

# LifeGroup Study

## Apocalypse of Hope : Face Like The Sun

### SERMON SUMMARY

Revelation chapter 1 introduces Jesus not as a distant memory, but as the cosmic, "Face-like-the-Sun" King who stands in the middle of His churches. It shifts our focus from the chaos of our earthly circumstances to the settled authority of the Heavenly Throne, inviting us to trade our panic for a perspective rooted in wonder.

### KEY VERSE

Revelation 1:17-18

"Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades."

### SERMON NOTES

<https://bible.com/events/49550443>

### DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. When you hear the word "Revelation," what is the first image or feeling that comes to mind? Has your past experience with this book been more about "deciphering codes" or "finding hope"?
2. What insights, comments, or questions do you have about this week's sermon?
3. Have someone read Revelation chapter one out loud for the group. What words or phrases or images stand out to you?
4. Eugene Peterson writes that Revelation is meant to "revive our imagination." Why do you think our spiritual lives can sometimes become "bored" or "routine"?
5. John describes Jesus' voice as "rushing water". Think of it as a voice that drowns out everything else. What are the "loudest" voices in your life right now (news, social media, inner critic) that make it hard to hear Jesus?
6. The word "Throne" appears 42 times in Revelation. How would your commute or your workday change if you viewed it through the lens of a "settled authority in heaven" rather than a "crisis on earth"?
7. In what area of your life does it currently feel like the "throne is empty"? How can this group help you remember that the "throne" is occupied?
8. Jesus is seen standing *among* the lampstands (the churches). Does Jesus feel "close" to your current struggles, or does He feel like He is watching from a distance?
9. If "last things" (eschatology) are meant to help us live "in the middle" of our current mess, what is one "end-of-the-story" truth that helps you get through this week?

### CLOSING PRAYER

**The "Throne" Breath Prayer** Find a comfortable seated position. As you breathe in, silently say: *"The Throne is occupied."* As you breathe out, say: *"My heart is at peace."* Do this for two minutes.

**The Imagination Refresh** Pick one image from Revelation 1 (the voice like rushing water, the face like the sun, or the stars in His hand). Spend a few minutes in silence picturing that image. Then, ask God: *"Lord, revive my imagination to see You as You truly are, not just as I've pictured You."*