



What Is Revelation About?

Who Wrote Revelation?

Where Was Revelation Written?

When Was Revelation Written?

To Whom and Why Was Revelation Written?

What Style of Literature Is Revelation?

1. Letter
2. Apocalyptic
3. Prophecy

What Are the Major Approaches to Interpreting Revelation?

1. Preterist
2. Futurist
3. Idealist
4. Combination/Eclectic
5. Historicist

How Can Symbols Be Understood in Revelation?

What Is the Overall Structure and Content of Revelation?



What Are the Life Lessons of Revelation?

Valley Church Statement of Faith

Christ's Return: We believe in the personal, bodily, and glorious return of our Lord Jesus Christ. The coming of Christ, at a time known only to God, demands constant expectancy and, as our blessed hope, motivates the believer to godly living, sacrificial service, and energetic mission.

Response and Eternal Destiny: We believe that God commands everyone everywhere to believe the gospel by turning to Him in repentance and receiving the Lord Jesus Christ. We believe that God will raise the dead bodily and judge the world, assigning the unbeliever to condemnation and eternal conscious punishment and the believer to eternal blessedness and joy with the Lord in the new heaven and the new earth, to the praise of His glorious grace. Amen.



Figure 1 The Seven Churches of Revelation

16 **OPENING**

APOCALYPSE (1) אפוקליפטיקה

SYMBOLIC VISIONS THAT REVEAL A HEAVENLY PERSPECTIVE ON HISTORY IN LIGHT OF ITS FINAL OUTCOME

MEANINGFUL IMAGES DRAWN FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

LETTER (1:1-2:2)

SENT TO: 7 CHURCHES

ITS MEANING: FOR US MUST BE ANCHORED IN YOURS MEANING FOR THEM.

PROPHECY (1:3)

GOD'S WORD THROUGH A PROPHET

BROGS OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECY TO ITS CLIMAX

JOHN

THE BELIEVED DISCIPLE? ANOTHER JOHN?

THE REVELATION OF JESUS



A SYMBOLIC VISION FOR EVERY GENERATION OF THE CHURCH THAT REVEALS GOD'S PROMISE

HISTORY'S PATTERN: ALL GREAT KINGDOMS BECOME BABYLON & MUST BE DESTROYED

JESUS WILL RETURN TO REMOVE EVIL FROM HIS WORLD

11b-3 **MESSAGE TO THE 7 CHURCHES**

THE SEVEN CHURCHES: EPHESOS, SMYRNA, PEARSTON, THYATIRA, SARDIS, PHILADELPHIA & LAODICEA

TRIBUTION (2:10)

PERSECUTION

IMMORTALITY

APATHY

FAITHFULNESS

CONQUERORS ARE REWARDED

NEW CREATION (4:11-12)

COMPROMISE

6-8a **SEVEN SEALS**

3 SETS OF 7 DIVINE JUDGMENTS

1. YOU LOOK O LAMB?

2. CONQUER AT SINNERS' TABLE

3. THE DAY OF THE LORD!

4. WHO CAN STAND?!

5. REST A LITTLE LONELY.

6. THE LORD!

7. WHO CAN STAND?!

THE TIME PERIOD BETWEEN JESUS' RESURRECTION & RETURN FROM THREE PASTORALS

6-8b **SEVEN SEALS**

1. YOU LOOK O LAMB?

2. CONQUER AT SINNERS' TABLE

3. THE DAY OF THE LORD!

4. WHO CAN STAND?!

5. REST A LITTLE LONELY.

6. THE LORD!

7. WHO CAN STAND?!

47 **THE LAMB'S ARMY**

MARK GOD'S SERVANTS: THE 144,000 MILITARY CENSUS OF 12 TRIBES (SEE NUMBERS 3)

THEY CAN!

THE MESSIANIC ARMY OF GOD'S KINGDOM FROM ALL NATIONS

THEY CAN!

THEY CAN!

THEY CAN!

17-19a **THE FALL OF BABYLON**

BABYLON → ROME'S ALLIANCE → ANCESTRY OF EMPIRE'S REBELLION AGAINST GOD

ROMANES EUNDO

BLIND OF OLD TESTAMENT MIGHTS BECOMING OBSESSION THAT & DOWN (ISAIAH 13:23-24, 47) (JEREMIAH 50:51) (EZEKIEL 26-27)

19b-20 **THE FINAL BATTLE**

THE PATRIOTS VINDICATED

FOR 1000 YEARS THE HORNED BEASTS HAVEN BEEN

THE FINAL BATTLE II (SEE DANIEL 7)

THE DRAGON: BABYLON & ALL WHO GHOST THEM ARE ETERNALLY OBLIVIOUS

4-5 **THE THRONE OF GOD & THE LAMB**

HOLY! HOLY!

MESSAGE OF THE PROPHETS (ISAIAH 40:6-8, EZEKIEL 37:1-14) ABOUT NOW GODS KINGDOM WILL COME ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN

HOLY! HOLY!

THE LION OF JUDAH (GENESIS 49:10) THE ROOT OF DAVID (ISAIAH 11:1)

SEES

HEARS

THE SACRIFICED LAMB

GOD'S KINGDOM HAS MANIFESTED THROUGH THE CRUCIFIED MESSIAH AND DIED FOR HIS ENEMIES.

HIS BEAST HAS CONQUERED OVER EVIL.

8b-11 **SEVEN TRUMPETS**

THE FOUR WINDS

1. 1/4 ORIGINAL

2. 1/4 ORIGINAL

3. 1/4 ORIGINAL

4. 1/4 ORIGINAL

5. 1/4 ORIGINAL

6. 1/4 ORIGINAL

7. 1/4 ORIGINAL

THE NATIONS DON'T REPENT (ISAIAH 2:1-4)

THE LAMB'S SCROLL

MEASURE THE TEMPLE... PROTECTION (EZEKIEL 40:1-42)

ALL LITERAL DESTRUCTION OF TEMPLE = SYMBOL OF GODS PEOPLE (1 CORINTHIANS 3:16) (1 PETER 2:4-5)

2 LITERAL PROPHETS

THE SCROLL REVEALS THE CHURCH'S MISSION: WHAT IS THE LOVE OF THE LAND GODS HEAVY KINGDOM RETRIANCE

12-14 **SEVEN SIGNS (SYMBOLS)**

12 THE COSMIC BATTLE (BASED ON GENESIS 3:15)

THEY CONQUERED THE DEATH THROUGH THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB (REVELATION 7:14)

NOT THE REAL ENEMY

1) THE ANTICHRIST: PART OF ALLSINCE PROPHETICALLY WRITTEN IN HEBREW & GREEK (REVELATION 13:1-8)

2) THE NUMBER 666 = 1360 (777) (BEAST)

THE EARLY BATTLE (BASED ON DANIEL 7:12)

MILITARY = 666 = ECONOMIC MACHINE

THE LAMB'S ARMY

THE ETERNAL GOSPEL (REVELATION 14:6)

THE NEW JERUSALEM

THE GRANGE HARVEST OF GODS PEOPLE

THE GRAVE HARVEST OF HUMANITY'S EVIL

THE CHOICE

RESIST BABYLON TO FOLLOW THE LAMB OR FOLLOW THE BEAST & SUFFER ITS DEFEAT

21-22 **THE MARRIAGE OF HEAVEN & EARTH**

THE BRIDE OF THE LAMB

THE FINAL BATTLE I (ISAIAH 65:17)

ARMAGEDDON IS NOT A BLOODBATH

JESUS DID NOT HIS ENEMIES THEN HIS ENEMIES ARE NOW HIS ENEMIES.

THE POINT: JESUS WILL RETURN AS A KING TO DEAL WITH ALL EVIL & VINDICATE HIS FOLLOWERS

THE MARRIAGE OF HEAVEN & EARTH

1) I AM MAKING ALL THINGS NEW (REVELATION 21:5)

2) CREATION OF GOD & THE LAMB (GENESIS 1:1-3)

3) HUMANITY REUSES GODS IMAGE (GENESIS 1:26-28)

4) NEW HEAVEN & EARTH (ISAIAH 65:17)

5) NEW GARDEN OF EDEN (GENESIS 2, EZEKIEL 47)

6) NEW JERUSALEM (ISAIAH 2, ZEPHANIAH 3)

15-16 **SEVEN BOWLS**

THE EXODUS PLAGUES (AGAIN!)

1. SCORCHING HEAT

2. DARKNESS

3. BLOOD

4. HAIL

5. LOCUSTS

6. DEATH

7. DROUGHT

ARMAGEDDON: LOCATION OF MANY ISRAELITE BATTLES (JUDGES 5:14, 2 SAMUEL 23:34)

SYMBOL OF REBELLIOUS NATIONS (EZEKIEL 38-39)

12-14 **SEVEN SIGNS (SYMBOLS)**

12 THE COSMIC BATTLE (BASED ON GENESIS 3:15)

THEY CONQUERED THE DEATH THROUGH THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB (REVELATION 7:14)

NOT THE REAL ENEMY

1) THE ANTICHRIST: PART OF ALLSINCE PROPHETICALLY WRITTEN IN HEBREW & GREEK (REVELATION 13:1-8)

2) THE NUMBER 666 = 1360 (777) (BEAST)

THE EARLY BATTLE (BASED ON DANIEL 7:12)

MILITARY = 666 = ECONOMIC MACHINE

THE LAMB'S ARMY

THE ETERNAL GOSPEL (REVELATION 14:6)

THE NEW JERUSALEM

THE GRANGE HARVEST OF GODS PEOPLE

THE GRAVE HARVEST OF HUMANITY'S EVIL

THE CHOICE

RESIST BABYLON TO FOLLOW THE LAMB OR FOLLOW THE BEAST & SUFFER ITS DEFEAT

15-16 **SEVEN BOWLS**

THE EXODUS PLAGUES (AGAIN!)

1. SCORCHING HEAT

2. DARKNESS

3. BLOOD

4. HAIL

5. LOCUSTS

6. DEATH

7. DROUGHT

ARMAGEDDON: LOCATION OF MANY ISRAELITE BATTLES (JUDGES 5:14, 2 SAMUEL 23:34)

SYMBOL OF REBELLIOUS NATIONS (EZEKIEL 38-39)

21-22 **THE MARRIAGE OF HEAVEN & EARTH**

THE BRIDE OF THE LAMB

THE FINAL BATTLE I (ISAIAH 65:17)

ARMAGEDDON IS NOT A BLOODBATH

JESUS DID NOT HIS ENEMIES THEN HIS ENEMIES ARE NOW HIS ENEMIES.

THE POINT: JESUS WILL RETURN AS A KING TO DEAL WITH ALL EVIL & VINDICATE HIS FOLLOWERS

THE MARRIAGE OF HEAVEN & EARTH

1) I AM MAKING ALL THINGS NEW (REVELATION 21:5)

2) CREATION OF GOD & THE LAMB (GENESIS 1:1-3)

3) HUMANITY REUSES GODS IMAGE (GENESIS 1:26-28)

4) NEW HEAVEN & EARTH (ISAIAH 65:17)

5) NEW GARDEN OF EDEN (GENESIS 2, EZEKIEL 47)

6) NEW JERUSALEM (ISAIAH 2, ZEPHANIAH 3)

Studying Revelation

1. **Major on the majors!** Revelation is a powerful book, but it has been variously interpreted throughout the ages. At Valley Church, we always “major on the majors,” so we always respect and love each other, even if we don’t always agree on the secondary details. The ancient creeds of the historic church focused on the very big picture. *“Jesus Christ will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.”* That’s the big picture. But what about exact meanings, timelines, chronology, symbolic vs literal understandings, structure of the book, millennial views, and connection to history and current events? Those are secondary matters. They are all interesting, for sure. But we need to remember that Christians have been studying this book for 2000 years and still don’t agree on the details. It’s an amazing book, especially as we focus on the major themes and truths about which the church has believed and taught for 2000 years. God is in control. We are called to have great hope, love, and faithfulness. We are not called to fear but faith. That’s why the subtitle of the series is “Fearless and Faithful.”
2. **Know your audience.** Our church is made up of people from many backgrounds when it comes to the Book of Revelation. Some are excited for our series. Some have neglected the book. Others have been subjected to strange, extreme, or fanatical teaching in their past. Some spiritual explorers have never opened the book. Many are more familiar with popular fiction books and movies than the actual Book of Revelation itself. And there are believers from a wide variety of interpretive backgrounds. So, be humble. Be sensitive. Don’t push one, narrow view or disrespect others. And realize that our church is represented by a wide array of perspectives.
3. **Keep your finger on the text.** Make sure that we keep our eyes on the biblical text itself, and not on books, teachers, movies, ideas, rumors, political views, current events, etc. There’s been an unfortunate development in America in the last 50 years or so. Many Bible teachers have taught an approach to Revelation that has “the Bible in one hand and the current news feed in the other hand.” So, their focus becomes trying to figure out how to draw lines between Revelation and the latest news development. While the Book of Revelation certainly has practical application to our situations and times, we need to remember the original context of the book. It is specifically written to “the seven churches that are in Asia.” These were historical, actual churches in the first century. So, whatever we teach needs to be in line with the original meaning of the text, not the latest “spin” from the 21st century. So, our focus will not be on “what’s new or who’s who?” but on “what’s always been true?”
4. **Avoid speculation.** It’s not the Book of Speculation. It’s the Book of Revelation. We are bound to what God has actually written in the Bible. So, we avoid voicing merely personal opinions or commentary on contemporary happenings. The Book of Revelation is intensely practical and hope-filled. So, it certainly has application to our daily lives in 2022. But we want to avoid needless, speculative conversations on secondary matters. Keep the main thing the main thing.
5. **Humility, humility, humility.** Always have a gentle and humble heart. We don’t have all the answers. As one mentor of mind said: “When we all get to heaven, we will discover that we have been wrong about many things.” That’s wise counsel. Stick to the timeless truths and gospel-centered message. Verse 1 of Revelation says it’s “a revelation of Jesus Christ.” It’s all about Jesus! Let’s keep your eyes fixed on Jesus.