

REVELATION

A SIX WEEK SEMINAR



Interpretive Principles

- Language and Literature
 - Structure and Sequence
 - Time and Audience
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1:1-8 PROLOGUE

- Apocalypse
 - Prophecy
 - Epistle
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NUMBERS

- "3" Divine Trinity (father, son, spirit)
 - "4" Totality (four directions, etc.)
 - "7" The Complete Number (creation)
 - "12" God's People (tribes, apostles)
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1:9-20 VISION OF CHRIST

- The Tribulation
 - The Kingdom
 - The Patient Endurance
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Verses 12-20

- He is in the midst of seven golden lampstands
 - He has the keys of death and Hades (more on that later)
 - He gives us an interpretive key to the book
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Verse 20 Mysterion

- Seven stars = seven angels
 - Seven lampstands = seven churches
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CH 2-3 LETTERS TO THE SEVEN CHURCHES

- Opens with a description of Jesus
 - What he knows about each church
 - Jesus offers a correction to all but 2 “faithful”
 - Jesus offers a challenge
 - A consequence is given
 - Each church receives a promise
 - Each promise finds fulfillment
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Two Primary Issues

- External Persecution
- Cultural Seduction



Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.

Revelation 3:20 (ESV)

Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones were twenty-four elders, clothed in white garments, with golden crowns on their heads.

Revelation 4:1 (ESV)

4:1-11 WORSHIP

- The “After this”
 - The statement by the angel
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5 Groups Worshipping God

1. The four living creature v.8
 2. The 24 Elders v11 (and where we get the line from the hymn Holy Holy Holy)
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5:1-14 THE SCROLL AND THE LAMB

- Scroll to mean the decrees of God, or the OT
 - The Lion of Judah is worthy. A strong, springing, conquering image
 - We don't see a lion, We see a lamb.
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5 Groups Worshipping God

1. The four living creatures v.8
 2. The 24 elders v11 (and where we get the line from the hymn Holy Holy Holy)
 3. The four creatures join with the 24 Elders
 4. The creatures and elders are joined with thousands of angels
 5. The final group is every creature
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6:1-4 FIRST FOUR SEALS

1. **The white horse**- conquering army
 2. **The red horse**- the war and bloodshed that follows
 3. **The black horse**- economic collapse and injustice
 4. **The pale horse**- death that comes from the plague and pestilence after the war
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6:9-11 THE FIFTH SEAL

- We see under the alter the souls of those who have been killed
 - We know from 8:3 that this alter is in Heaven
 - They are killed for the word of God and for the witness
 - They ask “how long?”
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6:12-17 THE SIXTH SEAL

- This seal looks back to earth and we have all of these natural disasters occurring
 - They ask “who can stand?”
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7:1-8 INTERLUDE SCENE ONE

- “Who can stand?”



7:1-8 INTERLUDE SCENE ONE

- “Who can stand?”
 - “the servants of God who are sealed”
 - OT idea of phylacteries (Deuteronomy 6:8)
 - The 144,000 is a 12 x 12,000
 - This list is unique
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Verse 13 WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE?

- They are the ones who have come out of the great tribulation
 - John was a partner in the tribulation 1:9
 - Church in Smyrna was in and would face tribulation
 - Church in Thyatira
 - The 5th and final mention of tribulation in Revelation
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We can see these 2 scenes in several possible ways

1. Scene 1 is the OT people of God and Scene 2 is the NT people of God
 2. Scene 1 and Scene 2 repeat the same thing, just different emphasis
 3. Scene 1 is the people of God on earth during the tribulation and scene 2 are those in heaven during the tribulation. The enduring church and the conquering church.
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Verses 15-17

- Compare with Revelation 21:1-4



8:1-5 The Seventh Seal & The Golden Sensor

We have silence in heaven for a half-hour, as if to contemplate, rest, and reset. A call back to the seventh day of creation when God rested.

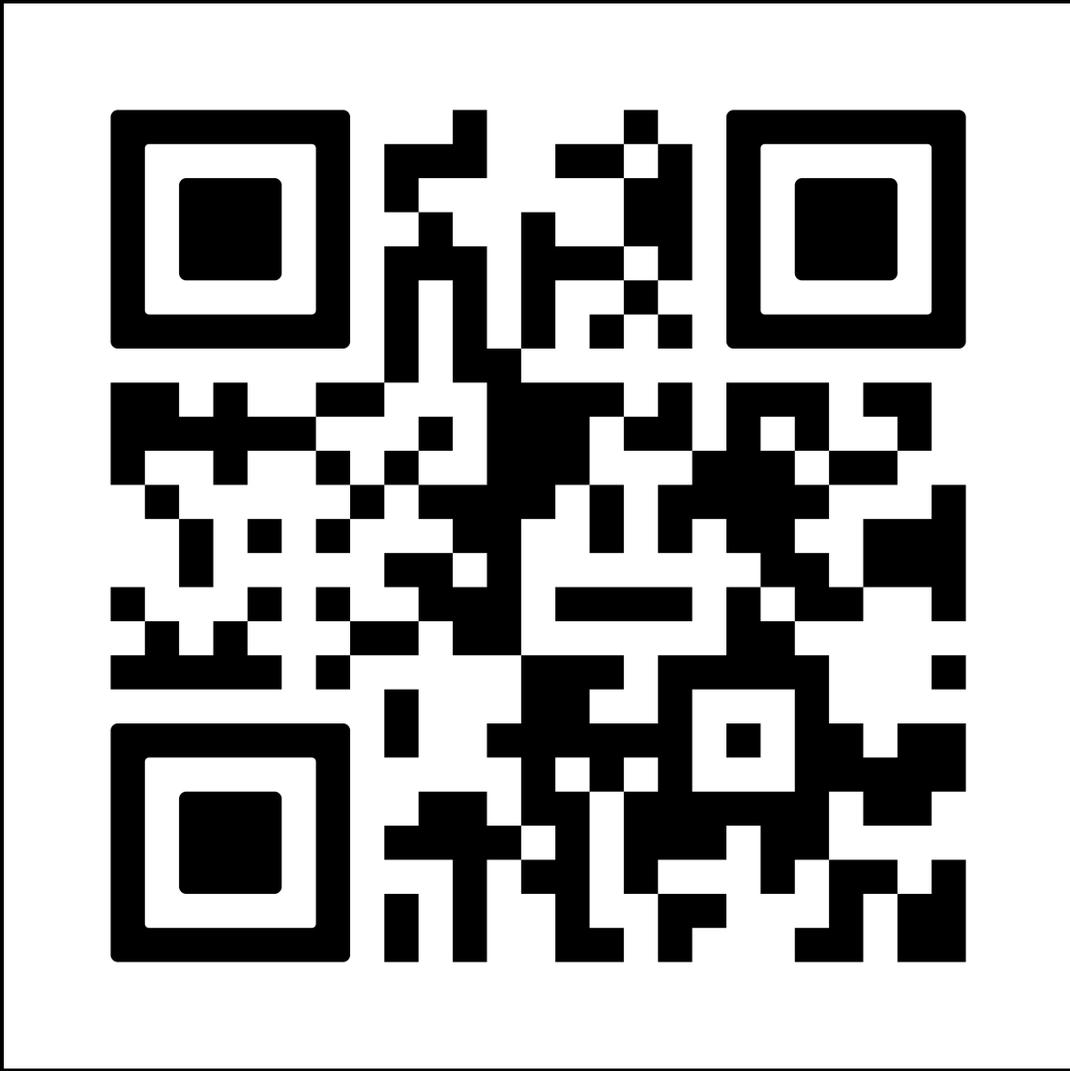
SUMMARY

- The pictures of Jesus: the majestic son of Man and the conquering Lamb.
 - Jesus among his churches, encouraging, correcting, and promising them to conquer.
 - Worship in heaven as the churches endure persecution and cultural seduction.
 - God sending tribulation on the earth and protecting his saints all the while.
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- **Week 1:** Setting the Stage
 - **Week 2:** Reading Revelation Informationally Ch 1-7
 - **Week 3:** Reading Revelation Informationally Ch 8-14
 - **Week 4:** Reading Revelation Informationally Ch 15-22
 - **Week 5:** Reading Revelation Theologically
 - **Week 6:** Reading Revelation Transformationally
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Assignment for Week 3

- Read the book of Revelation
 - Look for things that are repeated: words, ideas, concepts, people, structure, numbers, etc.
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Got questions?