

Revelation is an Apocalyptic literature

- This word is used as an end-of-the-world event
- Apocalypse means unveiling
- To have your eyes open
- That's why in English it is translated as revelation
- An apocalypse is an event of unveiling
- 2 Kings 6:8-17 CSB

8 When the king of Aram was waging war against Israel, he conferred with his servants, "My camp will be at such and such a place."9 But the man of God sent word to the king of Israel: "Be careful passing by this place, for the Arameans are going down there." 10 Consequently, the king of Israel sent word to the place the man of God had told him about. The man of God repeatedly[a] warned the king, so the king would be on his guard.11 The king of Aram was enraged because of this matter, and he called his servants and demanded of them, "Tell me, which one of us is for the king of Israel?"12 One of his servants said, "No one, my lord the king. Elisha, the prophet in Israel, tells the king of Israel even the words you speak in your bedroom."13 So the king said, "Go and see where he is, so I can send men to capture him. "When he was told, "Elisha is in Dothan," 14 he sent horses, chariots, and a massive army there. They went by night and surrounded the city.15 When the servant of the man of God got up early and went out, he discovered an army with horses and chariots surrounding the city. So he asked Elisha, "Oh, my master, what are we to do?"16 Elisha said, "Don't be afraid, for those who are with us outnumber those who are with them."17 Then Elisha prayed, "Lord, please open his eyes and let him see." So the Lord opened the servant's eyes, and he saw that the mountain was covered with horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha

- Elisha is in a city called Dothan
- Vs 15 says this
- The servant is confused
- All he can see is what his natural eye can see
- So, Elisha prays in verse 17
- Open his eyes
- Elisha was the only one who could see it
- So, he asked God for an apocalypse of his eyes
- This is what is happening in the first century
- Christians are being persecuted
- Domitian believed that because the Romans destroyed the temple in 70 A.D

- Yahweh caused Mount Vesuvius to erupt, destroying parts of the Romans empire
- Which now causes severe persecution
- But John says, when I got a revelation
- When I went to Heaven
- It feels like Domitian is in control
- It feels like the Roman Empire is on the throne
- Guess what happened
- When the Spirit of the Lord opened my eyes
- I saw that the lamb was on the throne
- This is to reveal that Jesus is Lord
- This is to show the Christian people that Jesus is in control
- Far beyond what we see or feel in this current time
- Apocalyptic literature is Jewish literature that relies on images and symbols to provide hope during persecution
- It is not to be taken literally
- It is to provide hope to people who read it

4 main ways that people read the book of Revelation of the church

the first 100 years of the church.

4) John is writing from Ephesus, and to understand Revelation, we must understand what was happening at that time

- The first church in the 7 churches is Ephesus
- Ephesus is the 2nd most important city in the Roman Empire
- Ephesus is also the home of the largest gymnasium in the Roman Empire
- There are some similarities between the book of Revelation and the Olympic Games
- This is how the opening games would start during Domitian's rule

1) 2) The presentation of the emperor, Ch. 1. The emperor would enter the arena
A herald would give announcements, but he would give the achievements of all the things Caesar did

- 1) The historical view- revelation is being unfolded in every historical time
 - 2) A Preterist view- They believe that most of the prophecies happened in
 - 3) A Futuristic View- Where people would say, the locus in revelation is a helicopter, since there was nothing close to it in that time.
- An Idealist view- a spiritual application of the book

3) 4) 5) 6) 7) Caesar would start making some pronouncements. Ex. to this city or to this region, saying I've heard you have done a good job, but I think you can do better in these areas, and this is what I'm going to do if you don't do better

There were 24 legal religions in the Roman Empire, which means there were 24 priests who represented those religions. There was then an empirical song that was sung led by a chorus of 24 elders

Another herald would open the scroll to officially open the games

We would get chariot races with 4 horses, not a competitive race, but of ceremony, a black horse, a white horse, a red horse, then a pale or spotted horse.

The trumpet would sound, and the games would begin

- All John is doing is taking the opening format of the ceremony of the Olympic Games and formatting it to the first 7 chapters of Revelation

- The presentation of the emperor is the first half of Chapter 1 of Revelation

- The herald that gives announcements and achievements is the second half of Chapter One of Revelation.

- The pronouncement of Caesar to the 7 churches is found in Ch. 2 and 3.

- The chorus of 24 priests had to wear white robes; they would sing the emperor song Ch. 4

- A herald would open the games with the scroll Ch. 5

- Chariot race Ch. 6

- The trumpets would have the games begin in Rev. Ch 7

The church at this time is not trying to see how the world would end

- John is sharing the similarities because

- John is trying to have the church remain faithful during persecution

- John is using the Olympics because

- In the Olympics, you weren't representing yourself when you ran the race

- You are representing the strength of the god that you are running on behalf of

- So, in today's Olympics, you run to represent your country

- In the original Olympics, you're running to represent the God of your city

- the God of your region

- Here's what John is saying he's saying

- You need to run this race called life in such a way that you represent Yahweh well

- That you represent Jesus well, you need to be faithful in the midst of persecution

- You need to run your race in the arena of life so that God will be displayed

- So that the empire will get an apocalypse of the person of Jesus

Hebrews 12:1-3 CSB

Therefore, since we also have such a large cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us lay aside every hindrance and the sin that so easily ensnares us. Let us run with endurance the race that lies before us, 2 keeping our eyes on Jesus,[a] the pioneer and perfecter[b] of our faith. For the joy that lay before him,[c] he endured the cross, despising the shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 CSB

24 Don't you know that the runners in a stadium all race, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way to win the prize. 25 Now everyone who competes exercises self-control in everything. They do it to receive a perishable crown, but we an imperishable crown. 26 So I do not run like one who runs aimlessly or box like one beating the air. 27 Instead, I discipline my body and bring it under strict control, so that after preaching to others, I myself will not be disqualified.

When we look at the Book of Revelation, we must understand that there's a certain outline that the book takes

- Chapters 1:1-8- Prologue
- 1:9-20 - The call of the prophet by the first and last, the living one who holds the keys of death and hades
- 2:1-3:22- Letters to the seven churches
- 4:1-5:14- The vision of God and the Lamb
- 6:1-8:1- Opening of the seven seals
- 8:2-11:19- 7 trumpets
- 12:1-14:20- Visions of the dragon, the beast, and the lamb
- 15:1-16:21- 7 plagues and 7 bowls
- 17:1-19:10- Judgment of Babylon and the harlot
- 19:11-21:8- Transition from Babylon to the new Jerusalem
- 21:9-22:5- The new Jerusalem and the bride
- 22:6-21- Epilogue

1 The revelation of[a] Jesus Christ that God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, Revelation 1:1 CSB

1:1 Who are his servants

- Acts 2:18- Those who have the Holy Spirit
- Romans 6:19- Those who are slaves to righteousness, then sanctification
- 1 Peter 2:16- Free people
- Revelation 22:6- his servants (under submission to his lordship)

1:1 What must soon take place

- Daniel 2:28- 29- The dream of Nebuchadnezzar (the mysteries)
- Daniel 2:45- The stone breaking off the mountain (Iron, Bronze, fired clay, silver, and gold)
- Revelation 2:6 – The practices of the Nicolaitans

The Nicolaitans were an early Christian sect, mentioned in Revelation 2:6, 14-15, criticized for teaching a doctrine of compromise, including participating in pagan idolatry and sexual immorality. They advocated for a lifestyle that blended Christian freedom with pagan practices, likely encouraging believers to attend pagan festivals and eat food sacrificed to idols.

- In Ch 22-24
- Balak hires Balaam
- At that time, the people of Israel had rebelled 7 times out of 10
- 7 times in the book of Numbers 3 in the book of Deuteronomy
- Balak saw what had happened to the Amorites, Numbers 2:2
- Balak was one of the Moabite kings at the time
- He sent to get a man named Balaam
- Balaam
- Balaam was a Mesopotamian Baru
- A sorcerer
- Basically, someone who would persuade the gods
- Balaam was a famous oracle
- So, God Yahweh is talking to Balaam
- He tells him you must bless Israel
- In Ch. 23
- Balaam asks Balak to build 7 altars
- Prepare 7 bulls and 7 rams
- So instead of cursing the people of Israel
- Balaam blesses the people of Israel

- They were set up on a barren hill
- Since they believed the closer you were to heaven, the closer you were to the gods
- Now we only see 4 oracles happen
- Since they believed that depending on the region,
- That is the god who would have control of the territory
- Now something supernatural happens on the 3rd oracle

5 How beautiful are your tents, Jacob, your dwellings, Israel.6 They stretch out like river valleys, [a]like gardens beside a stream, like aloes the Lord has planted, like cedars beside the water.7 Water will flow from his buckets, and his seed will be by abundant water. His king will be greater than Agag, and his kingdom will be exalted.8 God brought him out of Egypt; he is like[b] the horns of a wild ox for them. He will feed on enemy nations and gnaw their bones; he will strike them with his arrows. Numbers 24:5-8 CSB

- Balaam sees a garden in the desert
- From the hilltop, he would have seen
- The tabernacle in the middle
- Then the symbol of the cross
- 3 tribes to the west
- 3 tribes to the east
- 3 tribes to the north
- 3 tribes to the south
- With the Tabernacle facing the east
- On the 4th oracle, we see a prophecy of Jesus

17 I see him, but not now; I perceive him, but not near. A star will come from Jacob, and a scepter will arise from Israel. He will smash the forehead[a] of Moab and strike down[b] all the Shethites.

[c] Numbers 24:17 CSB

- Since Balak couldn't destroy the people of Israel
- Balaam advised Balak to have them open doors
- As Christians, we are covered by the blood of Jesus
- We have the full armor of God all around us
- That means no matter what the enemy throws against us
- It will not prevail
- Just like the people of Israel
- We are blessed

- No weapon formed against us will prosper
- But this is what Revelation is talking about
- Of the things that will come
- To those who compromise
- Numbers 25 tells us the advice Balaam gave to Balak was this

Israel Worships Baal

25 While Israel was staying in the Acacia Grove, [a] the people began to prostitute themselves with the women of Moab.

2 The women invited them to the sacrifices for their

gods, and the people ate and bowed in worship to their gods. 3 So Israel aligned itself with Baal of Peor, and the Lord's anger burned against Israel. 4 The Lord said to Moses, "Take all the leaders of the people and execute[b] them in broad daylight before the Lord so that his burning anger may turn away from Israel."

5 So Moses told Israel's judges, "Kill each of the men who aligned themselves with Baal of Peor."

Phinehas Intervenes

6 An Israelite man came bringing a Midianite woman to his relatives in the sight of Moses and the whole Israelite community while they were weeping at the entrance to the tent of meeting. 7 When Phinehas son of Eleazar, son of Aaron the priest, saw this, he got up from the assembly, took a spear in his hand, 8 followed the Israelite man into the tent,

[c] and

drove it through both the Israelite man and the woman—through her belly. Then the plague on the Israelites was stopped, 9 but those who died in the plague numbered twenty-four thousand.

10 The Lord spoke to Moses, 11 "Phinehas, son of Eleazar, son of Aaron the priest, has turned back my wrath from the Israelites because he was zealous among them with my zeal,

[d] so

that I did not destroy the Israelites in my zeal. 12 Therefore, declare: I grant him my covenant of peace. Numbers 25:1-12 CSB

- A side note, Phinehas was the first zealot
- Simon was a Zealot, one of Jesus disciple
- The people of Israel allowed sin to enter their camps
- Since we are covered by the blood of Jesus
- The only way the enemy can get into your camp will be through the doors you open

14 But Moses became furious with the officers, the commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds, who were returning from the military campaign. 15 "Have you let every female live?" he asked them.

16 "Yet they are the ones who, at Balaam's advice,

incited the Israelites to unfaithfulness against the Lord in the Peor incident, so that the plague came against the Lord's community. Numbers 31:14-16 CSB

- Who are the Midianites
- Midian is the leader of the Midianites
- Cousins to the Israelites, Gn. 25:1
- From Abraham's wife Keturah
- This is what will soon take place
- The purification of the body of Christ

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