



# Harbor Trinity Groups

## *Discussion Questions*

**Sermon Title:** To the Church: Greetings

**Scripture:** Revelation 1:1-8

**Date:** April 12th, 2026

**Speaker Name:** Justin Chandler

1. What are your thoughts as we begin our series on the opening chapters of the book of Revelation? Do you have experience with the book of Revelation?
2. Revelation begins, “the revelation of Jesus Christ” (Revelation 1:1). Is this what you have understood the book to be about?
3. Revelation is within the uniquely Judeo-Christian literary genre, apocalypse. What does apocalypse mean to you?
4. Take a moment to review the biblical definition of apocalypse [here](#). How does this differ from the definitions shared before?
5. There are four basic interpretive approaches to Revelation: (1) preterist (first century historical setting), (2) historicist (forecast of history leading up to today), (3) futurist (major emphasis on the final victory of God over the forces of evil; a period of time yet future), and (4) idealist (not in reference to any specific event but an expression of basic principles on which God acts throughout history). Which are you most familiar with?
6. It is interesting to note that these varying approaches are, to a considerable extent, an accident of history. John himself could without contradiction be preterist, historicist, futurist, and idealist. He wrote out of his own immediate situation, his prophecies would have a historical fulfillment, he anticipated a future consummation, and he revealed principles that operated beneath the course of history. Why is this helpful to us?
7. Why is it important as we read the book of Revelation that we remember “him who is and who was and who is to come” (Revelation 1:4)? Why is this important as we consider current events?
8. John describes Jesus as “the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth” (Revelation 1:5)?
9. “To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever” (Revelation 1:5-6) is a perfect verse following Good Friday and Easter Sunday, and in anticipation of Ascension Sunday (May 14, 2026). What is the significance of each of these statements?
10. Revelation tells us (Revelation 1:8; 21:6; 22:13), as Isaiah did (Isaiah 41:4; 43:10; 44:6), that Jesus Christ is the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. What does that mean in your everyday life?
11. Revelation 1:3 says, “Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near.” This passage speaks of the unique power of reading God's Word aloud. Let's take a moment to do so as we close our time together.