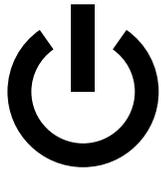


Title: No Need to Be Surprised: Understanding the Book of Revelation

Speaker: Randy Smith

Key Verses: Revelation 1– 22

Summary: God reveals our future hope in the final book of the Bible.



Power Up: Take a moment to prepare

Randy admits his dislike for surprise endings. Describe a surprise ending to a movie, book, or TV series that stood out to you. Give others a chance to plug their ears if they don't want it spoiled!



Replay: Take some time to watch

Note the flow of Randy's talk: **1)** the importance of endings; **2)** Jesus & John's commission (1:1–19); **3)** 7 Churches & Heavenly Praise (1:20–5:14); **4)** Scrolls, Trumpets, Bowls, & God's Ultimate Victory (6:1–22:22).



Comment: Take some time to talk

Reflecting on John's exile to Patmos, Randy says, "Don't ever believe that you know what God is going to do with your circumstance right now." **How have you seen God do great things through your bad circumstances?**

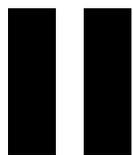
Read Revelation 1:19. *How does this verse frame the book?*

Read Romans 9:20–21. *What does this say about the human heart?*

Randy talks about Satan's tactic to "torque" good desires. **Where do you see this in culture? How have you experienced this in your life?**

What two institutions will be destroyed, as described in Revelation 17 and 18? How do these institutions feed off each other today?

How important is it to understand the specifics of John's vision? What is the overall emphasis of the book? What hope does it give you?



Pause: Take a moment to pray

Thank God for controlling history. Thank Him for revealing certain victory and some aspects of future events. Ask Him for perseverance as we wait for Jesus's return. Ask Him for opportunities to share our hope.



Take Action: Take a step forward

Now that you've heard an outline of the book of Revelation, take a week to read it. Remember the alternating perspectives, from heaven and earth. As you read, keep asking the question: *What does this tell us about Jesus?*

Bonus Features | Additional Notes and Quotes from Randy Smith

Power Track Summary: The last book of the New Testament can be confusing if you don't look at the whole book together. This Power Track examines each prophecy and puts them in the order that fits the what the Book of Revelation revealed.

About the Speaker: Randy Smith is a pastor, teacher, speaker, and regular tour guide leader to Israel and Italy. He founded the Great Commission Bible Institute.

An Outline of Revelation: A view from heaven and earth

- 1:1–3: **the Cause:** To reveal Jesus, show what's happening, and bless the reader
- 1:4–7: **the Collaboration:** God's vision of the Son by the Spirit recorded by John
- 1:8–20: **the Commission:** John meets Jesus and records the vision
- 2:1–3:22: **7 Churches** | 4:1-5:14: Heavenly View #1
- 6:1–7:8: **6 Seals** | 7:9-8:6: Heavenly View #2
- 8:7–9:21: **6 Trumpets** | 10:1-12:12: Heavenly View #3
- 12:13–17:19: **Unholy Trinity & 7 Bowls** | 18:20–19:10: Heaven View #4
- 19:11–20:10: **Satan Defeated/Millennial Kingdom** | 20:11–22:21: Heavenly View #5:

"Be open to the idea when you're reading Revelation [John] doesn't know what things are, he only knows what they look like." [In other words, he couldn't name automobiles or missiles!]

The code John uses is in patterns of seven... Seven sevens: 7 churches; 7 blessed are thou statements; 7 people in throne room; 7 judgments (seals, trumpets, bowls); 7 angels who aid believers... Where there are seven, it's the way of saying, "It's a complete set."

Order of 7 churches follows postal route of 1st century: "Everybody sing please that sounds pretty lovely" (Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, Laodicea)

"God never described who he is, he described what he does."

"Satan hates my Savior. Satan... is not interested in messing up your day. He wants to destroy your life, your testimony, and everything good in it. Satan's best way to get you there is to make you think you're not like everyone else. Isolation is Satan's greatest tool."

Chapter 13 describes an "unholy trinity" ... Satan is a copyist. He takes something God gave us a desire for and torques it."

"We get duped all the time... We don't get the news, we get what someone wants us to know of the news."

[There is] a rising tide in the streets that says, "God has no right to rule me."

"The end of the book is our hope... it's the ending frame for what God has described for our history... the pain of loss is gone."

"The focus is not on the mechanics of religion: it's on Jesus."