

Revelation

Adult Bible Class 12/17/2023

Question

- At your tables, discuss how familiar with Revelation.
 - Had you read it before?
 - Would you be able to recall some of the more potent images?
 - Is there a piece of it that sticks with you?

Goal for Today

- That people leave the class today with some of the tools necessary to read Revelation without...
 - Being scared
 - Being confused
- But rather, to read Revelation...
 - Being confident in our God
 - Being wowed by the beauty of the book

The Tools

- **Humility**
- Understanding Revelation's Unique **Genre**
- Recognizing the **Old Testament Connections**
- A Grasp of Revelation's **Symbolism**

Humility

- There is a lot of “distance” between us and Revelation (Maybe more than any other Biblical book)
- The content itself demands that we approach with humility!
 - Triune God over all things
 - Endurance in the face of suffering
- Humility demands a slow, careful reading

Genre

- Threefold (Rev. 1:1-5a)
- Letter
 - Circulating
 - Intended to be “read aloud”
- Prophecy
 - The last in the line of Biblical prophets
 - His words of woe toward cities sounds just like OT prophets (e.g. Rev. 18)
- Apocalypse

Genre - Apocalypse

- “Apocalypse is a genre of revelatory literature with a **narrative** framework, in which a revelation is **mediated** by an otherworldly being to a human recipient, disclosing a **transcendent** reality which is both **temporal**, insofar as it envisages eschatological salvation, and **spatial**, insofar as it involves another, supernatural world.”
- Differences from other Apocalypses
 - More imagery
 - Technically the same place! And often the same time!

Old Testament Connections

- It's like Wikipedia

Book of Revelation

101 languages

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From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

"Apocalypse of John" redirects here. For other uses, see Apocalypse of John (disambiguation). For other uses, see Book of Revelation (disambiguation).

The **Book of Revelation**,^[a] also erroneously called the **Book of Revelations**,^{[b][4]} is the final book of the **New Testament** (and therefore the final book of the **Christian Bible**). Written in **Koine Greek**, its title is derived from the **first word** of the text: *apokalypsis*, meaning 'unveiling' or 'revelation'. The Book of Revelation is the only **apocalyptic book** in the **New Testament canon**.^[c] It occupies a central place in **Christian eschatology**.

The author names himself as simply "John" in the text, but his precise identity remains a point of academic debate. Second-century Christian writers such as **Papias of Hierapolis**, **Justin Martyr**, **Irenaeus**, **Melito of Sardis**, **Clement of Alexandria**, and the author of the **Muratorian fragment** identify **John the Apostle** as the "John" of Revelation.^{[5][6]} Modern scholarship generally takes a different view,^[7] with many considering that nothing can be known about the author except that he was a Christian prophet.^[8] Modern theological scholars characterize the Book of Revelation's author as "**John of Patmos**". The bulk of traditional sources date the book to the reign of the Roman emperor **Domitian** (AD 81–96), which evidence tends to confirm.^{[9][d]}

The book spans three literary genres: the **epistolary**, the **apocalyptic**, and the **prophetic**.^[11] It begins with John, on the island of **Patmos** in the **Aegean Sea**, addressing letters to the "**Seven Churches of Asia**". He then describes a series of prophetic **visions**, including figures such as the **Seven-Headed Dragon**, **the Serpent**, and **the Beast**, which culminate in the **Second Coming of Jesus**.

The obscure and extravagant imagery has led to a wide variety of Christian interpretations. **Historicist**

Part of a series on

Books of the New Testament



Papyrus 46, one of the oldest **New Testament papyri**, showing 2 Cor 11:33–12:9

- Gospels and Acts** [show]
- Epistles and Apocalypse** [show]
- Authorship** [show]
- Related topics** [show]

Old Testament Connections

- It's like Wikipedia
- Most prevalently, John uses imagery from Daniel
 - Compare Rev. 1:13-15 to Daniel 7:9-14
 - It's sometimes just as interesting to note the differences between the two!

Symbolism

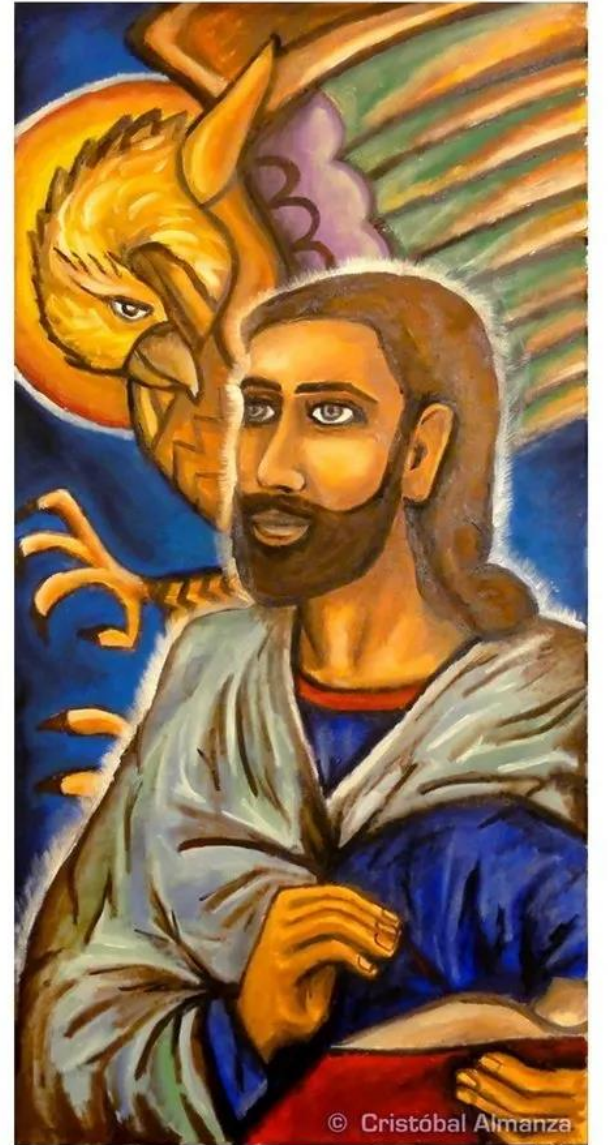
- The ancient world gave lots of imagery
 - Revelation offers uniquely Christian imagery as a way of seeing the world
 - Some examples...

Woman in Rev. 12





VideoBible.com



Symbolism

- “It would be a serious mistake to understand the images of Revelation as timeless symbols. Their character conforms to the contextuality of Revelation as a letter to the seven churches of Asia. Their resonances in the specific social, political, cultural and religious world of their first readers need to be understood if their meaning is to be appropriated today” (Bauckham 19).

Symbolism - Numbers

- 2, 3, 3½, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 12, 24, 42, 144, 666 (or according to another reading 616), 1000, 1260, 1600, 7000, 12,000, 144,000, 100,000,000, and 200,000,000
- Predominant number is seven (7) which occurs 54 times

Let's try it out now

Open to Revelation 4