

# Revelation 1

## *A Blessed Book*

1. A book of symbols and drama (Rev. 1:1-2)
2. A promise of blessings and hope (Rev. 1:3)
3. A message from God (Rev. 1:4-8)
4. A lesson in suffering and perseverance (Rev. 1:9)
5. An encouragement for the Church (Rev. 1:11)
6. A vision of Christ's glory (Rev. 1:12-18)

**Rev. 1:1** – “revelation” – *apokalupsis* – a collection of visionary dramas – an angel guide – lots of symbols (objects, colors, numbers) – God’s people are suffering – it will get worse before it gets better – but God promises relief – Old Testament background

**Rev. 1:3** – 1<sup>st</sup> of seven beatitudes (cp. Luke 11:27-28)  
God → Christ → angel → John → reader → hearer

**Rev. 1:4** – “Asia” – Asia Minor – modern Turkey  
“who is, who was, who is to come” – God the Father’s symbol name (cp. v. 8)  
“seven spirits” – the Holy Spirit’s symbol name (cp. Isa. 11:2-3; Zech. 4:2, 6)

**Rev. 1:5** – “faithful witness” – *marturia* – someone who has a testimony worth dying for

**Rev. 1:9** – “suffering, kingdom, patient endurance” – the theme of Revelation  
Patmos – an island (10 miles by 6 miles) about 50 miles from Ephesus

**Rev. 1:13-15** – “like a son of man” – refers back to Dan. 7:9-14 – the Son now reflects the imagery of “the Ancient of Days”

**Rev. 1:20** – “seven angels” – *angelos* – messenger (as with *euangelos*)

# Revelation 4-5

## *Heavenly Worship*

1. Continual worship (Rev. 4:8)
2. Submissive worship (Rev. 4:10-11)
3. Musical worship (Rev. 5:8)
4. Prayerful worship (Rev. 5:8)
5. Expressive worship (Rev. 5:12)
6. Spontaneous worship (Rev. 5:13)
7. Thoughtful worship (Rev. 5:14)

**Rev. 4:3** – “jasper” – similar to a diamond  
“carnelian” (sardius) – similar to a ruby

**Rev. 4:5** – “seven spirits” – the Holy Spirit (cp. Rev. 1:4) – reflects Isa. 11:2; Zech. 4:2, 6

**Rev. 4:6** – “sea of glass” (cp. Rev. 15:2)  
“four living creatures” – similar to the “four living beings” in Ezek. 1

**Rev. 5:1** – similar to the sealed scroll in Ezek. 2:9-10 – content revealed in Rev. 6

**Rev. 5:5** – the Lion of the tribe of Judah – reflects Gen. 49:9-10  
the Root of David – reflects Isa. 11:1

**Rev. 5:6** – seven horns: great power – seven eyes: filled with the Holy Spirit (Rev. 1:4-5)

Note the pattern for the themes of heavenly worship:

- 1) Praise to God for who he is (Rev. 4:8)
- 2) Praise to God for what he has done
  - a) He has created us (Rev. 4:11)
  - b) He has redeemed us (Rev. 5:9-10)

# Revelation 12

## *Victory over the Dragon*

1. Through the blood of the Lamb (Rev. 12:11)
2. Through a bold confession of faith (Rev. 12:11)
3. Through trusting in God alone (Rev. 12:14-16)

**Rev. 12:3** – “crowns” – *diadema* – ruling crown

**Rev. 12:5** – “rule with a rod of iron” – messianic (see Psa. 2:9; Rev. 2:26-27)

**Rev. 12:9** – Satan (Hebrew) and Devil (Greek) – an adversary who accuses and slanders  
(cp. Job 1:9-11; 2:4-5; Zech. 3:1-3; Rom. 8:31-34)

**Rev. 12:11** – A bold witness during persecution is another loss for the Devil

**Rev. 12:14-16** – flee to the wilderness – imagery from Gen. 21:14-19; Exod. 19:4

**Rev. 12:14** – three parallel phrases that each add up to 3½ years:

- 1) “Time, times, and half a time” (Rev. 12:14)
- 2) “1,260 days” (Rev. 11:3; 12:6)
- 3) “42 months” (Rev. 11:2)

Some noteworthy 3½ year periods in Biblical history:

- 1) The prophet Elijah hid from King Ahab and stopped the rain for 3½ years (Jas. 5:17)
- 2) Antiochus Epiphanes of Syria occupied and desecrated Jerusalem (June 168 – Dec. 165 BC)
- 3) The Roman army besieged Jerusalem before its fall (Feb. 67 – Aug. 70 AD)
- 4) Christ’s ministry from his baptism to his death

Also note: Gen. 3:15; Rom. 16:20

# Revelation 14

## *The Eternal Gospel*

1. An eternal gospel (Rev. 14:6)
2. A universal gospel (Rev. 14:6)
3. A challenging gospel (Rev. 14:7-11)
4. A blessed gospel (Rev. 14:7-11)

**Rev. 14:1** – “Mount Zion” – the mountain of Jerusalem

The “144,000” – introduced in Rev. 7 – stood on earth, awaiting the release of tribulations – contrasted with “the great multitude” standing in heaven after tribulation  
“144,000” is 12 times 12 (God’s people) times 10 times 10 times 10 (a full amount)  
Perhaps this is all the saints, as they serve the Lord on earth

**Rev. 14:4** – sexual purity symbolizes spiritual purity (2 Cor. 11:2; Rev. 2:20-22; 14:8)

**Rev. 14:9** – “mark on forehead or hand” (see Deut. 6:8)

**Rev. 14:13** – 2<sup>nd</sup> of 7 beatitudes in the book of Revelation

**Rev. 14:20** – “as high as the horses’ bridles” – about 3 feet deep

**Rev. 14:20** – “1,600 stadia” – about 180 miles

“1,600” is 4 times 4 (activities on earth) times 10 times 10 (a full amount)  
God’s **full** wrath for **all** the wicked on earth

# Revelation 19

## *The Return of Christ*

1. As joyous as . . .
  - a. A loud celebration (Rev. 19:1-5)
  - b. A beautiful wedding (Rev. 19:6-8)
  - c. A great banquet (Rev. 19:9)
2. As terrifying as . . .
  - a. Being slaughtered by a sword (Rev. 19:11-12, 15)
  - b. Being stomped like grapes (Rev. 19:13, 15)
  - c. Being eaten by birds (Rev. 19:17, 21)

**Rev. 19:1** – “hallelujah” – Hebrew for “praise the Lord”

**Rev. 19:2** – “true and just are his judgments” (cp. Rom. 1:18-20)

**Rev. 19:5** – “rule with an iron scepter” – messianic (see Psa. 2:9; Rev. 2:26-27)

**Rev. 19:7** – the church is the “bride of Christ” (Eph. 5:22-33)

**Rev. 19:9** – the 4<sup>th</sup> of 7 beatitudes in the book of Revelation  
For those who respond to God’s invitation and respond on his terms (Matt. 22:1-14)

**Rev. 19:10** – only worship the Creator, not his creatures (Rom. 1:25)

**Rev. 19:12** – “crowns” – *diadema* – ruling crown

**Rev. 19:13** – “a robe dipped in blood” (cp. Isa. 63:1-6; Rev. 14:19-20)

**Rev. 19:15** – “rule with an iron scepter” – messianic phrase from Psa. 2:9  
“treads the winepress” – reflects Isa. 63:1-6; Rev. 14:19-20

# Revelation 21

## *The Blessings of Heaven*

1. No more sea (Rev. 21:1)
2. No more tears (Rev. 21:4)
3. No more death (Rev. 21:4)
4. No more pain (Rev. 21:4)
5. No more sin (Rev. 21:8, 27)
6. No more temple (Rev. 21:22)
7. No more sun (Rev. 21:23)
8. No more fear (Rev. 21:25)
9. No more night (Rev. 21:25)
10. No more curse (Rev. 22:3)

**Rev. 21:8** – in the lake of fire

“vile” – does things detestable, gross, abominable

“sexually immoral” – *porneia* – all sexual activity not authorized by God (Heb. 13:4)  
anything violating the sexual code of Moses (Lev. 18:6-23; Acts 15:29)

includes incest (1 Cor. 5:1), prostitution (1 Cor. 6:13-18), premarital sex (1 Cor. 7:2)

“practice magic arts” – *pharmakeia* – occultic practices, especially with the use of drugs

**Rev. 21:16** – “12,000 stadia” – 12 (God’s people) \* 10 \* 10 \* 10 (the full amount)

**Rev. 21:17** – “144 cubits” – 12 \* 12 (God’s people)

# Revelation 22

## *The End*

### 1. The end of the visions

- a. Vision of the Seven Seals (Rev. 4-7)
  - 1) Ends with “the great day of wrath” (Rev. 6:17)
  - 2) And a vision of heaven (Rev. 7:14-17)
- b. Vision of the Seven Trumpets (Rev. 8-11)
  - 1) Ends with “the time for the dead to be judged” (Rev. 11:18)
  - 2) And for “God’s bond-servants to be rewarded” (Rev. 11:18)
- c. Vision of the Dragon and the Beasts (Rev. 12-14)
  - 1) Ends with the “harvest” of the saints (Rev. 14:14-15)
  - 2) And the crushing of the “grapes of wrath” (Rev. 14:18-19)
- d. Vision of the Seven Bowls (Rev. 15-16)
  - 1) Ends with a blessing for the saints (Rev. 16:15)
  - 2) And the destruction of the earth with “it is done!” (Rev. 16:17-21)
- e. Vision of the Woman Babylon (Rev. 17-19)
  - 1) Ends with the “marriage supper” for the saints (Rev. 19:7-9)
  - 2) And the slaughter of the wicked by Christ (Rev. 19:11-19)
- f. Vision of the Millennium (Rev. 20-21)
  - 1) Ends with the Devil cast into the lake of fire (Rev. 20:10) and the Great White Throne judgment (Rev. 20:11-15)
  - 2) And a view of heaven (Rev. 21)

### 2. The end of Revelation

**Rev. 22:7** – the 6<sup>th</sup> of Seven Beatitudes in the book of Revelation

Similar to the 1<sup>st</sup> beatitude in Rev. 1:3 – cp. Luke 11:27-28; Rev. 22:7

**Rev. 22:13** – “alpha and omega, first and last, beginning and end”

A key theme: our God is the eternal God (Rev. 1:8, 17-18; 21:6; 22:13)

**Rev. 22:14** – the 7<sup>th</sup> of Seven Beatitudes in the book of Revelation

The Greek verb tense suggests a daily “washing” – our daily pursuit of a holy lifestyle

**Rev. 22:18-19** – compare to Deut. 4:2

**Rev. 22:20** – “come Lord Jesus” –Aramaic *maranatha* – “come Lord” (1 Cor. 16:22)