



BIG idea

Revelation is meant to encourage readers to stay faithful to Jesus. **Text:** Revelation 1:1-3

The Setting Of Revelation:

• Who? When? Why? Where? What?

- ◆ John - on Patmos, a brother, a fellow sufferer. - 1:9-10; 2:7-11
- ◆ Probably after Nero persecutions, but around the time of Domitian persecutions, AD 90's?
- ◆ To encourage his readers to understand the way to God and remain faithful to that way - to follow the Lamb as the way to overcome evil in this world.

1 Apocalypse

☞ 1:1 - "The Revelation of Jesus Christ..." (Revelation = Apocalypse/uncover)

- What is apocalyptic literature?
- Why did John use this genre of writing?

2 Letter

☞ 1:4 - "To the seven churches in the province of Asia."

- This writing is not just apocalyptic literature though. It's also a letter to a group of seven churches with whom John had some sort of relationship.

3 Prophecy

☞ 1:3 - "Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy..."

• What is prophetic literature?

- ◆ "Not speculative foresight, but theological insight" (Michael Gorman. Reading Revelation Responsibly. Loc. 2070).

4 Warning, Encouragement, Hope

☞ 1:4-8 - "Grace and peace to you...to him who loves us...Look, he is coming..."

- Alpha and Omega - 1:8; 21:6; 22:13

- Jesus the Lamb - Ch. 5

FOR Further Reflection

1. When you think of the book of Revelation, what words, images or feelings come to mind for you? Why?
2. If you've ever tried reading Revelation, what was it like for you?
3. Why do you think many people get fascinated with predicting the return of Jesus?
4. How does reading Revelation with the understanding that it is a letter, that it is prophecy, that it is imagery meant to encourage and inspire, help you read it well. How does knowing this change the way you might read it?
5. John writes a lot about "the Lamb" in his revelation, (29x's). Read chapter 6 out loud, and list what you discover about Him. What did you learn?
6. John is interested in ensuring his readers understand Christology. Many of John's images related to Christ are taken from the OT. For example, read Daniel 7:10-14 and compare these with Revelation 1:12-18. What similarities do you discover?
7. Revelation was written to encourage early Christians to remain faithful to Jesus and resist worshiping systems/leaders (political, economic, cultural) that demand our allegiance and worship. How is this still relevant for us today?

Give it a try! choose one of the following

1. Watch the following two overviews of the book of Revelation. The Bible Project: Revelation. (<https://thebibleproject.com/explore/revelation/>)
2. Read Daniel 7-12 and Mark 13 to compare these Apocalyptic writings and compare them to Revelation.



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