

## 2023-2024 BSP#1 Group Time Discussion

### (A) 為查考和認識的題目 Questions for Studying and Understanding (10 minutes)

1. 默示錄廣泛使用形像、標記和比喻語言。作者為什麼不用直接易懂的語言來說呢？試按以下解釋的可取性，從最可取至不可取進行排序。
  - a. 這樣只有能了解語言背後秘密的聰明人，才能完全明白若望的預言信息。
  - b. 這寫作方式是寫《默示錄》時，猶太和希臘羅馬文化的文學和圖像學(iconography)的一部分。
  - c. 我們之所以需要「直接易懂的語言」，只是因為受到技術和科學的影響，比起古代人我們的思維比較喜歡從字面意義看。
  - d. 這些形像、標記和比喻語言是只有早期基督徒才能理解的。使用它們使若望避免了政治迫害。
  - e. 若望無法直接了當地說話。

Revelation uses images, symbols, and figurative language extensively. Why doesn't the author speak plainly? Rank the following explanations based on their merits, from the greatest to the smallest.

- a. So that only the wise people who understand the secrets underlying the language can fully comprehend John's prophetic message.
  - b. This way of writing was part of the literature and iconography of both Jewish and Greco-Roman culture of the era in which Revelation was written.
  - c. We demand "plain language" just because we are more literal in our thinking than ancient peoples due to the influence of technology and sciences.
  - d. Such images, symbols, and figurative language were understandable only to the early Christians. Using them allowed John to avoid political persecution.
  - e. John was unable to speak plainly.
2. 未來主義觀點主要由福音派新教徒和原教旨主義者提出，它認為默示錄的真正含義有待末日將臨才能看見。根據這觀點，只有在歷史終結時研究默示錄的信徒，才能真正理解若望神視中的異象的和要點。但如果這種觀點似乎是不合理的話，那麼為什麼耶穌敦促門徒保持警惕並要求他的門徒要「判斷時代的徵兆」（瑪 16:3、25:13）？
    - a. 耶穌鼓勵猜測和預告。
    - b. 警醒和辨別時期的徵兆是滿足我們好奇心的好方法。
    - c. 警醒和辨別時期的徵兆會讓我們獲得內幕知識。
    - d. 警醒和辨別時期的徵兆能幫助我們根據最終的現實來做人。
    - e. 耶穌要求我們警醒並在任何時刻都做個好基督徒。

The futurist view, made mostly by evangelical Protestants and fundamentalists, argues that the real meaning of Revelation will not make sense until the end of time. According to this view, only believers studying

Revelation at the end of history will truly understand the elements of the vision John records. But if this view seems unreasonable, why did Jesus urge watchfulness and ask his disciples to “judge the signs of the times” (Mt.16:3, 25:13)?

- a. Jesus is encouraging speculation and fortune-telling.
- b. Being watchful for the signs of the times is a good way to satisfy our curiosity.
- c. Being watchful for the signs of the times will give us insider knowledge.
- d. Being watchful for the signs of the times will help us conduct our lives in light of ultimate realities.
- e. Jesus is asking us to watch out and be a good Christian at all times.

(B) 為反思和應用的題目。 Reflection and application question (15 minutes)

請組長帶領小組成員回答以下問題：

- a. 2004-2005 年 BSP 第一次研討《默示錄》時，您是其中參與者嗎？
- b. 用 1 到 10 的評分標準，1 表示非常不熟悉，10 表示非常熟悉，您如何評估自己對《默示錄》的熟悉程度？
- c. 說出一個你真正喜歡的默示錄主題。為什麼您認為這個主題對您很重要？
- d. 用 1 到 10 的評分標準，1 表示非常混亂，10 表示非常清晰，您如何評估自己目前對默示錄的理解？
- e. 用 1 到 10 的評分標準，1 表示不多，10 表示非常多，您期望在未來兩年自己從 BSP 學習默示錄將會得益多少？

我們鼓勵參加者保留對上述問題的答案。當課程於 2025 年 6 月結束時，我們將重新討論同樣的問題。到時，您可您可以將 b/c/d 問題現在的答案與新答案進行比較，看看它們是否有所改變和如何改變。

The facilitator will lead the group members to go over the following questions:

- a. Were you a BSP participant in 2004-2005 when we studied the Book of Revelation for the first time?
- b. On a scale of 1 to 10, 1 being very unfamiliar, 10 being very familiar, how do you rank yourself in terms of your familiarity with the Book of Revelation?
- c. Name one theme of Revelation that you really like. Why do you think this theme is important to you?
- d. On a scale of 1 to 10, 1 being very confusing, 10 being very clear, how do you rank your current understanding of Revelation?
- e. On a scale of 1 to 10, 1 being not much, 10 being very much, what is your expectation of how much you will benefit from studying Revelation in the next two years of BSP?

We encourage you to keep your answers to the above questions. When this program ends in June 2025, we will revisit the same questions. At which time, you may want to compare your answers to questions b/c/d now with your new answers and see whether and how they have changed.