#### Why Revelation? (verses 1-3)

* It is from and about Jesus.

* It is written to people facing difficulties.

* It comes with an amazing promise.

#### Three things God wants to say to you

* Faithful.

* Alive.

* Ruler.

* Why these three?

#### Three things John wants to tell you

* Loves us.

* Freed us.

* Made us.

#### For reflection

* How big is your vision of Christ at the moment? Is anything dulling it? What is helping sharpen it?
* What’s causing your heart to go ‘wow’ so that evangelism, transformation, worship, leadership are flowing from a compelling vision of this Jesus.
* What blessing are you craving as Christ is revealed in our moments in Revelation?

#### How jealous are you?

#### Jesus and the churches

* He knows.

* He warns.

* He challenges.

#### A significant loss

* The reality.

* The reasons.

* The remedy.

* Remember.

* Repent.

* Redo.

#### She’s ready

#### For reflection

* Reflect on how you talk about the church you serve/attend – how much do you see her as Christ’s bride? He is more jealous for her than we can imagine – how should this shape your attitude?
* The Church is to be a lampstand – so how brightly is yours shining? Does it need cleaning? What do you sense Jesus would say to her today?
* How’s your heart?

#### A common question – why?

‘The only sort of faith that is immune from this kind of questioning is blind faith, a faith that dare not look the realities of the world in the face, a faith that has to close its mind off to anything that threatens its creed. That is an irrational faith, a cowardly faith. It is a faith that fully deserves the contempt of the sceptic for it confirms that believers are pathetic weaklings who need a crutch of faith to limp through life. BUT real faith is not blind, real faith does not shut its eyes to the evidence that seems to contradict its convictions – it cannot do so.’

#### The nature of God’s government

* What picture does this paint of God?

* What does this tell me about his rule in our/my life?

* How does this cause me to dance?

#### God’s government is one of:

#### What next?

#### For reflection

* Where do you need to ponder afresh the nature of God’s rule in your own life? What questions do you have for God at the moment?
* Is there any area where you need to say ‘if He is like this I will trust him’?
* What dimension of his government do you want to seal in your heart?
* Who comes to mind when you think of the cry ‘How long O Lord’? – Pray for them.

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#### A glimpse of the end of the story

#### Two destinies

#### Two images

#### God’s community

* With a new location.

* Where God dwells.

* Where some things are absent.

* That is glorious.

#### feel at home

* Provision.

* Serving.

* Belonging.

* Permanency.

#### For reflection

* If God’s tactic for strengthening his people in the present is by showing them the end of the story, how much do you think about your destiny? How homesick are you?
* ‘Hope is the music of the future and faith is dancing to that music in the present’ – how well are you ‘dancing’?