



# UNVEILED!

ἀποκάλυψις

The Revelation of  
Jesus Christ

Blessed is the one who reads the  
words of this prophecy and  
blessed are those who hear it  
and hold on to the things  
written in it,

**because the time is near.**

(Revelation 1:3)

# INTRODUCTION



The Book of Revelation has often intimidated Christians because of its vivid symbolism, its apocalyptic imagery, and its portrayal of conflict between Christ and the powers of darkness. Yet Revelation was not given to obscure Christ, but to unveil Him and His “*authority over heaven and earth.*” (cf. Matthew 28:18) In the original Greek text, the very first word of the book, ἀποκάλυψις (apokalypsis), means 'unveiling' or 'revelation.' Through this final book of Scripture, Jesus reveals His continuing reign, His care for His Church, and His ultimate victory over sin, death, and Satan.

The darkness often associated with Revelation does not come from God’s Word itself, but from human misunderstanding. Scripture consistently testifies that God’s Word gives light, wisdom, and comfort to His people. Revelation therefore is not intended to frighten believers away, but to strengthen their confidence in Christ amid suffering and opposition.

## Introductory Information

**Authorship:** The Apostle John identifies himself repeatedly throughout the book. The early Church consistently recognized him as the author, and the themes and language closely resemble those found in the three Epistles of John.

**Historical Context:** Revelation was written during a period of increasing persecution against Christians within the Roman Empire. John himself was exiled to the island of Patmos because of his testimony concerning Jesus Christ.

**Date of Writing:** Two primary dates are debated: an earlier date during the reign of Nero (64–65 A.D.) and a later date during the reign of Domitian (95–96 A.D.). Many Lutheran interpreters favor the earlier date since there is no reference to the destruction of Jerusalem, which occurred in 70 AD. In this view, the book serves as an encouragement in advance to Christians.

**Apocalyptic Literature:** Revelation communicates through visions, symbols, numbers, and vivid imagery. These symbols are not meant to obscure the message, but to communicate spiritual realities vividly and memorably.

## Methods of Interpretation

Method	Description
Preterist	Views Revelation as fulfilled primarily during the first century AD or at the destruction of Jerusalem.
Futurist	Interprets most of Revelation as events still future near the end of the world.
Historical	Understands Revelation as a symbolic panorama of Church history.
Idealist	Sees Revelation primarily as symbolic depictions of spiritual conflict.

## Numbers and Symbols

**Two:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Three:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Four:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Seven:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Ten:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Twelve:** \_\_\_\_\_

**42:** \_\_\_\_\_

**1,260:** \_\_\_\_\_

**144,000:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Lights/Lamps:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Stars:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Beasts:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Sea:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Sevens

In Revelation, the structure of the book is built heavily around repeated cycles of seven. These are the major “sevens” of Revelation:

Letters to the Seven Churches (Revelation 2–3)

The Seven Seals (Revelation 6–8)

The Seven Trumpets (Revelation 8–11)

The Seven Visions (Revelation 12–14)

The Seven Bowls of Wrath (Revelation 15–16)

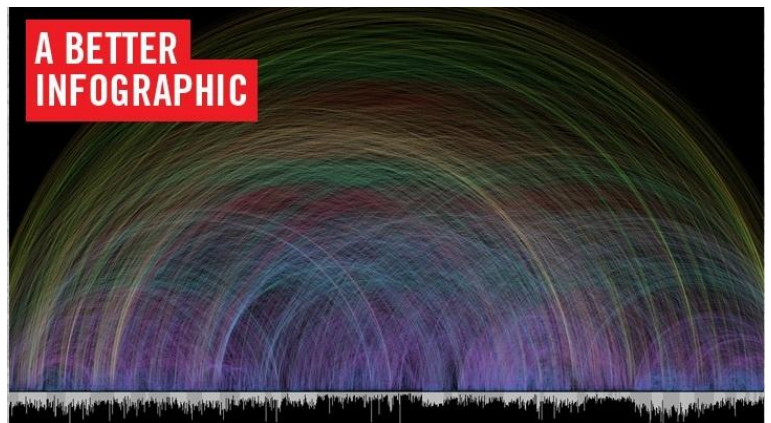
The Seven Beatitudes (1:3; 14:13; 16:15; 19:9; 20:6; 22:7; 22:14)

## Old Testament Connection

One of the greatest mistakes readers make when approaching the Book of Revelation is to treat it as though it were written in isolation from the rest of Scripture. In reality, Revelation is saturated with the language, imagery, themes, and symbolism of the Old Testament. John does not invent a new theological system or create an entirely new symbolic world. Rather, he gathers together the prophetic imagery of the Old Testament and, under divine inspiration, unveils its fulfillment in Jesus Christ and His ongoing reign over His Church.

It has often been observed that Revelation contains more Old Testament allusions than any other New Testament book. While Revelation rarely quotes the Old Testament directly

with formulas such as “as it is written,” nearly every chapter echoes the Law, the Prophets, and the Psalms. The beasts of Revelation arise out of Daniel’s visions. The plagues poured out upon the earth recall the plagues of Egypt from Exodus. The imagery of lampstands, thrones, temples, incense, cherubim, and priestly garments draws heavily from Ezekiel,



The [chart above](#) represents the 63,779 cross-references found in the Bible. A single arc depicts each cross-reference.

Isaiah, Zechariah, and the tabernacle worship of the Old Testament. Even the final vision of the New Jerusalem is built upon imagery first seen in Eden, in the prophets, and in the temple visions of Ezekiel.

This means that Revelation cannot properly be understood apart from the Old Testament. The symbolism is not arbitrary. God had already been teaching His people the meaning of these images for centuries. When John speaks of beasts, horns, lampstands, scrolls, trumpets, bowls, or the sea, he expects the reader to recognize the biblical patterns already established in earlier revelation. Revelation is therefore less like a puzzle requiring modern speculation and more like the grand culmination of themes God had been unfolding throughout the entirety of Scripture.

In many ways, Revelation serves as the divinely inspired conclusion to the whole biblical narrative. Genesis begins with creation, paradise, and the entrance of sin; Revelation ends with the restoration of creation, the defeat of Satan, and the eternal dwelling of God with His redeemed people. The Old Testament anticipates; Revelation unveils. The prophets spoke in shadows and promises; Revelation draws back the curtain to show their fulfillment in the crucified, risen, ascended, and reigning Christ.

## **Theme & Outline**

### **“UNVEILED!”**

- I. "The Things Which You Have Seen" (Chapter 1)
- II. "The Things Which Are" (Chapters 2–3)
- III. "The Things Which Will Take Place" (Chapters 4–22)
  - A. The Throne Room of Heaven
  - B. The Seven Seals
  - C. The Seven Trumpets
  - D. The Seven Visions
  - E. The Seven Bowls
  - F. Christ's Victory Over Antichrist
  - G. Christ's Victory Over Satan
  - H. Concluding Encouragement and Prayer

This theme has a double meaning. Christ is unveiling His knowledge of and His authority over the events this world. He is also unveiling the ultimate victory of His Bride, the Church.