

The Apocalypse

Description

A foundational look at the true meaning of “Apocalypse,” correcting modern misconceptions and establishing that Revelation is not about destruction—but about God revealing Jesus Christ through symbolic language.

Primary Texts

Revelation 1:1–3

Supporting Texts

Matthew 16:17 | Matthew 13:11 | Daniel 2:28–29, 45 | Revelation 4:1 | Zechariah 4 | Acts 2:16–17 | Galatians 1:11–12 | Luke 2:32 | Romans 16:25

Explanation of the Context of the Primary Text

The book of Revelation opens by identifying itself as an *apocalypse*—the Greek word **apokalypsis**, meaning an unveiling or revealing. This stands in contrast to the modern understanding of the word, which often implies catastrophe or destruction. Biblically, an apocalypse is God revealing truth to man, often through symbolic visions.

This revelation is given through a divine chain: from God to Jesus Christ, to John, and then to the servants of God. The purpose is not to obscure truth, but to make known “the things that must soon take place.”

Revelation belongs to a category of Scripture known as **apocalyptic literature**, which is also seen in the Old Testament—especially in books like Daniel, Ezekiel, and Isaiah. These writings use symbolic language to communicate real spiritual truths.

Throughout Revelation, symbols such as lampstands, beasts, and figures are used. Sometimes Scripture interprets these symbols directly (Revelation 1:20), while other times they must be understood by tracing connections back to the Old Testament.

Revelation is deeply rooted in the Old Testament, containing hundreds of allusions. This shows that it is not a disconnected book, but the culmination of God’s redemptive revelation.



Christ at the Center

The Apocalypse is ultimately the revealing of Jesus Christ—not only in His return, but in His completed work. The Gospel itself is part of this revelation: Christ came, died for sin, rose again, and will return to fully establish His kingdom.

This pattern is consistent throughout the New Testament. The Apostle Paul speaks of receiving the Gospel not from man, but through a **revelation (apokalypsis) of Jesus Christ** (Galatians 1:12). Just as Christ revealed Himself to Paul so that Paul could proclaim the Gospel, Christ now reveals Himself to John so that the Church may see the fullness of what is to come.

The same Jesus who unveiled Himself to Paul on the road to Damascus is the One now unveiling the final stage of redemption in Revelation. The Gospel is not separate from the Apocalypse—it is its beginning. Revelation is the continuation and completion of that same unveiling, culminating in Christ’s return, His judgment over sin, and His eternal reign.

This means that the Apocalypse is not merely about future events—it is about **the full and final unveiling of Jesus Christ in His glory, authority, and victory.**

Why It Matters

- Many approach Revelation with fear because they misunderstand the word “apocalypse”
- This book is meant to **reveal truth, not hide it**
- Understanding its symbolic nature helps us interpret it correctly
- Revelation calls believers to pursue understanding—not avoid it
- The same God who revealed the Gospel is now revealing its final fulfillment

Personal Reflection

- What comes to mind when I hear the word “Apocalypse,” and how has that shaped my view of Revelation?
- Am I approaching this book with a desire to understand what God is revealing?
- Do I see Revelation as centered on Jesus—or just on end-time events?
- Am I willing to search the Scriptures to understand what God has revealed?



Prayer

Lord,

Correct my understanding where it has been shaped by culture instead of Your Word. Help me to see that this book is Your revelation—not confusion. Give me a desire to seek, understand, and respond to what You have revealed.

Reveal Yourself to me so that I may reveal You to others, just as You did with Paul and with John. Open my eyes to see Jesus clearly through this study, and anchor my heart in the truth of the Gospel and His return.

Amen.

