



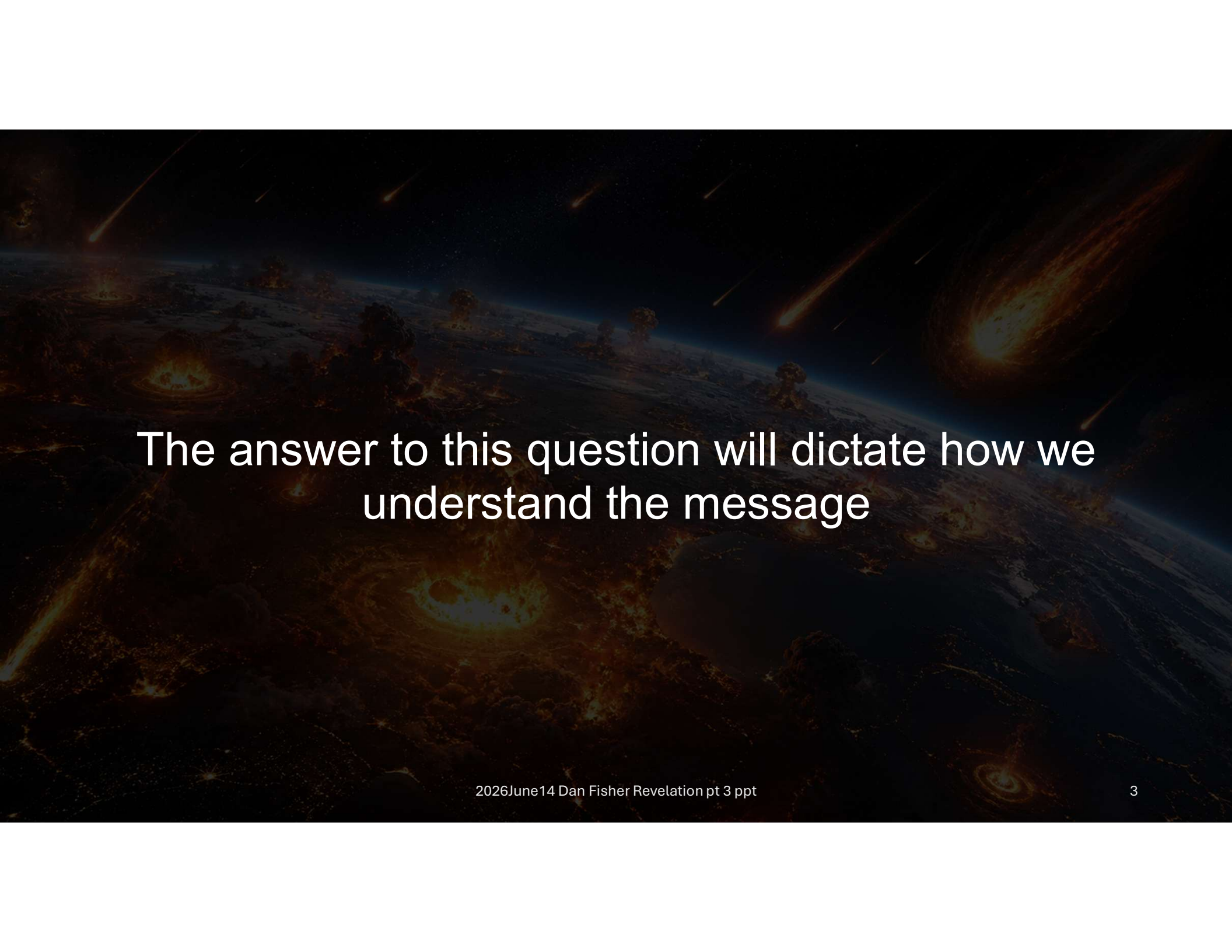
**PART 3: “Revelation” – not “Revelations”**

**THE BOOK OF**  
**REVELATION**  
**A STORY OF THE LAST DAYS**

2026June14 Dan Fisher Revelation pt3.ppt



## 4. When was the Revelation written?



The answer to this question will dictate how we understand the message



- **The two main views:**

- It was written during the reign of Nero around 68 A.D.
- It was written during the reign of Domitian around 95 A.D.



- **The effect the date makes**

- A.D. 68 is adopted by those who view the Revelation as history
- A.D. 96 is adopted by those who view the Revelation as future prophecy of the end times.

- Early church fathers who believed in the 95 A.D. authorship:

Irenaeus

Clement of Alexandria

Origen

Victorinus

Eusebius

Jerome

- **Reasons for the 95 A.D. authorship:**

The persecution of the churches in chaps. 2-3 better fits the persecution of Domitian rather than Nero whose persecution of Christians was relatively confined to the city of Rome.

The condition of the churches best fits with A.D. 96 since, during the earlier date (68 A.D.), the churches were relatively healthy as illustrated by Paul's letters.

Paul never mentions the heretical sect of the Nicolaitans that John refers to in Revelation with little fanfare seeming to assume his readers would know exactly who he was talking about.

In A.D. 60, the city of Laodicea was devastated by an earthquake and was in the process of being rebuilt during the remaining part of Nero's reign. Therefore it could hardly have been seen as "rich, wealthy, & having need of nothing" in A.D. 68.

There is evidence that the church of Smyrna was not founded until after Paul's death in about 67 A.D. If so, it would have not had time to grow to a mature church & then decline by A.D. 68.

John did not leave Palestine for Asia Minor until 66-70 A.D. therefore not giving him enough time to become a big enough problem to the Romans for Nero to exile him to the island of Patmos leading us to believe that it was Domitian who exiled him.



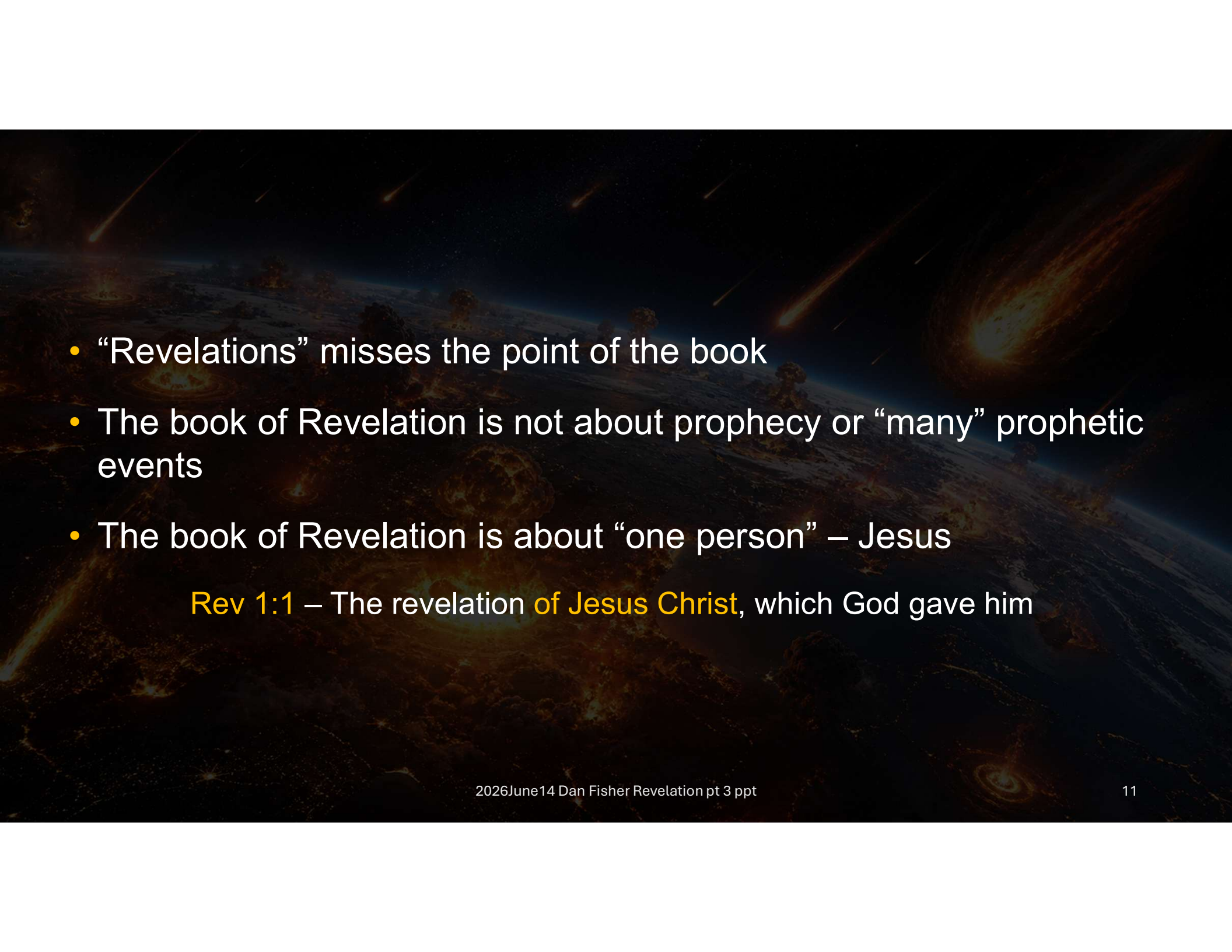
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A dramatic space scene with a large meteor streaking across the sky above a dark, cratered planet surface. The meteor is bright and fiery, leaving a long, glowing trail. The planet below is dark and textured with numerous impact craters of various sizes. The overall atmosphere is dark and ominous, suggesting a catastrophic event.


# 1. Why make a big deal about the title?

- 
- “Revelations” misses the point of the book
  - The book of Revelation is not about prophecy or “many” prophetic events
  - The book of Revelation is about “one person” – Jesus

Rev 1:1 – The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him



## 2. What is the “Revelation”?

- 
- **Revelation = *apokalupsis*: the unveiling** (used 18x in scripture)
  - **“The Revelation” is about the unveiling of Jesus to the world and the circumstances that surround that event.**

“so that the tested genuineness of your faith – more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire – may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.” **1 Pet 1:7**






### 3. “The Revelation” is the Father’s gift to the Son

**Rev 1:1** – The revelation of **Jesus Christ**, which God gave him

“who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.” **Phil 2:6-8**

“Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” **Phil 2:9-11**



4. Revelation “shows” God’s people what “the Revelation of Jesus” will be like

**Rev 1:1** “to show His servants things which must shortly take place”

- **show His servants**

“I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. ... <sup>7</sup> Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you. <sup>8</sup> For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ... <sup>26</sup> I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.” **Jn 17:6-8,26**

- **doulous**: a slave who serves out of love & devotion (Ex 21:5-6)
  - **John** called himself a servant/*doulous* (Rev 1:1)
  - **Paul** called himself a servant/*doulous* (Rom 1:1)
  - **Angel** calls himself a servant/*doulous* (Rev 19:10)
  - **Jesus** calls Himself a servant/*doulous* (Mk 10:45, Lk 22,27, Phil 2:7)



## 5. Shortly come to pass?



Rev 1:1 “things which must shortly take place”

- Rev 1:3 “for the time is near”
- What does “shortly” mean? = when it does happen, it will happen with rapidity
- *tachi*: imminent, the return of Jesus could be at any time (22:6)
- The “imminent return of Jesus” is the message the church has been preaching since He ascended to heaven

“But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.” **Mk 13:32**

“Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.”  
**Mt 24:42**

He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority.” **Acts 1:7**

“looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ” **Titus 2:13**

“Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come.” **1 Cor 10:11**

“But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages” **Heb 9:26**

A dramatic space scene with a yellow arrow pointing from 'Church age' to 'Return of Jesus'. The background is a dark, starry space with a large, glowing, fiery object on the right, possibly a comet or meteor, and several smaller meteors streaking across the sky. The Earth's horizon is visible in the lower part of the frame, showing a blue and white atmosphere. A large yellow arrow points from the text 'Church age' on the left to the text 'Return of Jesus' on the right.

Church age

Return  
of Jesus



Church age

Return of Jesus



## 6. Revealed with signs and symbols



## Rev 1:1 “And He sent and signified it”

“Signified it” = sign-i-fied

- Lamps = God’s people
- Stars = angels
- Incense = prayers
- Dragon = Satan
- Symbols are often more unchanging than words

“For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede [prevent, KJV] those who have fallen asleep.” 1 Thess 4:15



## 7. The “messenger”

Rev 1:1 “by His angel to His servant John,” (22:16)

Angel = angelos, messenger


you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it.” Acts 7:53

“Why then the law? It was added because of transgressions, until the offspring should come to whom the promise had been made, and it was put in place through angels by an intermediary.” Gal 3:19

“For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable” Heb 2:2



## 8. The secretary

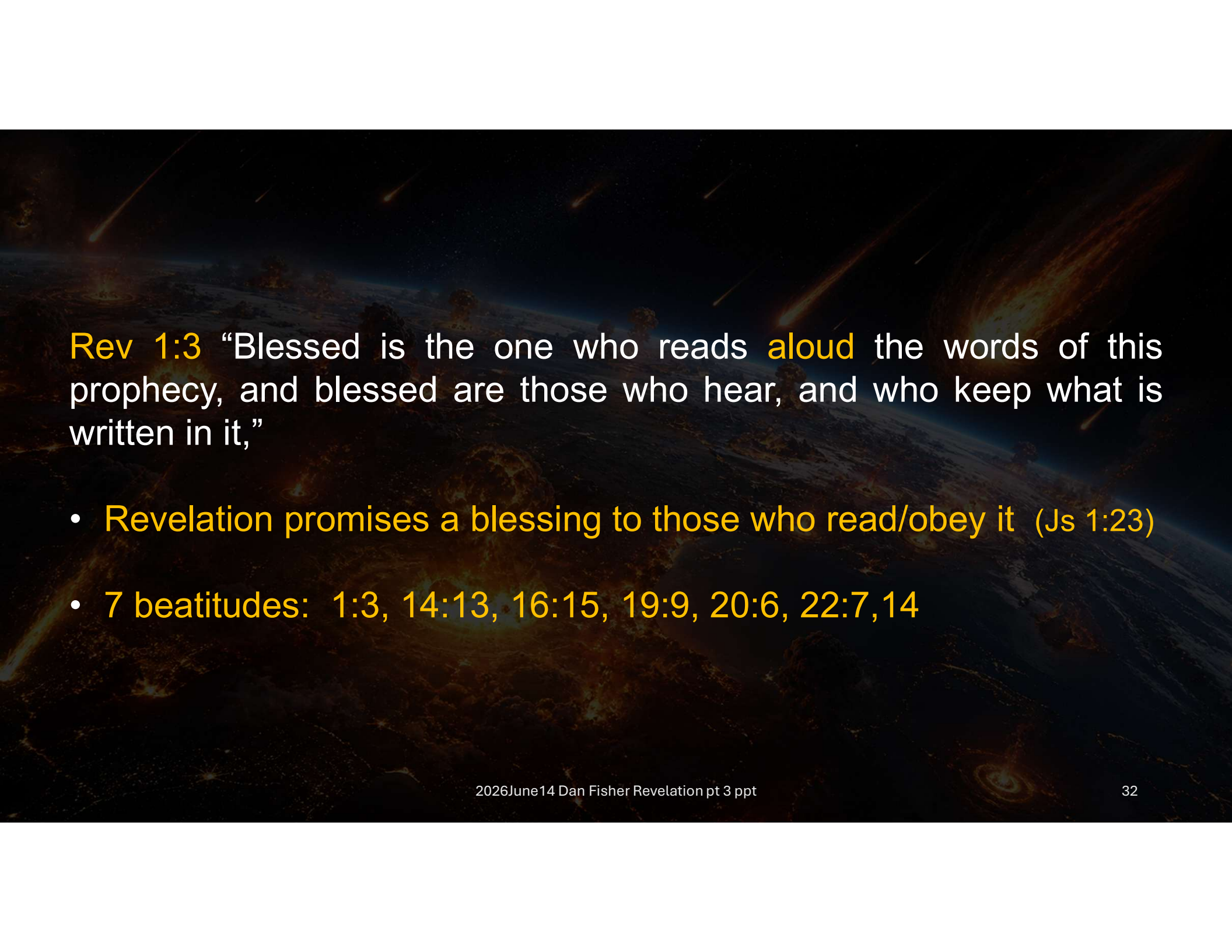
A dramatic space scene featuring a planet's horizon in the lower half, a large comet streaking across the upper right, and a bright star or galaxy core in the lower center. The background is a dark, star-filled space with various nebulae and galaxies.

**Rev 1:2** who bore witness to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw.

- **John records what he sees**
- **And what he hears**



## 9. Revelation: book with a blessing



**Rev 1:3** “Blessed is the one who reads **aloud** the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it,”

- **Revelation promises a blessing to those who read/obey it (Js 1:23)**
- **7 beatitudes: 1:3, 14:13, 16:15, 19:9, 20:6, 22:7,14**



# 10. The recipients



Rev 1:4 “John to the seven churches that are in Asia:”

- Revelation is addressed to 7 churches in Asia Minor, modern day Turkey
- Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, Laodicea



# 11. The message



Rev 1:4 “Grace to you and peace”

- grace & peace = the standard N.T. greeting
- one must experience God’s grace before he can experience God’s peace



## 12. The sender

**Rev 1:4-5** “from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne,<sup>5</sup> and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth.”

- **Who is, was, & is to come = present, past, & future**
- **seven Spirits who are before His throne**

Seven Spirits = Holy Spirit?

“The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.” **Is 11:2**

- Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth

- faithful witness

“For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you;” **Jn 17:8**

“For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth.” **Jn 18:37**

- **firstborn from the dead** = *prototokos*: preeminence

“And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.” **Col 1:18**

- ruler over all the kings of the earth

“And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” Acts 4:12

“Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. <sup>25</sup> For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. <sup>26</sup> The last enemy to be destroyed is death. <sup>27</sup> For ‘God has put all things in subjection under his feet.’” 1 Cor 15:24-27

“Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” Phil 2:9-11

Faithful witness – 1:5, 3:14, 19:11

Firstborn of the dead – 1:5

Ruler of the kings of the earth – 1:5

Alpha & omega – 1:8, 21:6

Who is, was, & is to come – 1:8

Almighty – 1:8

First & last – 1:17

Living one – 1:18

Son of God – 2:18

Holy & true – 3:7

Holder of the key of David – 3:7

Beginning of creation – 3:14

Lion of the tribe of Judah – 5:5

Root of David – 5:5, 22:16

Lamb of God – 5:6, 6:1, 7:9-10, 8:1,  
12:11, 13:8, 14:1, 15:3, 17:14, 19:7,  
21:9, 22:1

Lord, holy & true – 6:10

Word of God – 19:13

King of kings & Lord of lords – 19:16

Bright & morning star – 22:16