

Steve Whitacre

## SESSION 5 | The End And Everything After

### 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**

“The record of John’s experience introduces two images that dominate the rest of the book: the throne of God and the Lamb of God. The word “throne” appears 43 times from chapter 4 until the end of the book (19 times in chapters 4 and 5 alone), and the word “Lamb” (referring to Christ) 28—7x4—times. Together these images constitute the hermeneutical, or interpretive, key to the entire book. They reveal in pictures the essential theology of the book of Revelation: God the creator reigns and is worthy of our complete devotion, and Jesus the faithful, slaughtered Lamb of God reigns with God, equally worthy of our complete devotion.” Michael Gorman, *Reading Revelation Responsibly*, 103.

### I. THE FALL OF BABYLON (18:1–24) and THE WEDDING FEAST OF THE LAMB (19:1–10)

### II. THE RIDER ON THE WHITE HORSE (19:11–21)

“The language and images of death and destruction symbolize—in comprehensible, if disturbing idiom—the *universality* and *finality* of God’s ultimate eradication of evil *rather than the means by which God brings about that eradication*.” Michael Gorman, *Reading Revelation Responsibly*, 152.

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### III. THE FIRST VICTORY AND THE FINAL VICTORY (20:1-15)

- Premillennial
- Postmillennial
- Amillennial

### IV. THE NEW HEAVENS AND THE NEW EARTH (21:1-5)

#### The Holy City, the New Jerusalem

#### Marked by Absence

“This series of negations mans the *removal of all that prevents human flourishing in community before God* and the *presence of all that permits and promotes that flourishing.*” Michael Gorman, *Reading Revelation Responsibly*, 165.

#### Marked by Presence

“Eschatological life is marked by God’s perpetual perceptible presence—a state of permanent incarnation, so to speak. This is, in fact, the most significant characteristic of the New Jerusalem: divine presence in all its fullness and glory.” Michael Gorman, *Reading Revelation Responsibly*, 165.

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**V. REVELATION: A BOOK FOR EVERY CHRISTIAN EVERY DAY**

- Remember where we live.
  - Remember when we live.
  - Remember who we are.
  - Remember whose we are.
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