



literary flow

Summary (Time/People/Purpose) | Themes | Outline

While exiled to the island of Patmos, the apostle John was met by Jesus in a magnificent series of visions and instructed to write to the churches of Asian Minor. The visions included scenes of worship around the heavenly throne, symbols of wrath and salvation, descriptions of God’s enemies (Satan, beasts, Babylon) and their doom, and a climatic preview of the New Heavens and Earth won by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Together these visions provided a compelling reason for John’s churches to maintain hope in God’s promise of total restoration.

Themes	Key [Root] Words
Apocalypse: Title of John’s work (typically translated “Revelation”), and style of literature that tends toward symbolism, dualism, and angelic characters	angel/-s/-ic (75x) heaven/ -s (49x)
Beast: Key opponent of God and pawn of Satan who will exert power over the economy, miraculous strength, and demand worship from people	Lamb (32x) Lord/ ‘s/ -s (25x)
Book of Life: List of names kept by God of those who love, serve, follow Him.	<i>n.v.</i> worship (23x)
Lake of Fire: Eternal dwelling for those who never repented and followed God	blood (19x)
Millennium: 1000 year reign of Jesus on earth while Satan is bound	overcome (14x)

Prologue: Exiled John meets glorious Jesus and receives commission (1:1-20)

Churches Addressed	Heavenly Throne	Seals and Trumpets	Bowls and Judgment	New Creation
Ephesus (2:1-7)	John Taken Up (4:1-4)	First Six Seals (6)	Birth of Christ (12)	New Heavens and Earth (21:1-9)
Smyrna (2:8-11)	Eternal Praise (4:5-11)	144,000+ Sealed and Singing (7)	Rise of Beasts (13)	New Jerusalem (21:10-27)
Pergamum (2:12-17)	Locked Book and Worthy Lamb (5)	Seventh Seal: Six Trumpets (8-9)	Visions of Worship and Reaping (14)	Eternal Life (22:1-9)
Thyatira (2:18-29)		John Eats book (10)	Bowls of Wrath (15-16)	
Sardis (3:1-6)		Two Witnesses and Seventh Trumpet (11)	Babylon’s Plight (17-19:6)	
Philadelphia (3:7-13)			Marriage Feast (19:7-10)	
Laodicea (3:14-22)			Jesus’ Return and Various Judgments (19:11-20:15)	

Epilogue: John receives final commission from glorious Jesus and affirmation of His imminent return (22:10-21).



redemptive threads

Prophecy | Worship | Jesus

Revelation is a book of **prophecy** passed from God to an angel to John (1:3). The **prophecy** was intended both to inform and to inspire local churches. As cryptic as some of the visions appear,

they nonetheless maintain God’s justice over evil (12-20), His reward to saints persevering in trials (12:11), and the certain renewal of all creation (21-22). Neither Babylon nor Rome, nor individual leaders like Nero and Domitian could stop the church’s witness to Jesus. Future political powers will fail, as well. It is important to remember that **prophecy** is not simply about prediction. It is less important to figure which modern politician is a beast, than to answer all forms of corruption with the prayer: *Come, Lord Jesus. Come.*

John’s foray into the throne room of heaven is jaw-dropping. He witnesses angels, twenty-four elders, and the four enigmatic living creatures **worship** God’s holiness (4:8) and worthiness (4:11). This episode becomes a refrain throughout Revelation, where **worship** is a steady theme. God’s presence is paralyzing (1:17). His salvation elicits songs from men and angels (7:10-12). The seventh trumpet blast ignites **worship** (11:15-18). God’s enemies likewise receive **worship** (13:12), but theirs is false and condemned (14:9-10). Nonetheless, the **worship** rivalry in Revelation underscores the timeless worship crisis: if men and women are not singing praise to God, they will sing it to something less. God wants all **worship** for Himself. It is due Him.

The descriptions of Jesus in Revelation transcend those offered by the gospel writers. In this conclusive book of Scripture, the risen **Jesus** receives a glorious makeover. From the opening picture—fiery, golden, armored (1:12-16)—to the final comment—“I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star” (22:16)—images of **Jesus** pervade the book. He is the firstborn from the dead (1:18), the worthy Lamb (5:12), the King of Kings (19:16), and the Alpha and Omega (22:13). He shares a throne with His Father (3:21). And He will return (22:20).

Revelation and Daniel	Time, Time, and Half a Time (Rev. 11:2; 12:14 cf. Dan. 7:25; 12:7); Beasts (Rev. 13 cf. Dan. 7:1-8); Son of Man (Rev. 1:13; 14:14 cf. Dan 7:13-14)
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practical application

The Worshipping Church:

- The Risen Jesus alleviates our _____: *I am making all things new (22:5).*
- The Risen Jesus elevates our _____: *Worthy is the Lamb (5:12).*

Revelation Reading Challenge		S	M	T	W	R	F	S
Immersion	Revelation 1-22							
Fluency	Revelation 1-5, 7, 12-17, 19-22							
Essential	Revelation 1-5; 21-22							