your own life, where justice was not done.

*Read Revelation 14:1-20.* **Q.** From the picture of war in Revelation 12-13, the scene in heaven changes in 14:1-5. How has it changed?

**Q.** All of a sudden, six angels are sent out. Summarise the actions of the angels

- Angel # 1 (vv.6-7)
- Angel #2 (v.8)
- Angel #3 (vv.9-10)
- Angel #4 (vv.15-16)
- Angel #5 (v.17)
- Angel #6 (vv.18-20)

*Read Revelation 15.* **Q.** A part of the celebratory song of Moses (Exodus 15:1-8) is sung in 15:3-4. From what you see in the rest of Revelation 15: who are singing and why are they singing?

- Who
- Why

*Read Revelation 16:1-11.* **Q.** On the table below, compare and contrast the first five Trumpets with the first five bowls

Trumpet	Bowl
#1 - 8:7 Plague on the earth	#1 - 16:2
#2 - 8:8-9 Plague on the sea	#2 - 16:3
#3 - 8:10-11 Plague on the rivers	#3 - 16:4-6
#4 - 8:12 Plague on the sky	#4 - 16:8-9
#5 - 9:1-12 Locusts torment	#5 - 16:10-11
#6 – 9:13-21 Army kills 1/3 of the earth	#6 – 16:12-16
#7 – 11:15-19 Scene in heaven	#7 – 16:17-21

**Q.** How are the Bowls similar to / different from the Trumpets?

- Trumpets = ½ destruction
- Bowls – complete destruction
- The difference is because of who they were directed to

*Read Revelation 16:12-16.* **Q.** Verse 15 is quite forcefully inserted into the story here, interrupting the flow. Considering the context of the 6<sup>th</sup> Bowl, why is it there?

*Read Revelation 16:17-21.* **Q.** What is mankind's response to the wrath of God through all of this? (16:9, 11, 21)

**Q.** What should be ours?

14:7

16:15

**Q.** How can we practically do this?





# STUDY 8: THE CITY OF MAN IS GONE! (REV 17:1–19:10)

How much truth do you think there is in the saying “your character is formed by the company you keep”?

*Read Rev 17:1-6. Q. Compare and contrast the women of Revelation 12 and 17*

	Chapter 2	Chapter 17
Location	The heavens, flying to the wilderness (12:1, 14)	17:3
Clothing	The sun, moon and stars (12:1)	17:4
Offspring	The male child – Jesus – a ruler (12:5, 17)	17:5
Who loves them	God (12:6)	17:2-3
Sustenance	By God, provided for, reassured by (12:6, 14-16)	17:3, 6

**Q.** In verse 5, the woman is called ‘Babylon the Great. The Mother of Prostitutes and of the vile things of the earth’. A Biblical Theology of Babylon: have a quick look at the following passages. What do they tell you about the great city, Babylon:

- Genesis 11:2 and 9
- Daniel 1:1-2
- Zechariah 5:5-11

**FYI:** From Revelation 17-19, ‘the great city Babylon’ is simply the human race organised in defiance of God.

*Read Revelation 17:7-18.* A ‘mystery’ in the Bible is not something to be solved; it is not a puzzle. A mystery is something that was once unknown, but has now been made known. The best approach to this passage is not to ‘solve it’, and identify kings and hills, etc, but to look at the symbols and realities that underlie them.

**Q.** Babylon, the woman, rides a beast (v.7). Who or what is the beast? What does the beast do?

**Q.** Why do you think the beast and the ten kings join forces against the harlot? (read Mark 3:23-26)

*Read Revelation 18:1-3.* **Q** The cry of Revelation 14:8 is made again – summarise the intent of the angels proclamation.

*Read Revelation 18:4-20.* **Q.** Why do you think:

- The kings of the earth mourn (vv.9-10)?
- The Merchants mourn (vv.11-17a)?
- The people who live by the sea mourn (vv.17b-19)?
- The saints and apostles rejoice (v.20)?

*Read Revelation 19:1-10.* **Q.** What is the emphasis of the praise of heaven at the fall of Babylon?

**Q.** The Bride replaces the harlot at the end of history and rejoices greatly before He who sits on the throne. How should we respond to God's justice and vindication of His people (vv.6-10)?



## STUDY 9: REVELATION 19:11 – 21:8

A lot of themes introduced in Revelation are starting to come together as we approach the end. In this scene we have 7 (!) visions of the drama behind history, of judgement...

*Read Revelation 19:11-16.* **Q.** Who do you think the rider on the white horse is? Why? How is He described?

*Read Revelation 19:17-18.* **Q.** What does the angels' cry tell you about the impending fate of those who dwell on the earth?

*Read Revelation 19:19-21.* **Q.** What is your impression of this battle? Is it much of a contest? Why?

We now come to one of the most difficult parts of this book. There have been endless disputes over this passage, some of them very bitter. There are disputes over how to interpret the numbers (1000 years), when these things will happen, or have they already happened. Faithful Christians have agreed to disagree, and it is our responsibility (as always) to humbly see what the text has to say, and be gracious in our discussions. *Read Revelation 20:1-6.* **Q.** An angel appears in verse 1, but is not described in any way in verses 1-3. The focus is on what he does. What does he do (vv.1-3)? What are the results of the angels work?

**Q.** Verses 4-7 speak of those who have been killed for the faith (martyrs). What do we learn about the present and future realities for the martyrs?

*Read Revelation 20:11-15.* **Q.** Here we find ourselves on the final Judgement Day. On what basis are the dead judged?

*Read revelation 21:1-8.* **Q.**7 List all you can see of the descriptions given for the new heaven and the new earth. How does it compare with Babylon (look back at Rev 17-18 for more details)

There are aspects of Revelation 19-21 which are hard to understand. There is no doubt about that. But the big picture is clear. There are only two ways to live in this world (with God or against Him), and only two destinations for all people. **Q.8** How should this change our approach to life?



## STUDY 10: GLORY! (REVELATION 21:9 – 22:21)

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What are you most looking forward to in heaven?

*Read Revelation 21:9-22:21.* Q. How is heaven described in 21:9-27? What might this tell us about heaven?

Q. What is significant about the absence of the temple? (21:22)

*Re-read Revelation 22:1-5.* Q. From the outside the people of God are described as a city; from the inside, a garden (read Genesis 2:8-14 and Hebrews 11:18-24 for some background info). Why do you think this is the case?

Q. According to 22:6-10, how seriously should we take the message of Revelation? Why?

Q. What does 22:11-21 have to say about Jesus and the gospel message?

Q. What do the last two verses of the Bible say, and why are they suitable end to the Scriptures?

Q. How many times is God or Jesus referred to in these two chapters? What names are given for them? What does this tell us about heaven?

The following question is from John Piper's book, *God is the Gospel* (p.15): "The critical question for our generation – and for every generation – is this: if you could have heaven, with no sickness, and with all the friends you ever had on earth, and all the food you ever liked, and all the leisure activities you ever enjoyed, and all the natural beauties you ever saw, all the physical pleasures you ever tasted, and no human conflict or any natural disasters, could you be satisfied with heaven, if Christ were not there?" Q. Give your answer

Q. What impact does this teaching on the new heaven and new earth have on these aspects of your Christian life?

Evangelism

Holiness of life

Contentment

Assurance

Attitude to other believers

*Revelation summarised: the King has conquered, will conquer and is coming again so hold on and trust in Him*

**A Month-Long Journey with Jesus:** here are 31 readings (one for each day of the month) listed in the order of their appearance in the New Testament<sup>2</sup>

Day 1. **Matt. 1:18–2:23.** Jesus is born, then becomes a refugee as an evil king seeks to destroy Him. Finally His family returns home.

Day 2. **Matt. 4:1–11.** Jesus confronts very real temptations.

Day 3. **Matt. 13:54–58.** Jesus faces rejection based on His family, their work, and the small size of His hometown.

Day 4. **Matt. 23:1–39.** Jesus speaks out against deceit, pride, and hypocrisy.

Day 5. **Matt. 25:31–46.** Jesus judges according to mercy and compassion rather than outward displays of spirituality.

Day 6. **Mark 4:1–41.** Jesus begins to explain the kingdom of God, using stories and images from the workplace.

Day 7. **Luke 2:1–52.** Luke describes events connected with Jesus' birth—and tells of an incident during a boyhood trip to Jerusalem.

Day 8. **Luke 4:14–37.** Jesus goes public with His purpose and immediately encounters opposition.

Day 9. **Luke 6:17–49.** Jesus teaches basic truths about attitudes, true charity, evaluating others, and making wise choices.

Day 10. **Luke 9:18–36.** Jesus talks with His followers about who He is.

Day 11. **Luke 22:1–24:53.** Jesus is betrayed, judged, executed, buried, resurrected, and reconnected with His followers.

Day 12. **John 1:1–18.** John, one of Jesus' followers, describes how God became a man through Christ—full of grace and truth.

Day 13. **John 5:19–47.** Jesus explains His relationship with His Father and the implications for us.

Day 14. **John 6:35–51.** Jesus teaches that He is the bread of life, and tells how people can find Him.

Day 15. **John 8:12–30.** Jesus announces that He is the light of the world.

Day 16. **John 10:1–18.** Jesus says that He is the good shepherd who seeks His Father's lost sheep.

Day 17. **John 11:1–12:8.** Jesus describes Jesus' relationship with some of his friends, and their profound love and care for each other.

Day 18. **John 14:1–15:8.** Jesus explains that He is our source of spiritual life and productivity—the way to God.

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<sup>2</sup> Edited from Nelson's Complete Book of Bible Maps & Charts (Thomas Nelson Publishers 1996)



Day 19. **John 21:15–25.** Jesus loved even the man who had denied Him and was jealous of another disciple.

Day 20. **Acts 2:22–42.** Peter explains Christ to a massive crowd in Jerusalem, and welcomes 3,000 people into the faith.

Day 21. **Rom. 5:1–21.** Paul explains how Christ sets people free from sin and makes them acceptable to God.

Day 22. **1 Cor. 15:1–28.** Paul teaches about Christ's resurrection and the destruction of our enemy, death.

Day 23. **Eph. 1:3–14.** Paul describes Christ's work for us from three vantage points: before creation, in the present, and in eternity.

Day 24. **Phil. 2:5–16.** Paul explains the choices Christ made in order to become a man, as well as the choices we should make in following Him.

Day 25. **Col. 1:15–22.** Paul states that Christ is Lord of all—yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

Day 26. **1 Thess. 4:13–5:11.** Paul explains that Jesus will return and bring history to its culmination.

Day 27. **Heb. 1:1–2:18.** The author of Hebrews describes Christ's complete and wonderful work on our behalf.

Day 28. **Heb. 4:14–5:10.** Christ has experienced every kind of test or trial we will ever face.

Day 29. **Heb. 9:23–10:18.** Jesus takes away sin, once and for all. Forgiveness is ours in Him.

Day 30. **1 Pet. 1:1–12.** Peter tells us that our salvation in Christ is a reality that even the angels and Old Testament prophets did not understand.

Day 31. **Rev. 5:1–14; 22:1–21.** Christ will rule heaven and earth and will welcome believers to an eternity with Him.

## 33-DAY REVELATION BIBLE READING PLAN

- **Introducing Revelation**, promise of blessing, meet the King (1:1–8)

### The Body of the Letter (1:9–22:5)

- The Son of Man among his churches (1:9–20)
- Christ's message to Ephesus (2:1–7)
- Christ's message to Smyrna (2:8–11)
- Christ's message to Pergamum (2:12–17)
- Christ's message to Thyatira (2:18–29)
- Christ's message to Sardis (3:1–6)
- Christ's message to Philadelphia (3:7–13)
- Christ's message to Laodicea (3:14–22)
- The Lamb and the scroll: current and coming woes, preparing for the end (4:1–8:1)
- Heaven opened: the Lamb receives the scroll (4:1–5:14)
- The Lamb opens the scroll's seven seals (6:1–8:1)
- Interlude: the sealing of God's international people (7:1–17)
- Heaven's incense altar: the saints' prayers, and fire flung to earth (8:2–5)
- Angels sound seven trumpets (8:6–11:19)
- The woman's son defeats the dragon (12:1–6)
- Michael and heaven's armies defeat the dragon (12:7–17)
- The beast from the sea (13:1–10)
- The false prophet from the land (13:11–18)
- The Lamb and his sealed victors (14:1–5)
- Angelic announcements of judgment (14:6–20)
- Heaven's sanctuary filled with glory (15:1–8)
- Angels pour out seven bowls (16:1–21)
- Babylon's power and luxury (17:1–15)
- Babylon's fall lamented and celebrated (17:16–19:10)
- Christ defeats and destroys the beast, the false prophet, and their gathered armies (19:11–21)
- (Interlude: the thousand years of the dragon's binding and the martyrs' reign, 20:1–6)
- God defeats and destroys the dragon and its gathered armies (20:7–10)
- The last judgment and the destruction of death, the last enemy (20:11–15)
- The new heaven and earth, home of the Lamb's bride (21:1–8)
- The new Jerusalem, the Lamb's pure bride (21:9–22:5)

### Epilogue (22:6–21)

- Transmission and trustworthiness of the Revelation, promise that Jesus is coming soon, promise of blessing (22:6–9, 16–17)
- Prohibition of sealing the book, promise that Jesus is coming soon, promise of blessing (22:10–21)

This outline of Revelation is an edited version of the outline found in the ESV Study Bible

# Monday: Thanksgiving

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*Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)*

**That we can know God:** who is our Maker, Sustainer, Provider, Redeemer and Protector. He is bigger and better than anyone or anything else in this universe – and we are His children, whom He loves.

**For Jesus and the gospel of His grace:** 1) the cross, where Jesus took our sin, shame, guilt, condemnation; 2) His resurrection, where Jesus defeated death, secured our future hope, and ushers in the new creation (of which we are a part of)

**For Jesus being our Good Shepherd:** who in His earthly life experienced every emotion / struggle we have or will ever face: rejection, injustice, abuse, physical agony, humiliation and more; who brings us to God the Father, so we can pray with confidence – knowing that God hears, acts and provides.

**For the Bible:** which is more precious than gold and sweeter than honey; the very Word of God, everything we need to know Jesus, grow like Him, and live well in His world.

**For the church:** that we are God’s children, reconciled through Jesus, to love and serve each other with grace, experience God’s grace together, and display God’s manifold wisdom to the world.

My personal thanksgiving list

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## Tuesday: Confession

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*If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:8-9)*

Among other things, we confess the following:

Our selfishness and self-centredness, worldliness and greed, inconsistency and lack of stability, coldness of heart - our lack of love in general, and in specific - our lack of concern of those dying without Christ, our tolerance of sin on our life, our disobedience to God's revealed Word - especially when we knew we were sinning, our failure to make best use of our time, our need of serious prayer time and more time spent alone with God, our over familiarity with the gospel and the love of God

The sins I need to confess, give to God, seek His strength to change from:

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Ask for forgiveness - as individuals and as a church, trusting that the blood of Jesus cleanses all our sin; and entrusting ourselves to God's Holy Spirit, who guides us into newness of life and obedience.

(source: Enrich Your Prayer Life, B. Price)

# Wednesday: for our church family

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For all members of St Matt's to have relational closeness with Jesus, hearing His voice in His Word, and delighting in prayerful communion with our Maker and Redeemer, resulting in our faith affecting our lives more deeply, that our faith and love for Jesus will be more dominant in every aspect of our lives, when we meet together and throughout the week.

Pray in particular for our church services:

- Sunday at 8am
- Sunday at 10am
- Sunday at 6pm
- Tuesday at 11:30am
- Tuesday at 10am: Goodwin Village (Ralph Cartwright Centre)
- Thursday at 10am: Goodwin Village (David Harper House)

Ask God to remind us of the privilege and purpose He's given us as His children, reconciled through Jesus, to love and serve each other with grace, experience God's grace together, and display God's manifold wisdom to the world.

Ask God to grow our **Life Groups** (including Friends of Jesus & Christianity Explained) as gatherings that nurture newcomers, new Christians and regular church members; to get to know and support each other, while learning more about Jesus, what it means to be a Christian, and how to reach out to people who don't yet know Him.

Pray for the **kids and youth ministries** at St Matt's – that our children and youth will follow Jesus for life! Ask God to give the ministry leaders strength, wisdom and His abiding love as they serve our kids. Pray for more children from the area to meet Jesus for the first time, and know the safety, security and hope that He alone brings.

Pray for our **church training activities** – that we will all understand how the body works at St Matt's and where each ministry and role fits into the bigger picture; that our motivation to serve will be love for God and love for His church; never to earn anything from God or others, but serving freely out of the identity that Jesus has already won for us. And that we will all seek to grow to fulfill our particular ministry role.

## Thursday: our local community

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Ask God's blessings upon the churches of our area: to bring many people into His family.

Pray that many in Wanniassa and wider Canberra will realise their need of Jesus and will turn to Him in true repentance and faith. Pray that many will find Jesus Christ as their Saviour and Lord, and that great numbers will be born again, into God's kingdom.

For workmates, uni/school-mates, family, friends, neighbours, strangers...

- For our lives to show forth the love and grace and truth of the gospel of Jesus
- For opportunities to share the gospel with them
- For clarity in speaking the gospel
- For God to have mercy on them, and for us to have the privilege to be involved in their new life in Christ

Below is a table to help guide your prayers. In the table, write down the name of three people you know who do not know Jesus in a personal way – and therefore facing judgment. For the next few months, concentrate praying for these three people whom you can attempt to help along to the next stage of the evangelism process (e.g. bring them to church). It is best to focus on three people who seem to be potentially receptive and with whom you have some common interests. who seem to be potentially receptive and with whom you have some common interests.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

## Friday: the world

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Pray that the Lord Jesus may be lifted up in every culture, among every people, so that people everywhere may hear of what He has done and place their trust in Him. Ask that they will look to Him in faith and worship, and be released from sin's deadly hold as they come into His new birth to eternal life.

In particular, pray for our St Matthew's supported missionaries

- University Christian Groups at CU and ANU (AFES)
- Nungalinya College in the Northern Territory,
- Bush Church Aid
- George Whitfield College in South Africa
- The Church Missionary Society
- Logos Hope and Operation Mobilisation
- Logosdor...

And all other Christians we partner with. Pray for those who have gone out in their fellowship to preach, to teach and to heal. Pray for God to guard, guide and use them; to raise up more people in His worldwide church to pray and to work, to care and to understand, to give to Him and to go for Him, that His church may grow, His will be done, His kingdom come, and His glory be revealed.

Pray for countries where persecution is an everyday experience for Christians: North Korea, China, Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Egypt, and many other countries. Pray for God's sustaining grace to be upon His children – bringing respite, healing, hope and justice. Pray also for the persecutors – to be confronted by the risen Jesus and brought to repentance, faith and justice. And pray that the growth of God's kingdom in countries of persecution would continue to increase in depth and width.

Pray for countries that are experiencing disaster such as famine, war and upheaval.

For more information, check out our regularly updated website

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We'd love to harness the creativity of those in St Matt's! We are hoping that each future edition of this booklet will feature a design from somebody within St Matt's.



If you would like to contribute an original artwork or design, please send it through to Jane our ministry co-ordinator (office@stmattswanniassa.org.au or 0401 732