

Listening Guide

This Listening Guide is designed to help you ask questions and take notes on what you're learning. The process will accomplish two things: first, it will help process the information in the lecture by keeping your mind engaged with the material. Second, it will allow you to collect your notes in one place for a summary of the lesson's content. If you choose to do additional study or want to teach the material to others, you will have a thorough set of notes to guide you.

You may print these Listening Guide pages separately and complete the information as you read, listen to, or watch the lessons. Or as an alternative, you can fill in the fields in this digital version and save to your computer once you are finished.

I. Introduction

[1] What did Dr. Blomberg emphasize in his introduction to Revelation?

[2] What has been your own experience when reading or hearing about this fascinating book of the Bible?

A. Authorship

[3] What raises the question of Revelation's authorship?

[4] If John the apostle is the author, how many New Testament books did he write?

B. Readership, Circumstances, Date

[5] To whom was the book addressed?

[6] What does it mean that Revelation was a “circular or an encyclical letter”?

[7] What was John’s situation when he received this revelation?

C. Genre

[8] An apocalypse was a well-known literary form in the ancient Jewish and Greek and Roman world. What did that involve?

[9] In what did apocalyptic writing almost always culminate?

[10] What two things did this culminating record include?

[11] What caution did Dr. Blomberg give us about reading this highly symbolic form of literary writing?

[12] In what way should we read apocalyptic literature in the Bible differently than we read other biblical genres?

[13] What, unfortunately, has been the problem, particularly at the lay level, in reading the book of Revelation?

[14] Because Revelation is prophecy as well as apocalyptic, what must the reader understand?

[15] Revelation partakes of what other literary genre throughout the entire scroll?

[16] What does that fact remind us of about Revelation?

[17] Because this book made good sense to its original readers, what must we as current readers seek to identify as we attempt to understand its meaning?

D. Four Interpretations

[18] Name and briefly summarize each of the four approaches to interpreting Revelation.

[19] How does Dr. Blomberg approach the interpretation of Revelation?

[20] Which interpretation makes most sense to you?

E. Theological Perspectives

[21] The pretribulational, midtribulational, and posttribulational approaches have divided over how to describe the relationship between what three events?

[22] Because any reconstruction is admittedly speculative, how should we approach this difference of opinion?

[23] Which of the three approaches to the debate does Dr. Blomberg proceed from?

[24] Summarize the three millennial approaches in one sentence each.

II. Analysis

A. Introduction (1:1–20)

[25] In what form is Jesus introduced to John in chapter 1?

[26] In what way is this description of Jesus different here than any other place in the canon?

B. Letters to the Seven Churches (2:1–3:22)

[27] What is perhaps the best way to understand these letters to the seven churches?

[28] What two views of the tribulation are discussed in relation to the letter John addressed to the church in Philadelphia?

[29] What did Dr. Blomberg say both of these approaches could be guilty of and why?

[30] Rather than attaching a futuristic reference to this letter, what may have been John's primary intended reference to the great tribulation of "the whole world"?

[31] How did Dr. Blomberg say the church at Laodicea is generally seen?

[32] What misinterpretation, that has plagued readers of this part of Revelation, is Dr. Blomberg careful to correct here?

[33] What does the term *lukewarm* refer to?

[34] What did Dr. Blomberg say about Jesus knocking at the door?

[35] How do you personally relate to this imagery of Jesus knocking at your “door”?

C. Throne Room of God (4:1–5:14)

[36] What does “opening the scroll” in chapter 5 refer to?

[37] Who is the only one worthy to open the scroll?

[38] Why is he worthy?

[39] In what two ways is Jesus depicted in Revelation?

D. The First of Three Series of Judgments (6:1–8:5)

[40] What are the three series of seven judgments depicted in 6:1–8:5?

[41] What is the problem with seeing this series of three judgments as twenty-one consecutive judgments?

[42] What did Dr. Blomberg say is perhaps the best approach to relating these three series of judgments?

[43] What do the first four seal judgments depict that are events Christians and others have experienced in the world?

[44] Before he described the seventh seal, what two pictures did John describe in the interlude of chapter 7?

[45] What do those who favor a pretribulation approach to Scripture naturally understand the numberless multitude described in these pictures to represent?