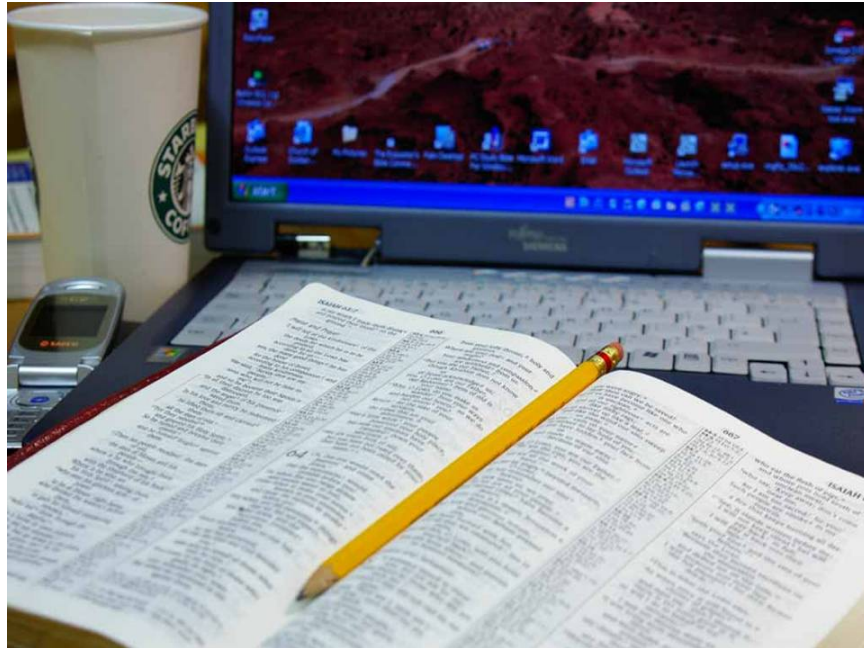
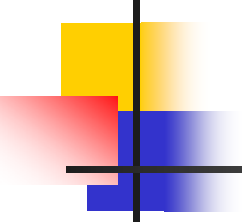


# Scripture reading

## Rev 20: 1-10





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The study of the **last things** is technically known as eschatology, from the Greek word for 'last'.

Harold Camping, the Christian broadcaster who predicted the end of the world would come last May, says the true end is now near. He was off by five months, he says; the real day is Oct. 21.



## Genres of Biblical literature

Law, History, Wisdom, Poetry,  
Gospel, Epistles, Prophecy, and  
Apocalyptic Literature.



## Genres of Biblical literature

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**Prophecy** is often associated with predicting the future; Yet Prophecy also exposes sin and calls for repentance and obedience. This is found in the OT books of **Isaiah through Malachi**. In the NT, prophecy is mainly **found in the book of Revelation**.



## Genres of Biblical literature

**Apocalyptic Writing** is characterized by the repetitious language of visions, abundant symbolism and an emphasis on eschatological judgment and is found in **Isaiah, Daniel, Ezekiel, Zechariah, and Revelation.**



## Eschatology

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The kingdom of God  
a term frequently on the lips of Jesus  
(Mt. 12:28; Mk. 1:14; 9:1; Lk 13:18-20; Jn.  
3:3). The basic meaning is God's 'rule' or  
'kingly power' (Lk. 19:12), not a  
geographical entity. It is a dynamic  
notion; God's kingdom is his rule in  
action (Ps. 145:13; Dn. 2:44).



## Eschatology

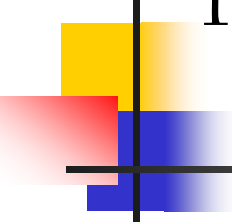
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Jesus' teaching about the kingdom has two aspects. These twin claims are the key to all Jesus' teaching on the kingdom of God: the kingdom has come, and yet it is still to be ultimately fulfilled.

## NEW TESTAMENT TERMS

*Parousia* is the commonest term used in the Greek NT for the second advent (Mt. 24:3; 1 Cor. 15:23; 1 Thes. 2:19; 2 Thes. 2:1, 8). It means 'coming', 'arrival' or presence.

- *Apokalypsis* means 'revelation' (1 Cor. 1:7; 2 Thes. 1:7; 1 Pet. 1:7). The Lord's coming will reveal who he is and what the world is. It will be a time for things which are now hidden to come to light.

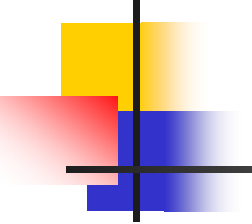


The second coming will be *glorious* coming, in ‘power and great glory’ (Mt. 24:30); ‘every eye will see him’ (Rev. 1:7).

It will be a **decisive** coming: ‘Then the end will come’ (1 Cor. 15:24). History will come to a close: the curtain will fall on the stage of time  
– Christ will come!

It will be a **sudden** coming. Despite references to signs of the times, the Bible speaks clearly about the unexpectedness of the Lord’s return (Mt. 24:37-44; 1 Thes. 5:1-6).

## Millennium




This is the most hotly debated issue in this topic. The word millennium means “one thousand years”. The term comes from Rev 20; 2 & 7 where we are told that Christ will reign for a thousand years, during this period the devil is bound. After this period he is released as a preliminary to the final conflict between heaven and hell

# THE PURPOSE OF THE SECOND COMING

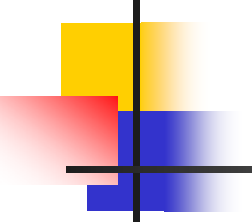
## *To complete the work of redemption*

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By his coming Christ will complete the redemptive purposes of God across the ages. All God's enemies, sin, death and the devil, will be removed from God's world (1 Cor. 15:22-28, 42-57; Rev. 12:7-11; 20:1-10) and a new order established in which God's original purposes for humankind and creation will find final realization (2 Pet. 3:1-13; Rev. 22:1-15).



It is important to maintain the essential links between the second advent and the first. It is not that the first advent was inadequate and needs the second to do the job properly. Rather, the work of Christ in his second advent is to implement the conquest and victory won decisively in his first (Jn. 14:3; Rev. 5:5-14). This essential link between the past achievement of Jesus' mission and its



future climax goes a long way to explaining why the expectation of an imminent return of Christ runs through the NT writings. The end has already arrived and is 'at hand'; in principle nothing remains to be accomplished to bring about its full triumph. No intervening events can affect the Easter victory of Christ and so we can live in constant anticipation of his appearing.



## Pre-millennialism

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This is the view which states that the return of Christ will take place before (pre) the millennial reign of Christ on earth for 1000 years. Evil will be largely restrained during this period but a final conflict is still to come.

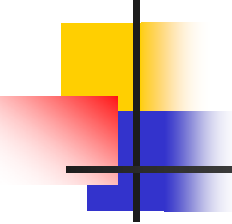


## Revelation of John

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The last book of the Bible, and the only book of APOCALYPTIC LITERATURE in the New Testament. Apocalypse, the title of this book in the original Greek, means "unveiling" or "disclosure" of hidden things known only to God

# Revelation of John



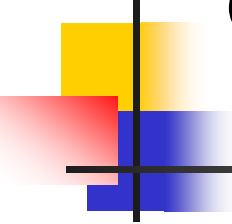
Why was apocalyptic literature written in such imagery? These books were written in dangerous times when it was safer to hide one's message in images than to speak plainly. The symbolism preserved an element of mystery about details of time and place. The purpose of such symbolism, however, was not to confuse, but to inform and strengthen believers in the face of persecution.



## Revelation of John


Historical Setting. John tells us, "The seven heads [of the beast] are seven mountains" (17:9), undoubtedly a reference to the famed seven hills of Rome. 13 tells us that the dragon (Satan) gave authority to the beast (Rome) to exact worship from its inhabitants (v. 4). The first Roman emperor to

# Revelation of John



demand that his subjects address him as "Lord and God" on an empire-wide basis was Domitian. It was under Domitian that the apostle John was banished to Patmos. Christians, of course, were forbidden by the First Commandment (Ex 20:3) to worship anyone other than God. In the Book of Revelation, John sounded the trumpet alert to Domitian's challenge.

## Revelation of John



Authorship and Date. The author identifies himself as John (1:4,9; 21:2; 22:8), a prophet (1:1-4; 22:6-7).

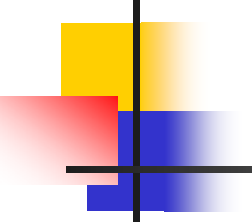
He indicates that he was exiled to the island of PATMOS (1:9) off the west coast of ASIA MINOR (modern Turkey) and that on the "Lord's Day" (Sunday) he was caught up "in the Spirit" (1:10) and

saw the visions recorded in his book. An examination of the Greek language of the book of

Revelation reveals that it has some strong similarities with the Gospel and Epistles of John, but also some striking stylistic differences. The author seems to think in Hebrew and write in


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## Revelation of John

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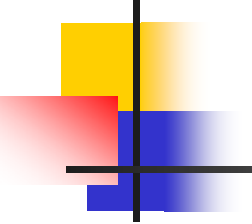
Theological Contribution. The grand theme of the Book of Revelation is that of two warring powers, God and Satan, and of God's ultimate victory. It would be a mistake to consider the two powers as equal in might. God is stronger than Satan, and Satan continues his scheming plots only because God permits him to do so. Thus, at the final battle Satan and his followers are utterly destroyed-without a contest-by fire from heaven (20:7-10).

## Revelation of John




John portrays God's majesty and power through two key words. The first is the image of the **throne**. Elsewhere in the New Testament this word is found 15 times, but in Revelation it occurs 42 times! The throne stands for the rightful reign of God over the course of history. Angelic choruses bow before God's throne and chant, "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty" (4:8).

## Revelation of John



The second term is *Almighty*. Outside Revelation this term is found only once in the New Testament (2 Co 6:18), but here it occurs nine times. Almighty means "without contenders." No matter how fierce and wicked Satan may be, he cannot defeat God. In God's time and in His way He will fulfill His promises and accomplish His sovereign purpose in history.

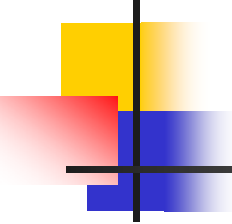
## Revelation of John



The central figure in the army of God the King is Christ. The Book begins with the words, "The Revelation of Jesus Christ" (1:1).

Christ appears in various images, each illuminating a special function or characteristic.

# Revelation of John



He appears as a **lion** (5:5), representing **royal power**.

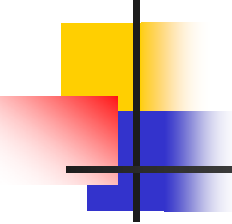
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As a **root** (5:5; 22:16), He represents **Davidic lineage**.

As the rider on a **white horse** (19:11), He symbolizes **victory** over evil.

Most important is the symbol of **the Lamb** who was slain (5:6). By His sacrifice on the cross, Christ has redeemed humanity(1:5).

## Revelation of John



This Lamb is victorious. He shares in the power of God's throne (7:17).

At the end of time, He will come in judgment (19:11). Then He will reveal Himself as the Lord of all as foretold told in the Old Testament (2:26; 12:5; 19:15) and the source of new life with God in the heavenly Jerusalem (21:22; 22:1).

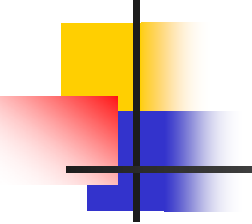
# Revelation of John



Special Considerations. Revelation was written originally for the first-century.

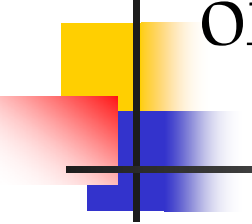
Christians who faced severe trials under a totalitarian political system. Its imagery reflects the historical realities of that time.

# Revelation of John



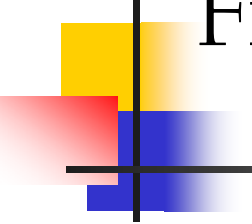
One of the unique characteristics of Revelation is its use of four, twelve, and seven. Thus, we find four living creatures, four horsemen, and four angels; twelve elders, twelve gates to the city of God, twelve foundations, and twelve varieties of fruit on the tree of life; and seven churches, seven spirits

## Revelation of John



of God, seven thunders, seven seals, seven trumpets, seven bowls, and seven beatitudes. In apocalyptic literature these numbers represent completeness and perfection. Conversely,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  is a number frequently associated with Satan (11:2; 13:5; 42 months or  $3\frac{1}{2}$  years); this number symbolizes a fracturing and diminishing of God's unity. (144,000)

## Revelation of John



Finally, the number of the beast, 666 (Rev 13:18), probably refers to Nero, or more specifically to the idea that Nero would return alive to lead the armies of Satan against God. In Hebrew and Greek, letters of the alphabet also served as numbers, and in this case the numerical value of "Nero Caesar" amounts to 666, the number of the beast.



## Classic or Historic Pre-millennialism

The prefix “pre-” means “before,” and the “premillennial” position says that Christ will come back *before* the millennium.

- Pentecost issues in the Church Age,
  - The preaching of the Gospel to all nations will take place,



## Classic or Historic Pre-millennialism

- A great apostasy will take place and the corruption of the church will occur,
  - wars, famines, earthquakes and the appearance of the Antichrist will occur
  - A period of Tribulation and suffering will come,
- At the end of the age Christ will return thus initiating the millennium

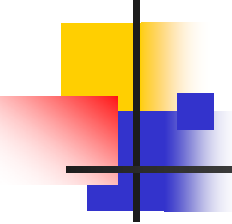


## Pre-millennialism

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- At Christ's return the dead in Christ will rise and reign with Christ for a thousand years including a time of peace before the end of the world
- During his reign Christ will be physically present on earth

## Pre-millennialism



During the millennium many will be converted including many from Israel which will play a more prominent role in the drama of the end times

- Satan will be bound
- Evil although still present will be restrained

## Pre-millennialism



At the end of the millennium Satan will be loosed unite with others in rebellion against Christ.

Satan will however be ultimately defeated,

Final judgment of all humanity

Inauguration of the eternal age and the new heaven and new earth

This view has gained in popularity during periods of persecution for the church.

## However?

Is Revelation only to be considered as a futuristic sense?

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What if Rev 20:1-6 has already taken place with the first coming of Christ?

William Hendrickson

“More than Conquerors”


# Revelation ?

Interpret Revelation in seven sections which run parallel to each other.

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**Chs 1-3**; John writes to seven churches in Asia minor – reference to events, people and places in first century communities. But it also has relevance for the church of today.

# Revelation ?



Chs 4-7: John is caught up to heaven and sees God sitting upon his throne and the lamb who was slain. Seals are broken and divine judgment is described.

Here we see the church suffering trial and persecution against the backdrop of the victory of Christ.

third section = 8-11

Fourth = 12-14....Seven sections

# Revelation ?

Rev 20:1-6:

Vs 1-3: describe the binding of Satan

Vs 4-6: describe the thousand year reign of souls with Christ.

But what if 20; 1-6 is describing the beginning of the New Testament age?

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