

OCC Connections Bible Study (Group or Personal)

Rooted in Him: Awaiting Him — Revelation 1:1–8

(read Daniel 7:13–14; Zechariah 12:10; Isaiah 44:6; Luke 8:4–15 with Luke 8:18 and Mark 4:24 for context) - Refer to the Revelation reading guide for more info.

Big Idea: Jesus Christ is revealed as:

- the faithful Witness
- the *Firstborn* (prōtotokos) from the dead (the resurrection)
- the *Ruler* of the kings of the earth.

Christ loves us, frees us by His blood, and makes us a kingdom and priests. We respond by **reading**, **hearing**, and **keeping** His word as we await Him.

1) Read Revelation 1:1–8 aloud.

Consider reading: **Daniel 7:13–14, Zechariah 12:10, Isaiah 44:6, Luke 8:4–15; 8:18, and Mark 4:24.** (These are found in the Revelation Reading Guide too!)

Ask the Lord for understanding and obedient hearts.

2) Observe the Text (choose 2–3)

- What is the chain of revelation in verses 1–2, and who are the recipients? From whom to whom?
- What blessing is promised in verse 3, and what three actions are named?

- Which titles and actions describe Jesus Christ in verses 5–6, and what has He done for us?
- What future event is announced in verse 7, and how will the world respond?
- What does verse 8 reveal about God’s identity and eternity?

3) See the Connections

- **Context:** Revelation opens by unveiling Jesus Christ to His servants and promising a blessing to those who read, hear, and keep. This posture has been the series frame you introduced.
- **Word Work:**
 - *Apokalypsis* (“revelation”): unveiling, not hiding.
 - *Martyrs* (“witness”): faithful testimony, even unto death.
 - *Prototokos* (“firstborn”): rank and supremacy, especially in resurrection.
- **Cross References (from the reading plan):**
 - **Daniel 7:13–14:** the Son of Man coming with the clouds, receiving everlasting dominion.
 - **Zechariah 12:10** with **John 19:37:** “they will look on Him whom they pierced.”
 - **Isaiah 44:6:** “I am the first and I am the last.”

- **Luke 8:4–15; 8:18; Mark 4:24:** hear with care; the measure you use; good soil holds fast and bears fruit.

4) Interpret (what it means)

- **From Beginning to End, Christ Reigns:** The cloud-coming Son of Man is publicly revealed; He is “the First and the Last,” and all will see the Pierced One.
- **In Christ, we are a Kingdom of Priestly People:** Loved and freed by His blood, we are made a kingdom and priests who worship, intercede, and witness in ordinary places.
- **Be Good Soil: Read, Hear, Keep:** Revelation ties blessing to reading, hearing, and keeping; like good soil, we hold fast and bear fruit with patience.

5) Apply (how we live)

- **Declare and display Christ’s grace and truth:** Speak of who Jesus Christ is and what He has done; live publicly for His glory in word and deed.
- **Await Him: stand firm and persevere:** Draw strength from God; practice rhythms that help you hold fast—Scripture, prayer, fellowship, mercy, hope.
- **Live in response: read, hear, keep:** Read the passage again this week, ask for understanding, and take one concrete step of obedience.

Commitment log — For 7 days, keep a simple log:

- **Pray:** “Lord Jesus, help me read, hear, and keep Your word.”
- **Plan:** Choose one obedient step to take each day.
- **Practice:** Establish one habit that helps you hold fast (daily reading, prayer walk, serving someone).

6) Pray the Text (Revelation 1:1–8)

- **Praise:** “Jesus, faithful Witness, Firstborn from the dead, Ruler of kings, we glorify You.”
- **Surrender:** “You love and free us by Your blood; make me Yours in every way.”
- **Dependence:** “Strengthen me to hold fast and keep Your word with patience.”
- **Mission:** “Use me as a priest in Your kingdom to bless, intercede, and bear witness.”

7) Life Stage Helps

- **Parents/Kids:** Memorize Revelation 1:5–6 together; talk about what it means to be “a kingdom and priests.”

- **Couples/Roommates:** Choose one daily “read, hear, keep” rhythm to practice together this week.
- **Students/Young Adults:** Identify one loud cultural voice competing with Jesus’ voice; replace it with time in the Word.
- **New to Faith:** Reread Revelation 1:1–8 and ask a mature believer how to begin a “read, hear, keep” habit.
- **Singles/Widows/Seniors:** Write a note to encourage someone who needs perseverance as we await His appearing.

Additional Notes or Questions: