



WHAT KIND OF BOOK IS THIS?

Big Idea: Revelation is often seen as scary and confusing, thus is often ignored. However, Revelation is full of relevant treasures for us as we begin to read it as it was meant to be read. How it is meant to be read is wrapped up in the kind of literature that it contains. As we understand the literature, we can understand its message more clearly and easily.

Revelation is ...

Apocalyptic literature (1:1)

A revelation of transcendent realities often communicated by other-worldly beings with a great amount of symbolic language to comfort and exhort an oppressed people.

What is the “code-key”? The Old Testament

Prophecy (1:3; 22:7, 10, 18)

Foretelling—having to do with prediction — 17%

Forthtelling—having to do with something other than prediction — 83%

Letter (1:4-8; 22:21; see also chapters 2-3)

Before the message will make sense to us, it must first make sense to its original audience.

The epistolary greeting provides a simple introduction to the major themes to be addressed.

- God Sovereign reign
- Redemption through Christ
- The right object of worship
- Judgment for the unrighteous
- Change of our identity

Questions For Conversation:

1. What have been your usual feelings about the book of Revelation?
2. Why is it important to understand the type of literature when studying any Biblical book or passage? How might misunderstanding the type of literature lead you to an inaccurate interpretation of the meaning of the book/passage?
3. Apocalyptic literature is meant not just to teach content, but to evoke emotion. What kinds of emotions might the dynamic pictures of monsters, chaos, angels, and the beauty of heaven be meant to evoke within us?
4. The symbolism of Revelation is firmly rooted in the Old Testament. How well do you know your Old Testament? How does your level of familiarity with the Old Testament limit or expand your ability to understand Revelation?
5. The nature of prophecy is that it calls us to repentance and obedience. How does understanding that this call to repentance and obedience is primary to Revelation help you to understand how to read it?
6. The principle call for repentance in Revelation is a call to Christians to overcome the seductive influence of idolatry in its many forms, including political allegiance, vocational compromise, economic and moral seduction, and religious assimilation. How do you see the need today for the church to repent of these idolatrous influences? What area do you most need to repent of?
7. The nature of Revelation as Letter speaks of the historicity of the events of the text. How does this historicity impact how we are to read this book? Why does it matter that there were seven historical churches to which the letter of Revelation was addressed?
8. In what way are the five major themes of Revelation still needed messages for the twenty-first century church? Which message is it that you most need to have affirmed for yourself?

Points of Application:

- Reading Revelation must take into consideration to type of literature.
- We should be warned against sensationalized futuristic interpretation of Revelation in favor of an interpretation that applies to believers for all time.
- We should check our own lives of obedience against the message of Revelation and its call for proper lives of worship and witness.

Follow-up Reading:

Day	Revelation Reading	OT Reading
Monday	Revelation 1:1	Daniel 7
Tuesday	Revelation 1:2-3	Daniel 12
Wednesday	Revelation 1:4-5a	Isaiah 53
Thursday	Revelation 1:5b-6	Exodus 19:16
Friday	Revelation 1:7	Zechariah 12:10
Saturday	Revelation 1:8	Exodus 3:14