

Steve Whitacre
SESSION 1 | The Big Picture

INTRODUCTION

Revelation rouses the imagination to inform Christians about ultimate reality and to strengthen Christians in worship, obedience, and hope.

1. Revelation 1: The Big Picture
2. Revelation 2–3: Dear Church...
3. Revelation 4–8: The Lion Who is the Lamb Who is the Lord of History
4. Revelation 8–18: A Peek Behind the Curtain
5. Revelation 19–22: The End and Everything After

Recommended Reading

Reading Revelation Responsibly by Michael Gorman (Wipf and Stock Publishers)

I. What Is Revelation?

“The book of Revelation is unique in appealing primarily to our *imagination*—not, however, a freewheeling imagination, but a disciplined imagination. This book contains a series of word pictures, as though a number of slides were being shown upon a great screen. As we watch we allow ourselves to be carried along by impressions created by these pictures. Many of the details of the pictures are intended to contribute to the total impression, and are not to be isolated and interpreted with wooden literalism.” Bruce Metzger, *Breaking the Code*, 11.

- Apocalypse 1:1
- Prophecy 1:3
- Epistle 1:4, 11

II. Who Is Revelation About?

Revelation calls “Jesus followers to emulate their Lord's defiant belief that he, and not any human power, was master and Lord of human history.” Brian Blount, *Revelation: A Commentary*, x.

III. What Is Revelation About?

IV. What Does Revelation Get Done?

- Worship
- Obedience
- Hope

V. What Is Revelation?

(Adapted from Dennis Johnson, *The Triumph of the Lamb*, 22–23)

1. Revelation is given to reveal.
 2. Revelation is a book to be seen, full of symbols in motion.
 3. Revelation makes sense only in light of the Old Testament.
 4. Numbers count in Revelation.
 5. Revelation is for the church under attack.
 6. Revelation concerns “what must soon take place.”
 7. The victory belongs to God and to his Christ.
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