

God's Story

Words for Overcomers

Gerry Breshears // September 3, 2023
The Book of Revelation

I. Approaches to the Book

- A. Predictive – Codebook for the future: Tribulation timeline
- B. Preterist – Codebook for the past
- C. Poetic – a poem to evoke wonder
- D. Protest – a pamphlet to expose injustice
- E. Pastoral-Prophetic – a document to view the first and every generation in light of
 - 1. Biblical symbols and stories
 - 2. The battle between Lamb and the Serpent/Dragon
 - 3. God's present working and promised victory
 - 4. God's call to faithful witness to Messiah

II. Jesus: Exalted Priest-King Ministering to the Churches (1-3)

- A. The Lord of Glory Comes to John (1)
- B. The Message to Churches (2-3) Be an Overcomer
 - 1. Ephesus: Fundamentalists for Jesus
 - 2. Smyrna: Faithful in Persecution
 - 3. Pergamos: Lovingly Tolerant
 - 4. Thyatira: Proud of Being Truthless
 - 5. Sardis: Stinking Dead
 - 6. Philadelphia: Weary but Faithful
 - 7. Laodicia: "Whatever"

III. Jesus: The Lion-Lamb Seated on the Throne (4-5; Daniel 7:9-14)

- A. The Ancient of Days (4)
- B. The Lion who is the Divine Lamb (5)

- IV. Jesus: Judge of the Earth Overcoming Evil with Good (6-18)
- A. Unsealing the Scroll: Judgment I (6)
 - B. Sealing the Saints (7)
 - C. Trumpets: Judgment II (8-9)
 - D. The Scroll (10)
 - E. The Witnesses (11)
 - F. Dragon Wars (12)
 - G. Satanic "Trinity": Anti-Christ, False Prophet, Prostitute (13)
 - H. Voices of Victory (14-15)
 - I. Bowls: Judgment III (16)
 - J. Desolation & Destruction (17-18)

- V. Jesus: The King Returning to Establish His Kingdom (19-20)
- A. Two Feasts (19)
 - 1. Marriage Supper of the Lamb
 - 2. Supper of the Birds
 - B. Destroy Satan – Reign as King (20)

- VI. Jesus: The Bridegroom Living with His Bride on the New Earth (21-22)

Three Basic Themes:

- War between the Lamb and the Dragon: Cross, Church, Coming
- The New Exodus: Liberation from destructive powers
- Witness: Telling the story of the Lamb who is the Lion

Questions from the Book

What are its key purposes?

Encourage the faithful in persecution

Warn the compromisers so they'll repent and overcome

See history from the perspective of heaven, from the perspective of the end so we'll have direction and discernment to our life now and give us eyes to see Him at work in hard times.

Why all the symbols?

Who is God? (Exodus 34:6-7; Psalms 145:8-9)

Whom will we worship?

We are in a war. What weapons will we use? How can we be overcomers?

How do we evaluate governments?

Why are divine judgments so ineffective?

What's the biggest danger to the church?

Why is God so vindictive, so wrathful? Revelation 9:20-21; 11:18

Lessons for Today

- Walk:
- Witness:
- Worship:

The Outcome of Reading:

- Blessing:
- Hope:

Buist Fanning, *Revelation* (ZECNT) Zondervan, 2020

Alexander Stewart, *Reading the Book of Revelation: Five Principles for Interpretation*, Lexham 2021

Richard Bauckham, *The Theology of the Book of Revelation* Cambridge, 1993

G. K Beale. *The Book of Revelation* (NIGTC). Eerdmans, 1999; G. K Beale & David Campbell. *Revelation: A Shorter Commentary*. Eerdmans, 2015

Michael Heiser. *John's Use of the Old Testament in the Book of Revelation*, Naked Bible Press, 2021