

“SEVEN:
Hope from Jesus in the Book of Revelation”
(Part 1: Introduction)

Revelation 1:5b-8 NLT

All glory to him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by shedding his blood for us. ⁶He has made us a Kingdom of priests for God his Father. All glory and power to him forever and ever! Amen.

*⁷Look! He comes with the clouds of heaven.
And everyone will see him—
even those who pierced him.
And all the nations of the world
will mourn for him.
Yes! Amen!*

⁸“I am the Alpha and the Omega—the beginning and the end,”⁸ says the Lord God. “I am the one who is, who always was, and who is still to come—the Almighty One.”

The book of Revelation. The last book of The Bible and, quite possibly the most mysterious.

- Michelangelo painted scenes from Revelation on the walls of the Sistine Chapel.
- Dante’s *Divine Comedy* was inspired by Revelation.
- Songs by Nirvana (“Lake of Fire”), Iron Maiden (“The Number of the Beast”) and Prince (“7byPrince”) quote the book directly.
- The best-selling *Left Behind* book series dramatizes parts of Revelation.
- The 1970 book *The Late Great Planet Earth* compared current events to Revelation’s prophecies to prove we were living in the end times.

But the book of Revelation has one main overarching theme: To let persecuted Christians know, God hasn't given up on you- He'll never give up on us.

It's one thing to consider God's reaction to giant evil systems and serpents and Satan but quite another to consider His reaction to you and to me.

All of these positions in life and more are addressed in seven letters to seven different churches, spoken to the apostle John by Jesus Himself in a vision, and recorded in Revelation chapters 2 and 3.

Here's the biggest obstacle to understanding the Book of Revelation: John writes in all kinds of cryptic symbols and codes. Revelation is written in a genre called "apocalyptic literature."

The overall message of Revelation is that despite suffering, victory is promised in Jesus Christ!

-What kinds of things do you think He might say to you?

-Where would He correct you? What would He say to encourage you?

-And what do you suppose He might think of the churches around the world that claim to follow Him?

In the first three chapters of the Book of Revelation, that's exactly what happens: We get brief messages from Jesus designed to help us thrive spiritually, starting today!

Revelation 3:22 NLT

"Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what He is saying to the churches."

Revelation 1:8 NLT

⁸“I am the Alpha and the Omega—the beginning and the end,”^[e] says the Lord God. “I am the one who is, who always was, and who is still to come—the Almighty One.”

Hebrews 13:8 ESV

⁸Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.