

*Book of
Revelation*
A VISION OF VICTORY

Apocalyptic Literature

Revelation 1:1-20

Revelation 1:1-3

¹ The **revelation** from Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, ² who testifies to everything he saw—that is, the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. ³ **Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.**





October 1, 2012

in **Theological Musings**

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Dear Grade 5 Teacher...

Hey Mr McKeown,

I'm currently working on a sermon about the Book of Revelation (because apparently that's what all the kids are into nowadays!) and was reminded of the time you mentioned to me, I think it was in Grade 5, that this mysterious book may not be just about the future, but about the past that breaks into our present.

That day, as a naturally confident 13 year old futurist, I thought you were crazy and wrong. It's funny the things that stick with you as a kid, but I never let that conversation go.

So after six years of Bible College, I just wanted to let you know that I have rethought my position and I take my diagnosis back. Perhaps I can challenge this next generation as you challenged me.

Grace and Peace,

Gavin.

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Revelation wasn't written to satisfy our
curiosity about the future.

**It was written to strengthen our
faithfulness in the present.**

Revelation 1:4-5b

⁴ John,

To the seven churches in the province of Asia:

Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits^[a] before his throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and **the ruler of the kings of the earth.**

[a] That is, the sevenfold Spirit



Revelation 1:5b-8

(Doxology + Response)

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood,
⁶ and has **made us to be a kingdom and priests** to serve his
God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever!
Amen.

⁷ “Look, he is coming with the clouds,”^[b]
and “every eye will see him,
even those who pierced him”;
and all peoples on earth “will mourn because of him.”^[c]
So shall it be! Amen.

⁸ “**I am the Alpha and the Omega**,” says the Lord God, “who is,
and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.”

[b] Daniel 7:13

[c] Zechariah 12:10





A DEFINITION

Apocalyptic literature **uses vivid symbols and images to reveal God's perspective on present realities and inspire faithful endurance.**

Revelation 1:9-11

⁹ I, John, your brother and **companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus**, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. ¹⁰ On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet, ¹¹ which said: "Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea."





APOCALYPIC LITERATURE

Challenges the persecuted
to persevere.

*I, John, your brother and **companion in the suffering** and kingdom and **patient endurance** that are ours in Jesus... (Revelation 1:9)*

Revelation 1:12-15

¹² I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³ and among the lampstands was someone like a son of man,^[d] dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. ¹⁴ The hair on his head was white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. ¹⁵ His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters.

[d] see Daniel 7:13



Revelation 1:16-18

¹⁶ In his right hand he held seven stars, and **coming out of his mouth** was a sharp, double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.

¹⁷ When I saw him, I fell at his feet **as though dead**. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: “**Do not be afraid**. I am the First and the Last. ¹⁸ I am the **Living One**; I was dead, and **now look**, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.





Matthew 28:1-6

¹ After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

² There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. ⁴ The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

⁵ The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.

APOCALYPIC LITERATURE

Invites us to **look back**, as
much as **look forward**.

***Blessed** is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and **blessed** are those who **hear it and take to heart** what is written in it, because the time is near. (Revelation 1:3)*

Revelation 1:19-20

¹⁹ “Write, therefore, what you have seen, **what is now and what will take place later.** ²⁰ The mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand and of the seven golden lampstands is this: The seven stars are the angels^[e] of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

[e] or *messengers*



APOCALYPIC LITERATURE

Declares that the Author of Life, has
already written the conclusion.

*Write, therefore, what you have seen, **what is now** and **what will take place later.** (Revelation 1:19)*