

“JESUS SPEAKS TO OUR CHURCH”

REVELATION 1:1-7

28 April 2019

1. *Random discussion starter question:* What is the fanciest restaurant you have eaten at? What was most impressive about it? _____

2. The book of Revelation recounts the end of human history, the return of Jesus, and the future glorious state. How would our Christian lives be different if the Bible contained no information about the way human history wraps up? _____

3. Recount all you can about the background of the book of Revelation. For example, who wrote it? When and where? To whom? What challenges were these Christians facing that surface in the book? _____

4. Throughout history many have sought to interpret Revelation in light of current events. For example, Martin Luther was convinced that the pope was the antichrist and the Catholic church was Babylon; Seventh Day Adventists believe the 3½ days of Revelation 11 to correspond to the 3½ years of the French Revolution; and a considerable number believe the “mark of the beast” to be credit cards. What is potentially dangerous about reading Revelation in light of current events? How can we heed its message about the future without going off into such vain speculation? _____

5. The book of Revelation repeated says that Jesus’ coming is “near” or “soon” (e.g., 22:20). How can this be if Jesus hasn’t yet returned for 2,000 years? What did the sermon claim this meant? Do you find this persuasive? _____

6. What parallels did the sermon point out between the churches of Revelation and the church in America today? What do both most desperately need? _____

7. What one thing most stood out to you from the sermon and why? _____
