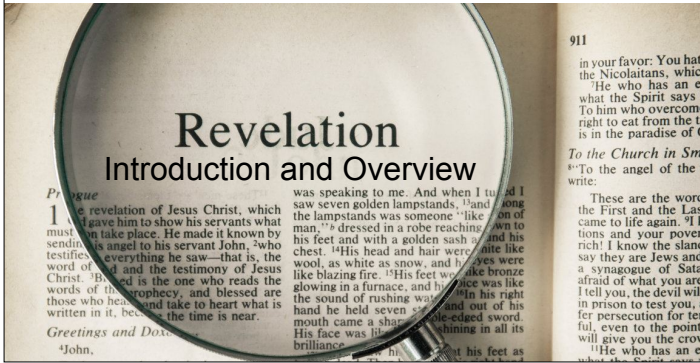


Welcome



1

Introduction



Revelation (apokalypsis) of Jesus Christ (1:1)



Revelation



2



3

A fractured world...



A book for our times

and the promise of God

Revelation



4

Historical Context

- Perplexity
- Persecution
 - John (1.9)
 - Antipas (2:13)
 - Church (2:10; 3:10; 6:9-11; 7:14; 12:11,17)
- Pressure
 - doubt
 - martyrdom
 - denial
 - compromise

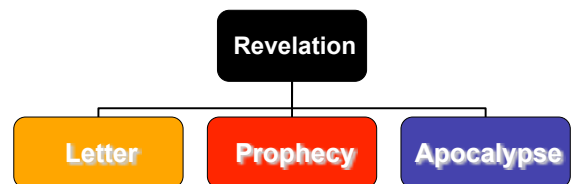


Revelation



5

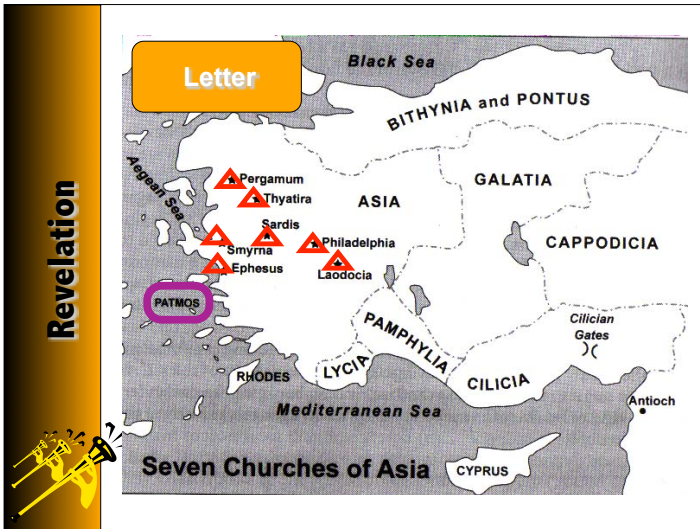
What kind of book?



Revelation



6



Revelation

Letter

Seven Churches of Asia

7

What kind of book?

Letter

- Revelation is a letter with a common thread **overcoming!**
- **the challenge to overcome** (2:7, 11, 17, 26-29; 3:5-6, 12-13, 21-22; 13:10)
- **the struggle and means to overcome** (see e.g. 12:11)
- **the inheritance of the overcomer** (e.g. 21:7)

Revelation

8

What kind of book?

Prophecy

- Revelation is a prophecy
 - see 1:3; 22:6-7; 22:10; 22:18-19

Revelation

9

Interpreting Revelation

Prophecy

- **Four views - it's about...**
 - **the Past** : historical context primary
 - **History**: a 'map' from 1st century to Christ's return
 - **the Future**: *mainly* about future 'end-time' events
 - **How to live**: history-neutral 'principles' for the fight against evil
- 'BLENDER APPROACH'**
combining the strengths of all the above!

Revelation

10

What kind of book?

Apocalypse

Apocalyptic writing
a well-know first century form of writing:

- a divine revelation
- through a heavenly intermediary
- to some well-known figure
- which predicts God's intervention
- to overthrow evil
- and establish his kingdom

Revelation

11

What kind of book?

Apocalypse

- Grounded in the Old Testament

Revelation

12

Revelation

- Grounded in the Old Testament

Look, he is **coming with the clouds**, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him...

I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, and among the lampstands was **someone 'like a son of man'**, dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a **golden sash** around his chest. His head and hair were **white like wool**, as white as snow, and his **eyes were like a blazing fire**. His **feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace**, and his **voice was like the sound of rushing waters**.

(Revelation 1:7, 12-15 – cf Daniel 7:9, 13-14; 10:5-6)


13

Revelation

- Grounded in the Old Testament

Daniel 7

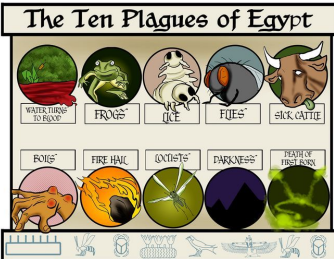
Revelation 13:1ff



Babylonian Empire Persian Empire Greek Empire Roman Empire

Oppressive kingdoms under judgment

The Ten Plagues of Egypt



Bowls of chapter 16

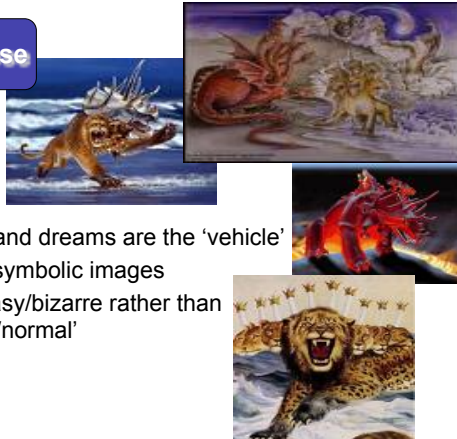
14

Revelation

What kind of book?

Apocalypse

- Style
 - Visions and dreams are the 'vehicle'
 - Use of symbolic images
 - Fantasy/bizarre rather than 'actual/normal'




15

Revelation

What kind of book?

Apocalypse

- Symbolic numbers in Revelation
 - 7
 - '666'
 - 24 elders
 - 42 months
 - 144,000
 - 1,000 years




16

Revelation

Introduction
(1:1 – 3:22)


Vision of God and the Lamb
(4:1-5:14)

Overview




17

Revelation



5 Then I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals. 2 And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, "Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?" 3 But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it. 4 I wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside. 5 Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals." 6 Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing at the centre of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders.

Overview



18

Revelation

Introduction
(1:1 – 3:22)

Vision of God and the Lamb
(4:1-5:14)

Opening the Seven Seals
(6:1-8:1)

Sounding of the Seven Trumpets
(8:2-11:19)

The People of God vs. the Powers of Evil
(12:1-14:20)

Pouring out the Seven Bowls
(15:1-16:21)

The Judgment of Babylon
(17:1-19:5)

God's Ultimate Victory
(19:6-22:5)

Conclusion
(22:6-21)

Overview



19

Revelation

The BIG Story

The throne (4)
Suffering & woes (7 seals 6-8 & 7 trumpets 8-11)
The war (12)
The judgement (7 bowls - 14:6ff)
The renewal (21:1)

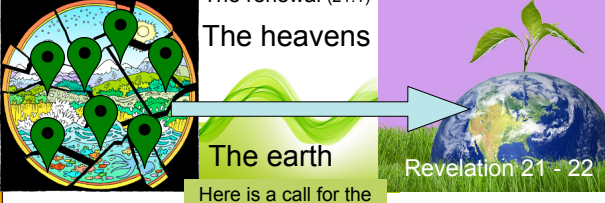
The heavens

The earth

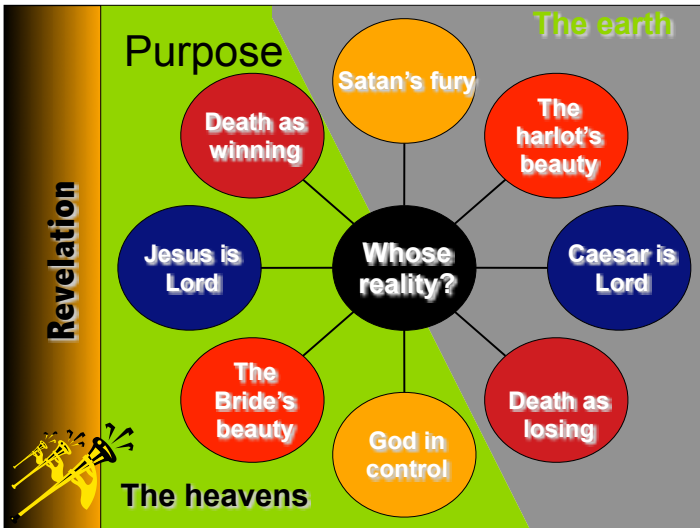
Here is a call for the endurance of the saints, those who keep the commandments of God and hold fast to the faith of Jesus (14:12)

Revelation 21 - 22

7th trumpet: 11:15-19
7th bowl: 19:1-8




20




21

Revelation

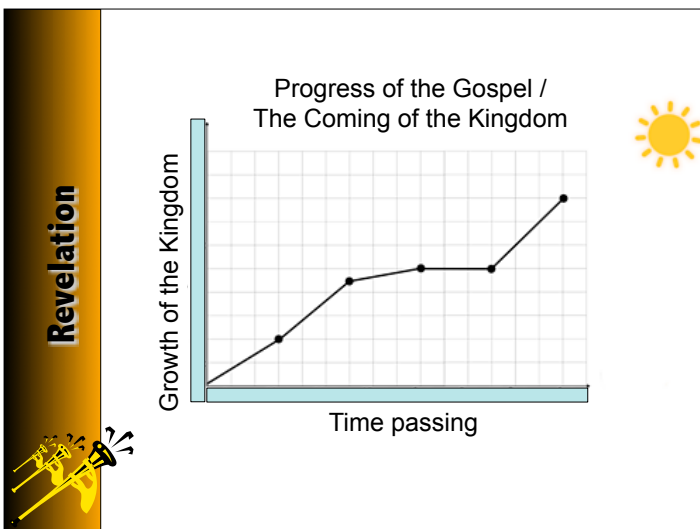
There is no greater drama in human record than the sight of a few Christians, scorned and oppressed by a succession of emperors, bearing all trials with a fierce tenacity, multiplying quietly, building order while their enemies created chaos, fighting the sword with the word, brutality with hope, and at last defeating the strongest state that history has known.

Caesar and Christ had met in the arena, and Christ had won.

Will Durant, 'The Story of Civilisation part III'
(New York: Simon and Shuster, 1944)



22




23



24

And they have defeated him by the blood of the Lamb and by their testimony. And they did not love their lives so much that they were afraid to die. (12:11)



Here is a call for the endurance of the saints, those who keep the commandments of God and hold fast to the faith of Jesus (14:12)

Revelation

25




Revelation in a nutshell

In the face of apparent rampant and uncontrolled evil, God is on history's throne and at the end **God wins.**

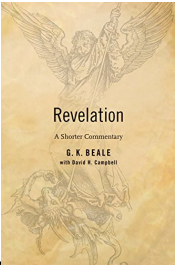
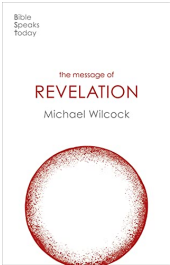

Jesus is coming soon, so keep the faith – even to the point of death

Revelation

26

Bible Project videos on Revelation

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5nvVVcYD-0w>

Revelation

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28

28

29

29

30

30