

1. Week 1-4 Review

Revelation: A vision of God's future Kingdom coming on earth as it is in heaven, revealed to John, to form, encourage, and equip the church to be a faithful witness and light in the world - according to the ways of the slain/risen Lamb. Marked by the way of the Lamb, it is in stark contrast to the way of 'Babylon' - which the church is to be a faithful witness to ("in, but not of").

2. Revelation 17-19 - The Fall of Babylon

The Whore on the Beast Funeral for Babylon Wedding for the Lamb & his bride

3. Revelation 19-20 - The Final Battle

The Final (not-so) Battle The Rider & the Blood The Thousand Years Satan's Doom Final Judgment

4. Revelation 21-22 The Marriage of Heaven & Earth

Place People Presence

Outline of Revelation:

1-3 - Open & letters to churches 4-5 - throne room of God 6-16 - 3 cycles of judgment/interludes 17-20 - Fall of Babylon & final battle 21-22 - New Heavens/Earth/Jerusalem

References:

Isaiah 13, 23, 34, 47, Jeremiah 50-51, Ezekiel 26-27 John 17

References:

Isaiah 11:4, 49:2 Isaiah 63, 65 Daniel 7

References:

Genesis 1-2, Isaiah 2, 25:6-10, 54, 60:11-14 65:17-25, Ezekiel 37, 47 Zephaniah 3

5. Concluding Reflections

Worship Mission Prophecy Hope "This is the message of Revelation: the loving, liberating, life-giving Lamb who is Lord invites any and all to become part of his community of disciples, his faithful bride, and thus enter into God's new creation. Revelation is, at its core, an evangelical book, a word of good news, an invitation to follow the Lamb into the new creation. ... This is not an invitation to a superficial private spirituality but to a deeply rooted public discipleship of faithfulness, hope, and love in the middle of a sometimes hostile world that follows after other lords and gods." (p. 168)

Michael J. Gorman, Reading Revelation Responsibly

1 PETER 1: 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead 4 and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, 5 who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, 7 so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.



Books for further reading...

Revelation for the Rest of Us, Scot McKnight & Cody Matchett

Probably the most accessible, 'easiest' read. Thematic approach. Helpful appendices about hot button topics. Warning: it's also the most politically blunt and pointed. Pulls no punches.

Reading Revelation Responsibly, Michael J. Gorman

If I could recommend one book, this would be it. It's a bit of a step up from McKnight as far as reading difficulty, but it is worth the effort. Thematic approach. Critical of our brand of "civil religion".

The Theology of the Book of Revelation, Richard Bauckham

Probably the most important book on Revelation written in the last 100 years. Short, strictly biblical/theological, and probably the most demanding as a reader. Thematic approach. The best book out there on Revelation (IMO).

Revelation & the End of All Things, Craig R. Koester

If you want a 'mini-commentary' that is *excellent* in what it covers, this is it. Chapter by chapter (so not thematic), but not verse by verse. Koester walks you through the big movements of what's happening and why. If you want a helpful resource to follow the story / flow of Revelation, this is my recommendation.

All Things New, Brian J. Tabb

Revelation from the perspective of the 'capstone' or fulfillment of the the Old (and New) Testament. A bit dry, technical, and difficult, but robust biblically. Thematic.

Reversed Thunder, Eugene Peterson

Note: I have not read this, but I've heard it's very good. Creative, more pastoral and poetic than technical and/or theological. Reflective. I imagine it's the easiest read on this list. From the author of The Message bible translation.

Commentaries for further reading...

Revelation: Interpretation series, M. Eugene Boring

In spite of the author's name, it is anything buy boring. An excellent mid-level commentary from a world class biblical scholar. Note: it's the free book of the month on Logos bible software right now!

Revelation: NIV Application series. Craig Keener

Excellent, readable, accessible, helpful, applicable (it's in the name of the series!)

Revelation: A Shorter Commentary, Greg K. Beale

A shortened version of his massive technical commentary. Most depth.