

Getting Inside Your Bible #7

# GREAT SUSPENSE, GRAND CONCLUSION

# Welcome!

- ⦿ This is the final of three weeks summarizing the New Testament
- ⦿ Slides may be downloaded from [www.kelleycentral.com](http://www.kelleycentral.com)
- ⦿ Session taught by Dr. Mark Kelley, June 11, 2014

# Verse – Hebrews 1

In these last days God has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe” (Hebrews 1:2 NIV).

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# Recapping the Story

- Torah – God selects a family to spread his glory
- History – God's family frustrates him
- Poetry – The feelings of God's family
- Prophecy – The future of God's family

# *An Overview of the Christian Scriptures (NT)*

- ◎ The Son Brings God's Kingdom
  - Four Gospels
- ◎ The Church Expands God's Kingdom
  - Acts and the Epistles (Letters)
- ◎ God Finalizes His Kingdom
  - Revelation of Jesus Christ

# What would you say?

- A friend is going through a time of great suffering, and they share with you they don't know if they can take it any more.

# What did John say?

- For a full generation, the church had been ferociously persecuted
  - Nero (AD 54-68)
  - Domitian (AC 81-96)



# Even their Spiritual Parents!

- In AD 90, Judaism kicked Christians out of their first spiritual “home.”
  - This was an emotional blow
  - This was also a huge political blow

# Key Interpretation Principle

- Before we can know what a Bible passage says to us, we must know what it said to the original readers.
- “ I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come” (Psalm 121:1, ESV)?

# What the First Readers Saw

- ◎ Jesus!

- ( Chapters 1-5)

- ◎ Their great pain while humans rule

- (Chapters 6-18)

- ◎ Their great joy when Jesus' rule is complete

- (Chapters 19-22)

# Details

- ⦿ John was forbidden to write against the empire.
- ⦿ His solution? Use symbols that only his readers would understand.
  - He may have been TOO successful 😊

# Chart on next 2 pages

- There are remarkable parallels between Genesis 1-2 and Revelation 21-22
- The following chart was adapted from <http://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/revelation/introduction/genesis-and-revelation-as-bookends.html>

## Genesis

## Revelation

Division of light and darkness (Gen. 1:4).

**No night there**  
(Rev. Rev. 21:25+).

Division of land and sea (Gen. 1:10).

**No more sea**  
(Rev. Rev. 21:1+).

Rule of sun and moon (Gen. 1:16).

**No need of sun or moon**  
(Rev. Rev. 21:23+).

First heavens and earth finished (Gen Gen. 2:1-3).

**New heaven and earth forever**  
(Rev. Rev. 21:2+).

Humans in a prepared garden (Gen. Gen. 2:8-9).

**Humans in a prepared city**  
(Rev. Rev. 21:2+).

## Genesis

## Revelation

River flowing out of Eden  
(Gen. [Gen. 2:10](#)).

River flowing from God's throne  
(Rev. [Rev. 22:1+](#)).

Tree of life in the midst of the garden (Gen. [Gen. 2:9](#)).

Tree of life throughout the city  
(Rev. [Rev. 22:2+](#)).

God walking in the garden  
(Gen. [Gen. 3:8](#)).

God dwelling with His people  
(Rev. [Rev. 21:3+](#)).

Bride formed for her husband  
(Gen. [Gen. 2:21-23](#)).

Bride adorned for her husband  
(Rev. [Rev. 21:2+](#)).

# Finalizing the Story

- How does Revelation connect to God's story of desiring a family/kingdom that will bring him glory?



# Lectio Divina – Read by the Word

- Listen to Revelation 22:1-7
  - What emotion does this touch in you?

# Lectio Divina – Read by the Word

- Listen to Revelation 22:1-7
  - What word or phrase does God highlight for you?

# Lectio Divina – Read by the Word

- Listen to Revelation 22:1-7
  - Having heard, how should you act?

# My Final Word

- Thanks! You have been terrific partners in studying God's word.