



PACIFIC
CROSSROADS
CHURCH

April 15, 2018

REVELATION

A RENEWED IMAGINATION

Reflections

I do not read the Revelation to get additional information about the life of faith in Christ. I've read it all before in law and prophet, and gospel and epistle. Everything in the Revelation can be found in the previous 65 books of the Bible. The Revelation adds nothing of substance to what we already know. There is nothing new to say on the truth of the gospel, But there is a new way to say it. I read the Revelation not to get more information but to revive my imagination. The imagination is our way into the divine imagination, permitting us to see wholly, as whole and holy – what we perceive as scattered, as order what we perceive as random.

- Eugene Peterson, *Reversed Thunder*

The business of Revelation is to stand things on their heads in the perception of its audience, to rob the established order of the most fundamental power of all, it's sheer facticity. The moral strategy of Revelation is to destroy common sense as a guide for life...in order to break Satan's power of illusion, Revelation must re-imagine the world. And so it does. The books imaginative power annihilates the plausibility structure on which the status quo rests and replaces it with the vision of a new world.

- Richard Hays, *The Moral Vision of the New Testament*

'Nocturne in Black and Gold – The Falling Rocket' by James Whistler, 1875

'Revelation: A Renewed Imagination' logo by Jesse Wu

Scripture

Revelation 1:9-20

⁹ I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. ¹⁰ I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet ¹¹ saying, "Write what you see in a book 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."

¹² Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³ and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest. ¹⁴ The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, ¹⁵ his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters. ¹⁶ In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength.

¹⁷ When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, "Fear not, I am the first and the last, ¹⁸ and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades. ¹⁹ Write therefore the things that you have seen, those that are and those that are to take place after this. ²⁰ As for the mystery of the seven stars that 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.


Sermon

Christ: The Cosmic King

Rankin Wilbourne

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Events & News

PCC Women's Retreat, April 27-29

Women of PCC - you're invited for a refreshing weekend of connection, fellowship and worship. Retreat with us to Calabasas as we grow closer together. We have just a few spots left, so sign up today right after the service.

Prayer: The Invisible Reality Workshop, April 19, 21

Do you struggle with prayer? Do you want to learn how to pray? This month, we're learning to pray inwardly through simple prayer and how to overcome common barriers to prayer. Come to either our Thursday night or Saturday morning session.

The Book of Revelation: Digging Deeper, April 22, 23

This interactive workshop will give an overview of the content of Revelation, teach you how to interpret apocalyptic literature, and give guidance on how to read this in personal devotions. There will be an extended version on Monday night and a shortened version on Sunday.

View and sign up for all events on our mobile app, on our website, PacificCrossroads.org/Events, or speak with someone at the 'New Here?' tent.

Ministry Resources

Pastoral Care

Our pastoral care team is here to care for you if you are in a difficult place. Email pastoralcare@pacificcrossroads.org or call our office at 310.551.0081.

Celebrate Recovery

Join together weekly with others to celebrate God's healing power in our lives. Visit PacificCrossroads.org/CelebrateRecovery.