

Small Groups @ TBC
Sermon Discussion Notes

Date of Sermon: 30:11:2014

Speaker: David Lawrence

Title: Advent 1 - When the King Comes: Crisis

Introduction:

Do you ever wonder why the world is as it is? Why is there such violence and evil in a world where, at Advent time, Christians celebrate the coming of the Prince of Peace? The Book of Revelation was written to Christians in the first century, who were asking exactly that question. The answer comes to them in the form of 'Apocalyptic' writing, full of bizarre images, symbolic numbers and fantastic events. The intention is to reveal (that's what apocalypse means) how the events in heaven are affecting life on earth, and how our lives on earth also affect the heavens!

Review:

Satan (the Beast) has always been opposed to God's purposes. He has many guises (10 heads) and limited authority (many crowns). Having failed to prevent the birth of Jesus (v5) by oppressing Israel (the agonised woman of v1), he tries to kill the child (Jesus) (v4). The child is however snatched from him in Resurrection power (5) and so the Beast turns his attention to the child's people (the woman). Again however he is unsuccessful since they are protected (6) in their time of waiting in the wilderness. Having lost any authority in the heavenly places (9) the Beast is still in possession of power to harm God's people (9,12) during their life on earth. Their calling is to stay true to Christ, even to the point of death (11). The Beast still comes against Christians whether in the form of militancy and persecution, or in the more subtle forms that experience in the West, dressed as an angel of light in the clothes of our culture (consumerism, materialism, individualism etc).

Read

Revelation 12: 1-12

Reflect

What encouraged you from the talk on Sunday?

Was there anything in the talk that you have been thinking about since?

What questions did the talk and this reading raise in your mind?

Is there a phrase, line or verse that you find particularly challenging?

How does this passage help to make sense of the world we live in?

What does this passage have to say specifically to Christians?

Respond

What will you take from this into your life this week?

How can we pray for you?

Is there anything we can check on next week?