**Rooted Week 5 Study Guide**

**Understanding Genre: Letters and Apocalyptic**

**Letters:**

21 letters in NT and none of them were written to us. Written between 45-95 AD.

**Overall, NT letters have a common form:**

Introduction –

Example: *Gal. 1:1-5*

Then comes the body of the letter

Conclusion

**Practical tips for reading the letters:**

Let’s give it a try with Hebrews 1:1-3

Hebrews 12:1-2

**What is stopping you from running well?**

**Races are hard. Focus on Jesus**

**Apocalyptic:**

The main theme of the book of Revelation is all about overcoming the world by staying loyal to Jesus.

Revelation is particularly tricky because it has all the features of apocalyptic literature, claims to be a prophecy, and is framed like a letter – written to 7 churches.

Revelation references and alludes to the OT more than any other NT book. There are 404 verses in this book and there are OT allusions in 278 of them.

If you want to understand Revelation, study the OT.

**General Guidelines:**

* Look at the book with humility
* Look for the message to the original readers – how would 7 churches understand this?
* Avoid trying to construct a strict map of chronological future events
* Take Revelation seriously but not always literally
* Look closely at the images that are specifically identified
* Look at various segments as a whole, not always pressing every detail
* Stay focused on the main idea! Endure & Overcome
* Always ask, ‘What’s the point?’ How does knowing this help me follow Jesus?

Let’s look at Revelation 12:1-17

So what do we take away from this passage?

Jesus is greater and victorious but how did he achieve victory? Suffering and death. As his people, we may face suffering, pain, difficulty, and persecution in this life but we can endure and conquer with Jesus. **Rev. 12:10-12**

Rev. 21:1-4

**Now what?**

**Next Steps:**

Pray

Plan

People

Persevere

**Resources**:

Literary Forms in the New Testament: James Bailey and Lyle Vander Broek

Four Views on The Book of Revelation: Kenneth Gentry, Sam Hamstra, Marvin Pate, Robert Thomas

Into the Word Podcast with Paul Carter