

# Revelation: Following Our Victorious King

[Revelation 1:1-8](#)

"The Revelation of Jesus Christ"— January 7, 2024



## Introduction

What comes to mind when you think of the book of Revelation? Many people are interested in the book, but they avoid it because it seems difficult, confusing, controversial, or just plain weird. Some think of the man on the street holding a sign saying, "The end is near." Many people think of it in relation to what they read in the newspaper.

We should think of it in relation to the word "blessed." The book begins with blessing and ends with blessing ([1:3](#); [22:7](#)). You are blessed if you read AND keep the words. There are some parts of Revelation that are difficult to unravel. We will work our way through it. God intends Revelation to be understood so that it can be obeyed. The purpose is not meant to fuel the curiosity of end-time speculation. It is to show God's people how to live in His unparalleled victory.

## Sermon Outline

1. Follow the road map. Vs. 1-3
2. Behold the true King. Vs. 4-8

## Read & Discuss

### 1. Read vs. 1 – 3

When you travel to a place you have never been, you usually look for and follow directions. We need to look at the "road map" of Revelation.

The genre of the book is found in verse one. The "revelation" means "apocalypse" which means "to unveil." Revelation is the unveiling of Jesus Christ. This is central to the book. If you are expecting this book to reveal specific end-time events, you will be disappointed. This book has so much more for us. It provides a heavenly perspective of reality. The truth of Jesus and His glory is being revealed.

What is the purpose of the book? "To show to His servants those things that must soon take place." Keep the main idea of the book in focus - Jesus is the triumphant King who judges evil and brings His people in victorious joy into heaven. Jesus is gonna win! That's the big idea of the book.

To whom is revelation written, and who is the author? Verse four tells us that it is written to the seven churches in Asia, and John is the human author. He probably wrote this around 95 AD while exiled on the island of Patmos. During this time, the Romans were in charge, and hostility toward the first century church was prevalent. Revelation was written to strengthen, warn, and embolden the church to keep going on and trusting God until the end. This divine perspective is meant to affect how we live today. There are very strange interpretations today that twist God's word. How can we avoid going "off the rails" in our interpretation of this book? Here are three things to remember to help:

1. Keep the big picture in mind as you work through the particulars. God is at the center of Revelation - start with Him. Revelation is a picture book not a puzzle book. Don't get bogged down in the details.
2. Remember the symbolic nature of the book of Revelation. Different genres in scripture have different tools and different rules for interpretation. Everything in Revelation is true, but rarely is it literal.
3. Remember the Old Testament context. Our authority is not what we read in the newspaper or our own opinion.

In [Mark 1:15](#) when Jesus starts His ministry, He announced that the King has come and the kingdom of God is at hand. Put yourself in John's shoes. In this time, the world was wicked; the Romans were in charge, and he had been hauled off to Patmos in exile. He may have been discouraged. He writes this to show us Who is really in charge - Jesus. Does remembering that Jesus is in charge change how you view current events?

### 2. Read vs. 4 – 8

Revelation is a letter that was meant to be read to the churches who were facing persecution. They were weary, tired, and ready to throw in the towel. John starts this letter by pointing us to the greatness of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

God the Father is the I AM. ([Ex. 3:14](#)) He is the Creator, the Eternal One who rules all things. He reigns now over the world and the church.

God the Holy Spirit ([Rev. 4:5](#); [Zechariah 4](#)) You may grow tired and weary, but the Holy Spirit will not. He is at work in your life and in this world. His power never runs out. It is perfect, complete, and limitless. We can shine brightly as we rely on the Holy Spirit.

God the Son, Jesus is the Faithful Witness. We live in a world that is filled with lies that our enemy wants to use to defeat us and discourage us. Are you tempted to believe the lies of the enemy? Jesus is the first born from the dead. For the Christian, His resurrection guarantees your resurrection. He is the ruler of the kings of the earth. Every ruler, king, or authority will answer to Jesus because all authority has been given to Him. ([Prov. 21:1](#)) Do you have a hard time trusting Jesus with your life?

Grace and peace are available from Him. We have a big God. Beholding Him leads to praise and worship. You are loved by God! How willing are you to lay down our life for an enemy? This is what Jesus did for us. ([Romans 5:8](#)) We are freed from our sins by His blood. Do you struggle to grow as a Christian? Do you think you can't change? The Faithful Witness says you CAN change. You are free in Christ and don't have to sin. Our purpose in life is to represent and reflect God. It was ruined in [Genesis 3](#). Because of Jesus, we are redeemed to represent God's rule and reflect God's character now. Do you live like you are loved by God? Do you live like you are free? Do you live like a priest who declares the good news of the King?

Jesus came first to live a perfect life and die for sin. When He comes again, He will sit on the throne and judge the world, bringing righteousness and peace. This revelation is about things that must "soon" take place, and the time is "near." Compare this to the vision of Daniel in [Daniel 7](#). Daniel was told that these things will happen "later," and the book should be sealed. Daniel was to wait. John saw that it was beginning to happen in his day. The time between Jesus' resurrection and His second coming are the "last days." When He returns in the clouds is the "last day." Do you sometimes doubt Jesus' second coming? How do you respond to those who scoff at His second coming?

Why the delay? God is not slow or forgetful but patient and merciful. He is giving mankind an opportunity to repent. Today is the day of salvation, but when Jesus comes, the door is shut. Those who have rejected Jesus will wail in regret. Come to Jesus today.

Jesus is the Beginning and End of history, the Ruler and King over all things. He is the Almighty. LOOK! LISTEN! Do you see what God is showing? Do you hear what God is saying? There is a world beyond the computer screen and beyond your trials. Satan wants you to look at your circumstances. He wants you to be scared and angry and hopeless. Look up! Look at Christ! Look at God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. The fight is worth it. In the end, Jesus wins! Have your circumstances and world events made you discouraged? How has this message encouraged you today?

**Additional Reading:** *Zechariah 4; Daniel 7*

### **Prayer of Response**

- 1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to *confess*? From what do I need to *repent*?
- 2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand*, *believe*, *desire*, or *do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come. If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at [fbcum.org](http://fbcum.org)

<b>Next week's sermon text:</b> we turn to <a href="#">Revelation 1:9-20</a> "At the feet of the Son of Man"
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