

REFUEL
Bible Study

THE BOOK OF

REVELATION

A VISION OF HEAVEN

APOSTLE JOHN

WEDNESDAY | JANUARY 21, 2026



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TODAY'S OBJECTIVE

AIM

The apostle John receives an extended heavenly message.

The book of Revelation is a pastoral-apocalyptic prophecy given to strengthen persecuted believers: it reveals Christ's victory, exposes the true nature of empire and evil, calls the church to endurance, and promises final justice and renewal.

Ronald Trail, An Exegetical Summary of Revelation



Objective

- Seals: Initiate (the Lamb opens)
- Trumpets: Warn (wake-up calls)
- 144,000: Assure (God marks His own)
- Bowls: Complete (final outpouring)

01 REVIEW FOUR VISION CYCLES

- Seven Seals
- Seven Trumpets
- 144,000
- Seven Bowls

02 GOD'S PURPOSE CARRIED OUT

- Explain what each emphasizes,
- Locate them generally in Revelation

03 GOD'S PROMISES FOR US

- State one takeaway for faithful living



Revelation Outline

Major movements of Revelation



COSMIC CONFLICT

Cosmic conflict / identity of God's people – ch. 12–14.
144,000 again – ch. 14 (as faithful/worshipful company)

FALL OF BABYLON
(WORLD SYSTEM) –
CH. 17–18

FINAL DEFEAT OF
EVIL / FINAL
JUDGMENT – CH. 20

SEVEN TRUMPETS

Seven Trumpets – ch. 8:2 to ch. 11

INTERLUDE

Interludes – ch. 10; ch. 11:1–14

SEVEN BOWLS

Seven Bowls – ch. 15–16

VICTORY OF
CHRIST – CH. 19

NEW
CREATION –
CH. 21–22



Vision of Heaven

And I saw...

OBSERVATION

John sees a **seven-sealed scroll** in the right hand of God upon his throne.



THE PROCLAMATION

A **mighty angel** asks if anyone is able to break the seals and open the scroll.



THE INVESTIGATION

An unsuccessful threefold search is made.

- A. In heaven (5:3a)
- B. On earth (5:3b)
- C. Under the earth (5:3c)

MANIFESTATION

Jesus Christ now steps forward to take the scroll from the right hand of the enthroned one

1. He is called the **Lion of Judah** (5:5a-b).
2. He is called the **Lamb of Jehovah** (5:6).



THE SUPPLICATION

The **twenty-four elders** fall down before the Lamb, holding gold bowls filled with the prayers of God's people.



THE EXALTATION

Universal Praise & Worship of God for His Wonderful work of redemption
All of heaven's angels, redeemed, all of creation in heaven in the earth and under the earth.

John ...laments/continuously weeps over this (a delayed promise.) Then He is assured someone is indeed worthy to open the seals.

Tribulation Cycles

SEALS

Unveiling | Initiating

Seals initiate the unveiling of judgment in history

God is sovereign over history; the Lamb initiates what unfolds; suffering and upheaval do not mean God lost control.

TRUMPETS

Warning | Judgement

Trumpets warn with partial judgments

Warning judgments; merciful alarms that call the world to turn

144,000

Assurance | Identity

God knows and seals His people - the interlude shows God guards identity in the middle of upheaval

God marks/claims His people; protection in ultimate terms (belonging, identity, spiritual security.)

BOWLS

Completion

Bowls complete with finality

Seven Seals Overview

(REV 6–8:1) INITIATE HISTORY'S UNVEILING

John's vision...

1-4: FOUR HORSEMEN

White, Red, Black, Pale



5: MARTYRS' CRY

A mighty angel asks if anyone is able to break the seals and open the scroll.



6: COSMIC DISTURBANCE

the “day of wrath” imagery; terror of unmasked judgment.

7: SILENCE → TRUMPETS

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WHAT IT MEANS

“The Seals show the Lamb governing history. Before the last seal, God answers: ‘Who can stand?’—those He seals.”



WHAT IS PRODUCES IN THE BELIEVER

Seals show the Lamb governs history, and the interlude shows God guards identity in the middle of upheaval. Believers are encouraged to endure persecution, continue in worship, and take upon a perspective with a vision towards a promised victory.



FIRST Seal

CONQUEST EXPANDS

What John saw...

THE LAMB

Breaks the seal



JOHN HEARS

The first living creature was like a lion. “Come and see.”



WHAT JOHN SEES

1. John looks, and behold—a white horse.
2. The rider has a bow.
3. The rider is given a crown.
4. The rider goes out conquering and to conquer (a forward-driving, expanding conquest).

White = THE SYMBOLISM OF VICTORY

Bow = CONQUERING

Crown = EXPANDING VICTORY

WHAT IT MEANS

That **it was given** springs from the divine sovereignty. God uses history for history’s judgment and in this way **works out his purpose**.

Option A: “Victory/Conquest” The rider represents conquest/imperial expansion—power that advances and wins.

Option B: “Counterfeit righteousness” (deception reading)



WHAT IT PRODUCES IN BELIEVERS

Discernment: believers learn that not every “winning” power is righteous.

Confidence in Christ’s rule: conquest may surge, but the Lamb governs history’s scroll.

Refusal to idolize power: Christians do not view dominance, or cultural “wins” as automatically godly. Believers stay loyal even when conquest pressures compromise.

SECOND Seal

PEACE COLLAPSES INTO WAR

What John saw...

THE LAMB

Breaks the seal



JOHN HEARS

The second living creature was like an ox.
“Come and see.”



JOHN SEES

1. John sees a fiery red horse.
2. The rider is permitted to take peace from the earth, resulting in people killing one another.
3. The rider is given a large sword.

WHAT IT MEANS

When the text says ‘it was given,’ it’s telling us this is not random chaos—God is still governing what is permitted and setting boundaries even over terrifying realities.

Symbolizes the outbreak and escalation of violent conflict—peace collapses into war, bloodshed, and strife.



WHAT IT PRODUCES IN BELIEVERS

1. Realism without fear: believers face conflict without losing hope.
2. Deeper dependence on God: stability is not the foundation; God is.
3. Prayer for justice and peace: suffering is interpreted before God, not merely endured silently.

Red = WARFARE, BLOODSHED/KILLING

Sword = KILLING POWER, CIVIL AND INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT,

THIRD Seal

WAR PRODUCES SCARCITY AND INEQUITY

What John saw...

THE LAMB

Breaks the seal



JOHN HEARS

The third living creature had a face like a man.
“Come”

- a voice “in the midst of the four living creatures” announcing prices and issuing a command:
- “A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius...”
- “Do not harm the oil and the wine.”



JOHN SEES

1. a black horse.”
2. The rider is holding a pair of scales (a balance for weighing food)

WHAT IT MEANS

That “it was given.”

Portrays severe economic scarcity—food becomes rationed and priced beyond reach—yet the scarcity is also divinely limited.



WHAT IT PRODUCES IN BELIEVERS

God is still governing history, even in scarcity.

For the believer it produces:

Dependence on God: believers learn to trust God when systems fail.

Endurance: scarcity tests perseverance without destroying hope.

God sets limits. The crisis is not infinite, and not ultimate. The church is called to faithful witness in hardship, not fear-driven speculation.

Black = FAMINE/SCARCITY

Scales = RATIONING AND SCARCITY

Prices = A TYPICAL DAY'S WAGE

What John saw...

FOURTH Seal

SCARCITY AND CONFLICT CULMINATE IN
WIDESPREAD DEATH (LIMITED, YET
SEVERE)

THE LAMB

Breaks the seal

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JOHN HEARS

The fourth living creature was like a flying eagle. “Come and see.”

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WHAT JOHN SEES

1. John looks and behold—a pale horse (a sickly, corpse-like color).
2. The rider’s name is Death.
3. Hades is following behind him

Pale = SICK, PERSON DEATH

Sword = DEATH MULTIPLIES

Wild Animals = NATURE’S THREAT INCREASES

WHAT IT MEANS

“Authority was given to them over a **fourth of the earth**” to kill by sword, famine, pestilence (plague/disease), and wild animals.

Portrays mass death as a consequence of the previous seals—war, scarcity, and collapse culminate in widespread mortality, yet it is still limited under divine authority.

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WHAT IT PRODUCES IN BELIEVERS

1. Sober realism: believers learn not to confuse suffering with God’s absence; Revelation names reality without denial.
2. Hope anchored in sovereignty: even death is under God’s limit—Death is not lord; Christ is.
3. Urgency and readiness: the fragility of life calls believers to faithfulness now, not later.

FIFTH Seal

PERSECUTION INTERPRETED; JUSTICE PROMISED; ENDURANCE COMMANDED

What John saw...

THE LAMB

Breaks the seal

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JOHN SEES

1. “underneath the altar” the souls of those who had been killed because of:
 2. the Word of God, and
 3. the testimony they held/bore.
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- ★ ★ ★

JOHN HEARS

1. The martyrs cry out with a loud voice:
2. “How long, Sovereign Master, holy and true, until you judge and avenge/vindicate our blood on those who dwell on the earth?”

Martyrs = SACRIFICES TO GOD

Altar = BLOOD WAS Poured AT THE BASE OF THE ALTAR

Under = NEARNESS AND SAFETY

White Robes = PURITY / RIGHTEOUSNESS / VINDICATION

WHAT IT MEANS

Reveals the spiritual meaning of suffering: the church’s persecution is seen as sacrificial witness before God, and God promises vindication—though not yet, because His redemptive plan still includes further witness and suffering.

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WHAT IT PRODUCES IN BELIEVERS

1. A theology of suffering: believers learn that persecution is not failure; it is faithful witness that heaven calls “sacrifice.”
2. Confidence in God’s justice: evil is not ignored; it is scheduled for judgment.
3. Patience that is not passive: “rest” means trusting God’s timing while continuing faithful testimony.

SIXTH Seal

GOD BEGINS TO UNVEIL HIS ANSWER: THE DAY OF THE LORD IS APPROACHING; JUDGMENT IS BEING REVEALED.

What John saw...

THE LAMB

Breaks the seal



JOHN SEES

1. a great earthquake
2. the sun becomes black like sackcloth
3. the moon becomes blood-red
4. the stars fall like unripe figs shaken from a tree by a strong wind
5. the sky splits and rolls up like a scroll
6. every mountain and island is moved from its place



JOHN HEARS (THE SCENE IMPLIES)

1. The scene carries the “Day of the Lord” atmosphere: creation itself responds to God’s judgment.
2. (In the following verses, the reaction of people becomes audible: panic, hiding, and terror—“who can stand?”)

WHAT IT MEANS

Portrays the arrival of God’s decisive intervention—the ‘Day of the Lord’ imagery—signaling that final judgment is approaching and that the martyrs’ deaths will be vindicated.



WHAT IT PRODUCES IN BELIEVERS

1. Confidence in vindication: believers learn that God will publicly answer injustice.
2. Holy fear (reverence): the Day of the Lord is not a metaphor for believers; it is a call to worship and seriousness.
3. Hope under pressure: suffering is not final; God will intervene.

INTERLUDE

THE SEALING OF GOD'S PEOPLE:

What John saw...

JOHN SEES

1. Four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds so that no wind blows on land, sea, or trees (a picture of judgment restrained).
2. Another angel ascending from the east with the seal of the living God, crying out loudly:

A great multitude that no one can number, from every nation, tribe, people, and language, standing before the throne and the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches, worshiping.



JOHN HEARS

John hears the number of those sealed: 144,000, sealed from the tribes of Israel (12,000 from each listed tribe).

WHAT IT MEANS

Revelation 7 is the pastoral interlude that answers the terror of Seal 6: 'Who can stand?' Answer: those whom God seals—His servants preserved through tribulation and brought to salvation and worship.

The sealing of the 144,000 of Israel”



WHAT IT PRODUCES IN BELIEVERS

1. Assurance: believers learn that God's judgment does not erase God's people; it distinguishes them as His.
2. Identity: "servants of God" is the central identity—not victims, not statistics, not forgotten.
3. Worship under pressure: the vision forms worshipers who can praise in tribulation because the end is certain.

SEALING IS OWNERSHIP, IDENTIFICATION, PROTECTION, AND PRESERVATION—A MARK THAT THESE BELONG TO GOD.

SEVENTH Seal

SILENCE IN HEAVEN (REVELATION 8:1)

What John saw...

THE LAMB

Breaks the seal



JOHN SEES

There is silence in heaven for about half an hour.

What is striking about the scene:

Heaven, which has been filled with worship, proclamation, and activity, becomes quiet—a deliberate pause.



JOHN HEARS

SILENCE

WHAT IT MEANS

Seal 7 signals the scroll is now fully opened and introduces the next phase of judgment, marked by a dramatic, reverent silence before what follows.



WHAT IT PRODUCES IN BELIEVERS

1. Reverence: believers learn to approach God's judgment with seriousness, not spectacle.
2. Confidence that prayers matter: the silence teaches that heaven attends to the cries of the saints—God hears.
3. Patience and trust: the pause models waiting under God's timing, not forcing outcomes.