

Covenant Bible Study

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Revelation Intro

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Revelation 1:1-3

1The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must shortly take place; and He sent and communicated *it* by His angel to His bond-servant John,

2who bore witness to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, *even* to all that he saw.

3Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near.

Revelation 1:9-11

I, John, your brother and fellow partaker in the tribulation and kingdom and perseverance *which are* in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos, because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.

10I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like *the sound* of a trumpet,

11saying, "Write in a book what you see, and send *it* to the seven churches: to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea."

Revelation 1:19

19"Write therefore the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall take place after these things.

Revelation 22:16-21

16"I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things for the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, the bright morning star."

17And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost.

18I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God shall add to him the plagues which are written in this book;

19and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book.

20He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming quickly." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

21The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.

Revelation is the **answer** to the Gospel's hope.

Revelation is the **solution** to the problem presented in Genesis to Jude.

Where Genesis is Paradise **Lost**, Revelation is Paradise **Regained!**

Title:

The Revelation – Means the **unveiling**

God’s desire is that we **understand** the future as best we can!

1 Thessalonians 4:13

13 And now, brothers and sisters, I want you to know what will happen to the Christians who have died so you will not be full of sorrow like people who have no hope.

Author:

Revelation 1:9

9 I, **John**, your brother and fellow partaker in the tribulation and kingdom and perseverance which are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos, because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.

Gospel of John	Epistles (1, 2, 3 John)	Revelation
Teaches us to believe	Helps us be certain	Makes us ready
Teaches Salvation	Teaches Sanctification	Teaches Sovereignty
Life Received	Life Revealed	Life Rewarded
The Prophet	The Priest	The King

1. John is the disciple whom Jesus **loved** (John 21:20,24)
2. One of the two sons of Zebedee, the brother of **James**.
3. Along with James, nicknamed the Sons of **Thunder** (Mark 3:17)
4. Formerly a follower of **John the Baptist**
5. Wrote the Gospel of John, the Epistles of John, and the Book of Revelation (in his old age).
6. Known as the Apostle of **Love**, since the theme of love is so prominent in his writings.

Symbolism:

Why did John use Symbolism?

1. **Protect** the Letter.

Only those who knew Christ personally would understand this “Spiritual Code”
The writings would be dismissed as crazy!

2. Symbolism is not **weakened** by time.

But be careful that you not dismiss them as pure symbolism or not real – it is from God after all

3. Symbols not only convey information, but impart **values** and arouse **emotion**.
4. It was a **common form** of literature in Old and New Testament days.

Numbers

- Fractions: incompleteness
- Four: the earth
- Five: Punishment
- Six: Evil
- Seven: God or Heaven
- Ten and Twelve: Completeness

Colors

- White: purity
- Emerald Green: life
- Pale Green: death
- Gold: value
- Red: sin
- Black: famine

Blessings

Revelation 1:3

3 Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near.

Revelation 22:7

7 "And behold, I am coming quickly. Blessed is he who heeds the words of the prophecy of this book."

An Outline of Revelation

Revelation 1:19

19 "Write therefore the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall take place after these things.

Chapter One:	The Things You Have Seen
Chapters Two and Three:	The Things That Are (Seven Churches)
Chapters Four - Twenty Two:	The Things That Will Take Place

Prologue

- Promises of Blessing for Reading, Hearing, and Keeping the Words of the Book (*Revelation 1:1-8*)

Things You Have Seen

- Vision of the Glorified Christ (*Revelation 1:9-20*)

Things Which Are

- Christ's Messages to the Seven Churches (*Revelation 2:1 – 3:22*)
 - Ephesus (2:1-7)
 - Smyrna (2:8-11)
 - Pergamum (2:12-17)
 - Thyatira (2:18-29)
 - Sardis (3:1-6)
 - Philadelphia (3:7-13)
 - Laodicea (3:14-22)

Things That Will Take Place

- Vision of Heavenly Throne Room, Where John Witnesses the Worship of God the Father & Jesus Christ (*Revelation 4:1 – 5:14*)
- Vision of Judgments Upon the Earth that Increase in Magnitude While God in His Mercy Continues to Call Humankind to Repentance (*Revelation 6:1 – 18:24*)
 - Judgment of the Seven Seals (6:1 – 8:1)
 - Judgment of the Seven Trumpets (8:2 – 11:19)
 - Vision of the Dragon, Woman, and Beasts (12:1 – 14:20)
 - Judgment of the Seven Bowls (15:1 – 16:21)
 - Judgment of Babylon (17:1 – 18:24)
- Return of Christ and the Battle of Armageddon (*Revelation 19:1-21*)
- Reign of Christ and His Resurrected Saints Over the Earth (*Revelation 20:1-6*)
- Final Destruction of Satan, Evil, and Death (*Revelation 20:7-15*)
- Ultimate Eternal Peace and Perfection (*Revelation 21:1 – 22:5*)

Epilogue

- Final Promises of Blessing for Reading, Hearing, and Keeping the Words of the Book (*Revelation 22:6-21*)

How to Keep From Extremes (Swindoll)

1. Expect the **Unusual**

Not like any other book – Ezekiel, Zechariah, and Daniel have similar visions/symbolic elements
Symbolism has a purpose (see below)

2. Restrain our **Imaginations**

Some we will know what it means – Rev 1:12

Revelation 1:12-16

12 And I turned to see the voice that was speaking with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands; 13 and in the middle of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed in a robe reaching to the feet, and girded across His breast with a golden girdle. 14 And His head and His hair were white like white wool, **like** snow; and His eyes were **like** a flame of fire; 15 and His feet were **like** burnished bronze, when it has been caused to glow in a furnace, and His voice was **like** the sound of many waters. 16 And in His right hand He held seven stars; and out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword; and His face was like the sun shining in its strength.

The Interpretation:

Revelation 1:20

20 "As for the mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: the seven stars are the **angels** of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the **seven churches**.

Seven Stars are the Angels (translated as the messenger – leaders of the Churches)
Seven Lampstands are the Churches

Some we will not know: Revelation 13

Revelation 13:1-4

And he stood on the sand of the seashore. And I saw a beast coming up out of the sea, having ten horns and seven heads, and on his horns were ten diadems, and on his heads were blasphemous names.

2 And the beast which I saw was like a leopard, and his feet were like those of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. And the dragon gave him his power and his throne and great authority.

3 And I saw one of his heads as if it had been slain, and his fatal wound was healed. And the whole earth was amazed and followed after the beast;

4 and they worshiped the dragon, because he gave his authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast, and who is able to wage war with him?"

3. Follow **Normal** Bible Study Methods of Observation