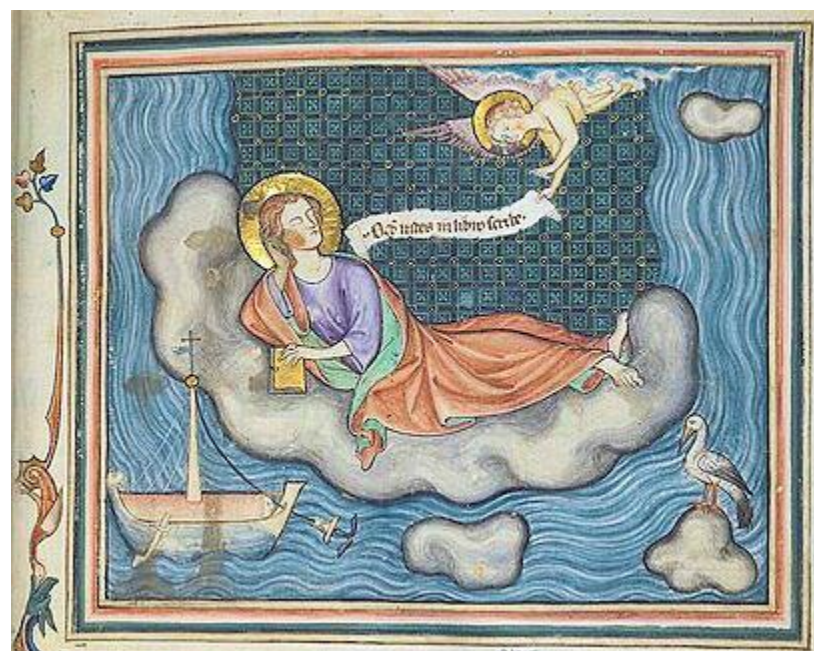


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7

The **Book of Revelation** is the climactic book of the Bible. It brings together themes from Genesis through the Prophets, the Gospels, and the Apostolic writings: creation, fall, covenant, Exodus, temple, kingship, judgment, Babylon, Messiah, resurrection, Satan's defeat, the restoration of creation, and the dwelling of God with His people.

A useful way to study Revelation is not merely as a prediction chart, but as a **theological unveiling of Jesus Christ and God's purposes for history**.

Central message: Jesus Christ is the victorious Lamb and King. Evil may appear dominant for a time, but God will judge evil, vindicate His people, defeat Satan, raise the dead, and establish His eternal kingdom in a renewed creation where God dwells with His people.

I. BIG-PICTURE STRUCTURE OF REVELATION

Section	Chapters	Major Subject
Introduction	1	Christ revealed; commission to John
Seven Churches	2–3	Christ's message to His churches
Throne Room	4–5	God enthroned; the Lamb receives the scroll
Seven Seals	6–8:1	Judgment and the unfolding of God's purposes
Seven Trumpets	8–11	Escalating judgments and witness
Cosmic Conflict	12–14	Woman, dragon, beasts, Lamb, final harvest
Seven Bowls	15–16	Final plagues and judgment
Babylon	17–18	Fall of the great prostitute/city
Return of Christ	19	Christ the conquering King
Millennium / Final Judgment	20	Satan defeated; resurrection and judgment
New Creation	21–22	New heaven, new earth, New Jerusalem

II. REVELATION'S CENTRAL THEMES

1. Jesus Christ

Revelation is fundamentally **Christ-centered**.

Jesus appears as:

- Son of Man
- Faithful Witness
- Firstborn from the dead

- Ruler of earthly kings
- Son of God
- Lion of Judah
- Root of David
- Lamb
- Lord of lords
- King of kings
- Word of God
- Alpha and Omega
- First and Last
- Beginning and End
- Morning Star

The paradox is crucial:

The One who conquers is the Lamb who was slain.

III. CHAPTER-BY-CHAPTER VERY DEEP RESEARCH

REVELATION 1 — CHRIST AMONG THE SEVEN CHURCHES

Main text

Revelation 1:1–20

Central theme

Jesus Christ is revealed as the risen, glorified Lord who walks among His churches.

1:1 — "The Revelation of Jesus Christ"

The Greek word *apokalypsis* means **unveiling, disclosure, revelation**.

The book is therefore not primarily "the revelation of end-times events."

It is:

the revelation of Jesus Christ.

The events matter because they reveal:

- Christ's authority
- Christ's judgment
- Christ's kingdom
- Christ's victory
- Christ's glory

1:3 — The first beatitude

"Blessed is he that readeth..."

Revelation is intended to be:

1. read,
2. heard,
3. obeyed.

Biblical prophecy is therefore not merely information.

It demands **faithful living**.

1:4–6 — The Trinity

John describes:

- the Father — "him which is, and which was, and which is to come"
- the seven Spirits before God's throne
- Jesus Christ

Jesus is called:

- faithful witness
- firstborn of the dead
- ruler of kings

1:5 — Christ's blood

Jesus:

- loves His people,

- releases them from sins,
- establishes them as a kingdom,
- makes them priests.

This connects Revelation to:

Exodus 19:5–6

Israel was called a kingdom of priests.

Revelation applies kingdom-priest language to Christ's redeemed people.

1:7 — Christ's return

"Behold, he cometh with clouds..."

Major Old Testament background:

- Daniel 7:13
- Zechariah 12:10
- Matthew 24:30
- Matthew 26:64
- Acts 1:9–11

Daniel 7's "Son of Man" imagery becomes central.

1:8 — Alpha and Omega

God declares Himself:

- beginning
- end
- eternal

The same language later appears in Revelation 21–22.

The entire story of history exists within God's sovereignty.

1:9 — Patmos

John is on the island of Patmos because of his testimony concerning Jesus.

He describes himself as a:

- brother
- companion
- fellow participant in tribulation
- fellow participant in the kingdom
- fellow participant in patient endurance.

1:12–16 — The glorified Christ

John sees:

- seven golden lampstands
- one like the Son of Man
- robe
- golden sash
- white hair
- eyes like fire
- feet like burning bronze
- voice like many waters
- seven stars
- sword from His mouth
- face like the sun

1:16 — Sword from His mouth

The sword represents **Christ's authoritative word of judgment.**

Compare:

- Isaiah 11:4
- Isaiah 49:2
- Ephesians 6:17
- Hebrews 4:12
- Revelation 19:15

1:18 — Jesus has the keys

"I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore..."

Christ possesses:

the keys of death and Hades.

Death does not control Christ.

Christ controls death.

1:20

The seven lampstands are:

the seven churches.

The seven stars are:

the angels/messengers of the seven churches.

Major theological lesson

The first chapter establishes the lens through which the entire book must be read:

Jesus is Lord over the churches, history, death, judgment, and the future.

REVELATION 2 — FOUR CHURCHES

Revelation 2 contains messages to:

1. Ephesus
 2. Smyrna
 3. Pergamum
 4. Thyatira
-

Revelation 2:1–7 — Ephesus

Commendation

Ephesus:

- worked hard

- endured
- rejected false apostles
- hated Nicolaitan practices

Problem

"Thou hast left thy first love."

The church had:

orthodoxy without sufficient love.

Jesus does not regard correct doctrine as sufficient if love has disappeared.

Command

1. Remember.
2. Repent.
3. Return.

Promise

The overcomer receives access to:

the tree of life.

This takes us directly back to:

Genesis 2–3.

Revelation ends where Genesis began—but in a redeemed and restored condition.

Revelation 2:8–11 — Smyrna

Smyrna receives **no condemnation**.

It is:

- afflicted
- poor materially
- rich spiritually

2:10

"Be thou faithful unto death..."

Christ promises:

the crown of life.

Major theme

Faithfulness is measured not by comfort but by loyalty to Christ.

Connection

The church may experience death.

But Christ says:

"I will give thee a crown of life."

Revelation 2:12–17 — Pergamum

Pergamum is located where:

"Satan's seat [throne] is."

The church remained faithful even when Antipas was killed.

Problem

Some tolerated:

- Balaam-like compromise
- idolatry
- sexual immorality
- Nicolaitan teaching

Old Testament connection

Balaam appears in:

- Numbers 22–25
- Numbers 31:16

Balaam represents the strategy of **corrupting God's people rather than merely attacking them externally.**

Promise

The overcomer receives:

- hidden manna
 - a white stone
 - a new name
-

Revelation 2:18–29 — Thyatira

Commendation

Thyatira had:

- love
- faith
- service
- patience
- increasing works

Problem

They tolerated "Jezebel."

This evokes:

1 Kings 16–21

Jezebel represents:

- idolatrous influence
- spiritual compromise
- corruption
- persecution of God's servants

Promise

The faithful receive:

authority over the nations

and

the morning star.

The morning star is associated with Christ Himself in Revelation 22:16.

REVELATION 3 — THREE CHURCHES

Sardis — Revelation 3:1–6

Sardis had:

"a name that thou livest, and art dead."

This is one of Revelation's strongest warnings against spiritual reputation without spiritual reality.

Command

"Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain."

Promise

The faithful receive:

- white garments
 - their names confessed before the Father
 - recognition before God's angels
-

Philadelphia — Revelation 3:7–13

Philadelphia receives no condemnation.

Jesus is:

"he that is holy, he that is true"

and possesses:

the key of David.

Isaiah connection

Isaiah 22:22 speaks of:

the key of David.

Revelation applies Davidic royal authority to Christ.

Open door

Christ places before them:

an open door that no one can shut.

Promise

The overcomer becomes:

a pillar in the temple of God.

The final chapters will show something even greater:

there is no temple building in the New Jerusalem because God and the Lamb are its temple.

Laodicea — Revelation 3:14–22

Laodicea is:

lukewarm.

Neither hot nor cold.

Major problem

They think they are:

- rich
- prosperous
- needing nothing.

Jesus says they are actually:

- wretched
- miserable
- poor
- blind

- naked

Christ's counsel

Buy from Him:

- gold refined by fire
- white garments
- eye salve

3:20

"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock..."

The immediate context concerns **Christ's relationship with a church**, not merely an evangelistic invitation to unbelievers.

3:21

The ultimate promise:

sit with Christ on His throne.

The church's destiny is participation in Christ's victorious reign.

REVELATION 4 — THE THRONE OF GOD

The scene shifts from earth to heaven.

John sees:

God's throne.

This is foundational.

Before Revelation shows the chaos of earth, it shows:

God's throne.

Four living creatures

They resemble imagery from:

- Ezekiel 1
- Ezekiel 10

- Isaiah 6

Their worship

"Holy, holy, holy..."

This connects Revelation with Isaiah's throne vision.

Twenty-four elders

They represent heavenly worship and/or the fullness of God's covenant people.

Interpretations differ, but the symbolic connection to God's redeemed people is significant.

Central theological message

History is not uncontrolled.

The throne is occupied.

REVELATION 5 — THE LAMB AND THE SEALED SCROLL

This is one of the most important chapters in the Bible.

John sees a scroll sealed with seven seals.

No one is worthy to open it.

John weeps.

Then:

"Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda..."

But when John looks, he sees:

a Lamb as though it had been slain.

The great paradox

John hears:

Lion.

John sees:

Lamb.

Christ conquers **as the slain Lamb.**

5:9

The Lamb was slain and redeemed people from:

- every kindred
- tongue
- people
- nation.

This is the universal scope of salvation.

5:10

The redeemed become:

a kingdom and priests.

5:13

Every creature worships:

- God
- the Lamb

This is enormously important for Christology.

Revelation places the Lamb within heavenly worship.

REVELATION 6 — THE FIRST SIX SEALS

First Seal — White Horse

A rider goes forth conquering.

Interpretations include:

- conquest
- imperial domination
- Antichrist-like deception
- symbolic conquest

The text should be interpreted in relation to the later horse imagery.

Second Seal — Red Horse

The rider takes peace from the earth.

Result:

war.

Third Seal — Black Horse

The scales signify:

economic scarcity and famine.

Fourth Seal — Pale Horse

The rider is called:

Death.

Hades follows.

Death receives authority over a significant portion of humanity.

Fifth Seal — Martyrs

John sees souls under the altar.

They ask:

"How long, O Lord?"

This is the language of the Psalms.

God's people are not forgotten.

Sixth Seal — Cosmic Disturbance

There is:

- earthquake

- darkened sun
- moon becoming bloodlike
- stars falling
- heaven departing
- mountains and islands moved

This draws heavily on prophetic judgment imagery:

- Isaiah 13
- Isaiah 34
- Joel 2
- Joel 3
- Haggai 2

Humanity recognizes:

the great day of divine wrath has come.

REVELATION 7 — THE SEALED SERVANTS AND GREAT MULTITUDE

Chapter 7 interrupts the seals.

This is significant.

Before further judgment:

God identifies and protects His servants.

144,000

The number is highly symbolic.

It is:

$12 \times 12 \times 1,000$.

Possible symbolism:

- 12 tribes
- 12 apostles

- fullness/completeness
- multiplied covenant people

Interpretations differ concerning whether the 144,000 are:

- literal Israelites
- symbolic Israel
- the entire redeemed people
- a specially designated group

The text must be handled carefully rather than assuming one interpretation automatically.

Great Multitude

John sees:

"a great multitude, which no man could number"

from:

every nation, tribe, people, and language.

They stand before:

- God
- the Lamb

Their robes

They are white because they have been washed in:

the blood of the Lamb.

This is a profound biblical paradox:

blood makes garments white.

REVELATION 8 — SEVENTH SEAL AND FOUR TRUMPETS

Seventh Seal

Silence occurs in heaven for approximately half an hour.

The dramatic silence emphasizes the seriousness of what follows.

Seven angels

They receive seven trumpets.

Trumpet 1

Hail and fire mixed with blood.

A third of the earth is affected.

Trumpet 2

Something like a great mountain burning with fire falls into the sea.

A third of the sea becomes bloodlike.

Trumpet 3

A great star called:

Wormwood

falls upon the waters.

The waters become bitter.

Trumpet 4

A third of:

- sun
- moon
- stars

is struck.

Repeated fraction

The recurring **one-third** judgments may indicate severe but still limited judgment.

God is judging but the final consummation has not yet occurred.

REVELATION 9 — FIFTH AND SIXTH TRUMPETS

Fifth Trumpet — The Abyss

A star falls and receives the key to:

the bottomless pit / abyss.

Locust-like creatures emerge.

Their king is called:

Abaddon / Apollyon

meaning roughly:

Destroyer.

Important point

These are not ordinary locusts.

They are supernatural judgment imagery.

Sixth Trumpet

Four angels are released.

A vast mounted force brings further destruction.

9:20–21

The terrifying statement is that those who survive:

still do not repent.

This is one of Revelation's recurring themes.

Judgment alone does not necessarily produce repentance.

REVELATION 10 — THE LITTLE SCROLL

John sees:

a mighty angel

holding a little scroll.

The angel swears by God.

John is told:

"Seal up those things..."

Then John eats the scroll.

It is:

sweet as honey

in his mouth,

but:

bitter in his stomach.

Meaning

God's word can be:

- sweet because it is God's truth,
- bitter because proclaiming judgment brings suffering.

Compare:

Ezekiel 2–3

Ezekiel also eats a scroll.

REVELATION 11 — TWO WITNESSES AND SEVENTH TRUMPET

The Temple

John measures the temple.

This evokes prophetic measuring imagery.

Possible interpretations include:

- literal future temple
- symbolic people of God

- temple-centered prophetic symbolism
-

The Two Witnesses

They prophesy for:

1,260 days.

They are described with imagery connected to:

- Moses
- Elijah
- Zechariah's lampstands

They have authority to:

- shut heaven
- turn waters to blood
- strike earth with plagues

Their death

The beast kills them.

Their bodies lie in:

the great city

called symbolically:

- Sodom
- Egypt

where their Lord was crucified.

This is an extraordinarily dense symbolic statement.

Resurrection

After three and a half days:

the breath of life from God enters them.

They stand.

Then ascend to heaven.

The message

The world can kill God's witnesses.

It cannot ultimately defeat God's testimony.

Seventh Trumpet

Heaven declares:

"The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ."

The seventh trumpet points toward:

the final establishment of God's kingdom.

REVELATION 12 — THE WOMAN, CHILD, AND DRAGON

This chapter takes us behind the visible events of history into the **cosmic conflict**.

Woman

She is clothed with:

- sun
- moon under her feet
- crown of twelve stars

Interpretations include:

- Israel
- God's covenant people
- Mary in a specific Christological dimension
- the people of God across salvation history

The imagery echoes Genesis 37.

The Male Child

The child is destined:

"to rule all nations with a rod of iron."

This clearly connects with:

Psalm 2.

The child is caught up to God and His throne.

The Messianic identity is unmistakable.

The Dragon

The dragon is explicitly identified as:

- serpent
- devil
- Satan
- deceiver of the whole world

This takes us back to:

Genesis 3.

The Bible begins with:

the serpent.

Revelation brings the serpent's story to its conclusion.

War in Heaven

Michael and his angels fight the dragon.

Satan is cast down.

12:11

God's people overcome:

"by the blood of the Lamb"

and

"by the word of their testimony."

The victory of Christians is rooted in:

Christ's sacrificial death and faithful witness.

REVELATION 13 — THE TWO BEASTS

Beast from the Sea

The beast represents oppressive anti-God political power.

The imagery combines:

- Daniel 7
- imperial power
- blasphemy
- persecution
- counterfeit authority

Seven heads / ten horns

These connect strongly with Daniel's beasts.

The Number 666

Revelation 13:18:

"the number of the beast"

is:

666.

Possible approaches include:

- gematria
- symbolic imperfection
- human/anti-divine counterfeit

- Nero-related interpretation

The number is intentionally enigmatic.

666 versus 777

Seven often represents fullness/completeness.

Six falls short.

Thus 666 can communicate:

humanity attempting divine authority but repeatedly falling short.

Beast from the Earth

Later called:

the false prophet

in Revelation.

He exercises religious/deceptive power.

He causes people to worship the first beast.

Mark of the Beast

The mark is connected with:

- worship
- allegiance
- economic participation
- identity

The crucial issue is not merely the physical mark.

The deeper issue is:

Whom do you worship?

REVELATION 14 — THE LAMB AND FINAL HARVEST

The Lamb stands on:

Mount Zion.

With Him are the 144,000.

They have His name and His Father's name.

Three Angels

First angel

Proclaims:

the everlasting gospel

and calls humanity to:

- fear God
- glorify Him
- worship the Creator

Second angel

Announces:

Babylon is fallen.

Third angel

Warns against:

worshiping the beast and receiving his mark.

Two Harvests

Grain harvest

Represents one aspect of final gathering.

Grape harvest

The grapes are thrown into:

the great winepress of God's wrath.

This imagery comes especially from:

- Joel 3
- Isaiah 63

REVELATION 15 — SEVEN ANGELS WITH SEVEN PLAGUES

This is the shortest chapter in the book.

The redeemed stand beside:

the sea of glass mixed with fire.

They sing:

the song of Moses and the song of the Lamb.

This is extremely important.

The Exodus story has not disappeared.

The final salvation of God's people is portrayed as a **new Exodus**.

Egypt → Babylon → final evil system

Pharaoh → Satan/beast

Exodus → final deliverance

Moses' song → Lamb's song

REVELATION 16 — SEVEN BOWLS

The seven bowls represent the final series of plagues.

Bowl 1

Painful sores on those who bear the beast's mark.

Bowl 2

The sea becomes blood.

Bowl 3

Rivers and springs become blood.

The angel declares God's judgment righteous.

Bowl 4

The sun scorches humanity.

Bowl 5

The beast's kingdom becomes dark.

Bowl 6

The Euphrates is dried up.

Three unclean spirits gather kings for:

Armageddon.

Bowl 7

A voice declares:

"It is done."

There is:

- lightning
- thunder
- earthquake
- hail

"It is done"

Compare:

John 19:30 — "It is finished."

The cross accomplished redemption.

Revelation 16:17 announces:

the completion of judgment.

REVELATION 17 — THE GREAT PROSTITUTE AND BABYLON

John sees a woman sitting on:

a scarlet beast.

She is called:

Babylon the Great.

She represents an anti-God civilization/system characterized by:

- immorality
 - luxury
 - political power
 - economic exploitation
 - persecution
 - idolatry
-

Babylon

Babylon has enormous biblical significance.

The story begins in:

Genesis 11 — Babel.

Babylon becomes a major enemy of God's people.

In Revelation it becomes the symbolic climax of human civilization organized against God.

Babylon's characteristics

She offers:

wealth without God, power without righteousness, pleasure without holiness, religion without truth.

REVELATION 18 — THE FALL OF BABYLON

Babylon collapses.

The chapter contains repeated:

"Woe, woe..."

Those who benefited economically from Babylon mourn.

Kings mourn.

Merchants mourn.

Shipmasters mourn.

Why?

Not primarily because they repent.

They mourn because:

their economic system has collapsed.

Major theological lesson

Revelation strongly warns against:

loving wealth, luxury, exploitation, and worldly power.

REVELATION 19 — THE RETURN OF CHRIST

Heaven erupts in praise.

"Hallelujah"

appears repeatedly.

Then John sees:

heaven opened.

A white horse appears.

Its rider is:

Faithful and True.

The Rider's Names

He is called:

- Faithful
- True
- Word of God

- King of kings
- Lord of lords

Eyes like fire

He sees and judges perfectly.

Sword from His mouth

His authority is His word.

Robe dipped in blood

This imagery has connections to:

Isaiah 63.

The Rider is the divine warrior who brings final judgment.

Christ's Victory

The beast and false prophet are defeated.

The powers of evil collapse before Christ.

The chapter presents Jesus not merely as:

Suffering Servant

but also:

Conquering King.

Yet the King is still the Lamb.

REVELATION 20 — THE THOUSAND YEARS AND FINAL JUDGMENT

This is one of the most debated chapters in the Bible.

Satan Bound

An angel binds Satan for:

1,000 years.

Interpretations include:

Premillennial

Christ returns before a future earthly millennium.

Amillennial

The millennium symbolizes Christ's present reign between His first and second coming.

Postmillennial

Christ's kingdom progressively triumphs in history before His final return.

Each interpretation attempts to account for the text and its relationship to the rest of Scripture.

Satan Released

After the thousand years, Satan is released briefly.

He deceives the nations.

They surround:

the camp of the saints.

Fire comes from heaven.

Satan is finally cast into:

the lake of fire.

The final destiny of Satan

His defeat is permanent.

Great White Throne

The dead stand before God.

Books are opened.

Another book is opened:

the Book of Life.

The dead are judged according to their works.

Death and Hades

They are cast into:

the lake of fire.

Then:

"death and hell were cast into the lake of fire."

The last enemy is destroyed.

This connects with:

1 Corinthians 15:26

"The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death."

REVELATION 21 — NEW HEAVEN, NEW EARTH, NEW JERUSALEM

This is the climax of biblical history.

John sees:

a new heaven and a new earth.

This is not merely escape from creation.

It is:

creation renewed.

"No More Sea"

Revelation 21:1 says:

"there was no more sea."

The sea in Revelation frequently represents:

- chaos
- danger
- rebellious forces
- separation

The symbolism communicates the removal of everything associated with chaos and rebellion.

New Jerusalem

The holy city descends:

from heaven from God.

Notice:

Humanity does not escape upward forever.

Instead:

God's dwelling comes down.

21:3 — The Goal of Redemption

"Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men..."

This fulfills the great biblical theme:

God dwelling with humanity.

Compare:

- Genesis 3
- Exodus 25:8
- Leviticus 26:11–12
- Ezekiel 37:27
- John 1:14
- 1 Corinthians 3:16
- Revelation 21:3

The story reaches its goal:

God and humanity together.

21:4 — No More

There will be:

- no death
- no sorrow
- no crying
- no pain

Everything associated with the curse is removed.

21:5

God says:

"Behold, I make all things new."

Not merely:

I make all new things.

The emphasis is on **renewal/restoration**.

21:22 — No Temple

John sees:

"no temple therein"

Why?

Because:

God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple.

The entire creation has become sacred space.

21:23 — No Sun or Moon

The city does not need sun or moon because:

the glory of God gives it light.

And:

the Lamb is its light.

21:25 — No Night

Night is associated with:

- darkness
- danger
- evil
- death

The New Jerusalem is permanently illuminated by God's glory.

21:27 — Nothing Unclean

Only those written in:

the Lamb's Book of Life

enter.

Holiness is restored.

REVELATION 22 — THE RIVER, TREE OF LIFE, AND CHRIST'S RETURN

The final chapter deliberately takes us back to:

Genesis 1–3.

22:1 — River of Life

A pure river flows:

from the throne of God and of the Lamb.

Compare:

- Genesis 2

- Ezekiel 47
 - Zechariah 14
 - John 7
-

22:2 — Tree of Life

The tree of life appears again.

Compare:

Genesis 2:9

and

Genesis 3:22–24.

Genesis:

humanity loses access to the tree.

Revelation:

access is restored.

Healing of the Nations

The leaves of the tree are:

"for the healing of the nations."

The nations are not erased.

The redeemed diversity of humanity remains.

22:3 — No More Curse

This is perhaps one of the most important lines in the entire Bible:

"there shall be no more curse."

Genesis 3 introduced the curse.

Revelation 22 removes it.

Biblical story:

Genesis 1–2: Creation

↓

Genesis 3: Fall and curse

↓

Old Testament: Promise and covenant

↓

Gospels: Christ comes

↓

Cross: Redemption accomplished

↓

Resurrection: Death defeated

↓

Acts: Gospel to nations

↓

Revelation: Evil judged

↓

Revelation 21–22: Creation restored

22:4 — They Shall See His Face

"And they shall see his face..."

This is extraordinary.

In the Old Testament, God's holiness makes seeing God a terrifying reality.

Compare:

Exodus 33:20

Yet in the final state:

God's people see His face.

The goal of salvation is not merely:

- streets of gold
- mansions
- freedom from suffering

The ultimate blessing is:

the presence of God Himself.

22:5 — They Reign Forever

God's servants:

"shall reign for ever and ever."

Humanity's intended royal vocation from Genesis is restored.

Compare:

Genesis 1:26–28

Human beings were created to exercise righteous dominion.

Revelation ends with redeemed humanity reigning with God.

22:6–21 — THE FINAL WORDS

The book closes with repeated emphasis on:

Christ's coming.

22:7

"Behold, I come quickly."

22:12

"Behold, I come quickly."

22:20

"Surely I come quickly."

John responds:

"Even so, come, Lord Jesus."

This is the final prayer of the Bible.

IV. MAJOR PEOPLE IN REVELATION

Jesus Christ

The central Person of the book.

John

The prophetic witness who receives the revelation.

God the Father

The One enthroned and sovereign over history.

Holy Spirit

Symbolized in the "seven Spirits" before the throne and active throughout the visions.

Twenty-four Elders

Heavenly representatives of worship and covenantal fullness.

Four Living Creatures

Heavenly throne-room beings associated with worship.

Michael

The archangel who leads the heavenly conflict against the dragon.

The Woman

A symbolic figure connected with God's covenant people and the birth of the Messiah.

The Male Child

The Messiah, Jesus Christ.

Satan

The dragon, ancient serpent, devil, deceiver, and adversary.

Beast from the Sea

Anti-God political/imperial power.

Beast from the Earth

Religious/deceptive power later associated with the false prophet.

Two Witnesses

Prophetic witnesses who testify, suffer, die, rise, and ascend.

Babylon

Symbol of the rebellious world system.

V. MAJOR PLACES IN REVELATION

Patmos

Place where John receives the revelation.

Seven Churches

- Ephesus
- Smyrna
- Pergamum
- Thyatira
- Sardis
- Philadelphia
- Laodicea

Heaven

The throne-room setting of God's sovereignty.

Abyss

Realm associated with demonic imprisonment/judgment.

Armageddon

Location/name associated with the final gathering of rebellious powers.

Babylon

Symbolic center of corrupt worldly civilization.

Mount Zion

Associated with the Lamb and His people.

New Jerusalem

The eternal dwelling of God's redeemed people.

New Heaven and New Earth

The final renewed creation.

VI. MAJOR SYMBOLS

Symbol	Major Meaning
Lamb	Jesus Christ's sacrificial victory
Lion	Messianic kingship
Dragon	Satan
Beast	Anti-God political power
False Prophet	Deceptive religious power
Babylon	Rebellious world system
Woman	God's covenant people / symbolic community
White garments	Purity and victory
Crown	Royal authority/victory
Trumpets	Proclamation and judgment
Bowls	Final divine wrath
Seals	Unfolding of God's purposes/judgment
Sword	Christ's judging word
666	Beast's number / counterfeit human authority
144,000	Symbolic fullness of God's servants or a particular sealed group
New Jerusalem	God's perfected dwelling with His people
Tree of Life	Restored life and fellowship
River of Life	God's life-giving presence

Symbol	Major Meaning
Book of Life	Those belonging to God
Lake of Fire	Final judgment

VII. OLD TESTAMENT BOOKS BEHIND REVELATION

Revelation contains an enormous amount of Old Testament imagery.

Daniel

Especially important:

- Daniel 2
- Daniel 7
- Daniel 8
- Daniel 9
- Daniel 10–12

Daniel's:

- beasts
- horns
- Son of Man
- Ancient of Days
- kingdoms
- judgment
- resurrection

are foundational for Revelation.

Ezekiel

Especially:

- Ezekiel 1
- Ezekiel 10
- Ezekiel 37
- Ezekiel 40–48

Connections include:

- throne creatures
 - temple
 - measuring
 - river of life
 - restoration
 - God's glory
-

Isaiah

Major connections:

- Isaiah 6
- Isaiah 11
- Isaiah 13
- Isaiah 25
- Isaiah 34
- Isaiah 63
- Isaiah 65–66

Isaiah's:

new heavens and new earth

are especially important for Revelation 21.

Exodus

Revelation repeatedly presents salvation as a **new Exodus**.

Connections include:

- plagues
 - Passover/Lamb
 - Moses
 - song
 - deliverance
 - judgment on oppressive powers
-

Psalms

Especially:

- Psalm 2
- Psalm 22
- Psalm 23
- Psalm 46
- Psalm 72
- Psalm 110
- Psalm 118

Psalm 2 is especially important for Christ's rule over the nations.

Zechariah

Major Revelation connections include:

- lampstands
- olive trees
- horses
- Jerusalem

- Messiah
- final conflict
- living waters

Joel

Important for:

- cosmic signs
 - Day of the Lord
 - judgment of nations
 - harvest imagery
-

Genesis

Revelation's final chapters deliberately reverse Genesis 3.

Genesis	Revelation
Serpent	Dragon defeated
Curse	No more curse
Death enters	Death eliminated
Tree lost	Tree restored
God's presence disrupted	God's presence permanently established
Garden	New Jerusalem
Marriage	Bride of the Lamb
River	River of life
Humanity banished	God's servants reign

VIII. JESUS CHRIST THROUGH ALL 22 CHAPTERS

Chapter Christological Focus

- 1 Glorified Son of Man
- 2 Lord of the churches
- 3 Holy and True; Davidic King
- 4 Worthy God enthroned
- 5 Lamb who was slain
- 6 Sovereign judge
- 7 Shepherd of the redeemed
- 8 Lord whose purposes unfold
- 9 Judge over demonic powers
- 10 Lord of prophetic revelation
- 11 Coming King
- 12 Messianic Son
- 13 Counterfeit kingdom opposed to Christ
- 14 Lamb on Mount Zion
- 15 Lamb of the new Exodus
- 16 Lord of final judgment
- 17 Judge of Babylon
- 18 Victor over Babylon
- 19 King of kings and Lord of lords
- 20 Judge and conqueror of Satan
- 21 Lamb as temple and light
- 22 Alpha and Omega; coming Lord

IX. THE "LAMB" THEME

The word **Lamb** is one of the most important Christological images in Revelation.

The Lamb is:

- slain
- resurrected
- worshiped
- enthroned
- victorious
- judge
- bridegroom
- light
- temple
- king

The Lamb connects Revelation to:

Passover

Exodus 12

Isaiah's suffering servant

Isaiah 53

John the Baptist

John 1:29

Christ's death

Gospels

Heavenly worship

Revelation 5

The central theological paradox is:

Jesus conquers not by abandoning sacrifice, but through sacrificial faithfulness.

X. THE GREAT BIBLICAL REVERSALS

Revelation is filled with reversals.

Death → Life

Curse → Blessing

Babylon → New Jerusalem

Dragon → Defeated

Beast → Destroyed

Harlot → Bride

Darkness → Light

Exile → Home

Temple → God's immediate presence

Separation → Communion

Tears → No tears

Suffering → Glory

Martyrdom → Resurrection

Satan's kingdom → Christ's kingdom

XI. THE TWO WOMEN

One of Revelation's most powerful contrasts is:

Babylon — Revelation 17

A corrupt woman.

She represents:

- immorality
- luxury

- worldly power
- spiritual adultery

New Jerusalem — Revelation 21

The bride.

She represents:

- holiness
- beauty
- covenant faithfulness
- God's dwelling

Thus Revelation contrasts:

the prostitute and the bride.

Humanity ultimately belongs to one of two communities:

Babylon

or

the Bride of the Lamb.

XII. THE TWO CITIES

Babylon

Characterized by:

- human glory
- wealth
- exploitation
- immorality
- political power
- persecution
- temporary greatness

New Jerusalem

Characterized by:

- God's glory
- holiness
- life
- righteousness
- healing
- God's presence
- eternal permanence

Babylon says:

"I will glorify myself."

New Jerusalem exists because:

God's glory fills it.

XIII. THE TWO KINGDOMS

Throughout Revelation there is a conflict between:

Kingdom of the Beast

and

Kingdom of the Lamb.

The beast demands:

worship.

The Lamb receives:

worship.

The beast marks his followers.

God seals His servants.

The beast promises worldly power.

Christ gives eternal life.

The beast's kingdom ends.

Christ's kingdom endures forever.

XIV. REVELATION AND THE EXODUS

The Exodus pattern is extremely important.

Exodus

Pharaoh oppresses God's people.

Revelation

The beast oppresses God's people.

Exodus

God sends plagues.

Revelation

God sends plagues.

Exodus

Passover lamb.

Revelation

Lamb of God.

Exodus

Israel passes through the sea.

Revelation

God's people stand before the sea of glass.

Exodus

Moses sings.

Revelation

The redeemed sing the song of Moses and the Lamb.

Exodus

God dwells among Israel.

Revelation

God dwells permanently among humanity.

Thus Revelation can be understood partly as:

the final Exodus.

XV. REVELATION AND GENESIS

This may be the most important whole-Bible connection.

Genesis 1

Creation.

Genesis 3

Fall.

Genesis 3

Serpent.

Genesis 3

Curse.

Genesis 3

Death.

Genesis 3

Tree of Life inaccessible.

Revelation 20

Serpent defeated.

Revelation 21

New creation.

Revelation 21

Curse removed.

Revelation 21

Death destroyed.

Revelation 22

Tree of Life restored.

The Bible begins in a garden.

It ends in a **garden-city**.

The story does not merely return to Eden.

It moves beyond Eden into:

the perfected dwelling of God with redeemed humanity.

XVI. REVELATION'S VIEW OF THE CHURCH

The church is:

- lampstand
- kingdom
- priesthood
- witness
- bride
- conqueror
- suffering community
- worshiping community
- future reigning community

The church's calling is not simply to predict the end.

It is to:

remain faithful to Jesus until the end.

XVII. REVELATION'S VIEW OF SUFFERING

Revelation does not promise that faithful believers will avoid suffering.

Instead, it teaches:

suffering does not mean Christ has lost.

The martyrs appear defeated from earth's perspective.

Heaven sees them as:

victorious witnesses.

This produces one of Revelation's central reversals:

apparent defeat becomes eternal victory.

XVIII. REVELATION'S VIEW OF WORSHIP

The great question of Revelation is:

"Who is worthy?"

Revelation repeatedly contrasts:

worship God and the Lamb

with:

worship the beast and his image.

Therefore Revelation is not merely about:

What will happen?

It is about:

Whom will you worship?

XIX. REVELATION'S VIEW OF JUDGMENT

Divine judgment has several purposes:

1. expose evil,
2. punish rebellion,

3. vindicate God's people,
4. reveal God's righteousness,
5. defeat Satan,
6. remove evil from creation,
7. establish God's kingdom.

Judgment is therefore connected with:

the restoration of justice.

XX. REVELATION'S VIEW OF THE NATIONS

Revelation does not portray God's final purpose as destroying human diversity.

Instead:

"every nation, and kindred, and people, and tongue"

appears before the Lamb.

The redeemed nations ultimately belong to God.

This connects with the promise to Abraham:

Genesis 12:3

"in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed."

XXI. THE FINAL DESTINY OF HISTORY

Revelation's final vision is not merely:

souls floating in heaven.

It is:

God dwelling with humanity in renewed creation.

The final picture includes:

- new heaven
- new earth

- New Jerusalem
- resurrection
- God's presence
- Lamb's presence
- river of life
- tree of life
- nations
- healing
- worship
- holiness
- reigning
- no death
- no curse
- no darkness

XXII. THE GRAND BIBLICAL STORY IN REVELATION

The entire Bible can be traced through Revelation:

Creation

→ **Fall**

→ **Promise**

→ **Abraham**

→ **Israel**

→ **Exodus**

→ **Covenant**

→ **Davidic Kingdom**

→ **Prophets**

→ **Exile**

→ **Return**

→ **Messiah**

→ **Cross**

- **Resurrection**
 - **Church**
 - **Gospel to nations**
 - **Tribulation and witness**
 - **Return of Christ**
 - **Final judgment**
 - **Resurrection**
 - **New Creation**
 - **God dwelling with humanity forever**
-

XXIII. THE CENTRAL MESSAGE OF EACH CHAPTER

Chapter One-Sentence Message

- 1** Jesus Christ is the glorified Lord who walks among His churches.
- 2** Christ calls His churches to love, faithfulness, purity, and perseverance.
- 3** Christ knows the true spiritual condition of His churches and calls them to overcome.
- 4** God sits sovereignly upon His heavenly throne.
- 5** The slain Lamb alone is worthy to execute God's purposes.
- 6** Judgment begins to unfold as the seals are opened.
- 7** God knows, seals, protects, and ultimately saves His people.
- 8** God's judgments intensify as the trumpets begin.
- 9** Demonic judgment is released, yet rebellious humanity refuses to repent.
- 10** God's prophetic word is sweet to receive but bitter to proclaim.
- 11** God's witnesses may be killed, but God vindicates them and establishes His kingdom.
- 12** Satan wages cosmic war against God's Messiah and people but is ultimately defeated.

Chapter One-Sentence Message

- 13 The beast and false prophet counterfeit God's authority and demand worship.
 - 14 The Lamb stands victorious while God's final harvest approaches.
 - 15 The redeemed sing the song of Moses and the Lamb before final judgment.
 - 16 The seven bowls bring the final outpouring of God's wrath.
 - 17 Babylon is exposed as the great corrupt system opposed to God.
 - 18 Babylon falls, demonstrating the temporary nature of worldly power and wealth.
 - 19 Christ returns as King of kings and defeats the powers of evil.
 - 20 Satan is finally defeated, the dead are judged, and death enters final judgment.
 - 21 God creates a new heaven and earth and dwells with His people.
 - 22 The curse is gone, the tree and river of life are restored, and Jesus promises to come.
-

XXIV. THE LAST THREE VERSES OF THE BIBLE

Revelation 22:19–21 brings the Bible to its conclusion.

The final emphasis is not on:

"Figure out every prophetic timetable."

It is on:

faithfulness, holiness, Christ's coming, grace, and hope.

The final words are:

"Surely I come quickly."

And the Bible's final response is:

"Even so, come, Lord Jesus."

Then:

"The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen."

XXV. THE ULTIMATE THEOLOGICAL SUMMARY

The Book of Revelation teaches that:

God is on the throne.

Jesus is the Lamb who was slain.

The Lamb is also the conquering King.

Satan is a defeated enemy whose final judgment is certain.

The beast's kingdom is temporary.

Babylon's wealth and power are temporary.

God's people may suffer, but their suffering is not meaningless.

The dead in Christ will be vindicated.

Jesus will return.

Evil will be judged.

Death will be destroyed.

The curse will be removed.

Creation will be renewed.

God will dwell with His people.

The nations will be gathered to the Lamb.

The tree of life will be accessible again.

The river of life will flow from God's throne.

God's servants will see His face.

And God's people will reign with Him forever.

The Bible's final picture is therefore not defeat.

It is:

THE VICTORY OF THE LAMB.

And the final destination of the biblical story is not merely escape from earth.

It is:

GOD WITH HIS PEOPLE IN A RENEWED CREATION.

That is the great theological climax of Revelation—and of the entire Bible.