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WEEK 1	WHY? HOW?
WEEKS 2-4	WHAT? WHO?
WEEK 2	IN THE CONTROL ROOM (1 – 5)
WEEK 3	TROUBLE ON EARTH (6 – 16)
WEEK 4	A TALE OF TWO CITIES (17 – 22)

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ONE

WHY? HOW?

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WHY READ REVELATION?

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WHY READ REVELATION?

1. **BECAUSE IT WAS WRITTEN TO REVEAL THINGS!**

5

WHY READ REVELATION?

1. BECAUSE IT WAS WRITTEN TO REVEAL THINGS!
2. **TO PRESERVE US FROM ERROR**

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WHY READ REVELATION?

1. BECAUSE IT WAS WRITTEN TO REVEAL THINGS!
2. TO PRESERVE US FROM ERROR

- THE FOLLY OF PREDICTING ...
- FALSE NOTIONS OF 'HEAVEN'
- THE RAPTURE TRAP

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WHY READ REVELATION?

1. BECAUSE IT WAS WRITTEN TO REVEAL THINGS!
2. TO PRESERVE US FROM ERROR
3. TO PREPARE US FOR WHAT IS TO COME

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IF ANYONE IS TO GO INTO CAPTIVITY, INTO CAPTIVITY THEY WILL GO. IF ANYONE IS TO BE KILLED WITH THE SWORD, WITH THE SWORD THEY WILL BE KILLED. THIS CALLS FOR PATIENT ENDURANCE AND FAITHFULNESS ON THE PART OF GOD'S PEOPLE.

13:10

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¹¹ AND THE SMOKE OF THEIR TORMENT WILL RISE FOR EVER AND EVER. THERE WILL BE NO REST DAY OR NIGHT FOR THOSE WHO WORSHIP THE BEAST AND ITS IMAGE, OR FOR ANYONE WHO RECEIVES THE MARK OF ITS NAME. ¹² THIS CALLS FOR PATIENT ENDURANCE ON THE PART OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD WHO KEEP HIS COMMANDS AND REMAIN FAITHFUL TO JESUS.

14:11, 12

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CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

*A LONG OBEDIENCE IN THE SAME
DIRECTION*

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WHY READ REVELATION?

1. BECAUSE IT WAS WRITTEN TO REVEAL THINGS!
2. TO PRESERVE US FROM ERROR
3. TO PREPARE US FOR WHAT IS TO COME
4. **BECAUSE THE WORLD AT ITS WORST NEEDS THE CHURCH AT ITS BEST**

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WHY READ REVELATION?

1. BECAUSE IT WAS WRITTEN TO REVEAL THINGS!
2. TO PRESERVE US FROM ERROR
3. TO PREPARE US FOR WHAT IS TO COME
4. BECAUSE THE WORLD AT ITS WORST NEEDS THE CHURCH AT ITS BEST
5. BECAUSE WE ARE PEOPLE OF THE STORY

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How DO WE READ REVELATION?

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HOW DO WE READ REVELATION?

1. IT IS UNIQUE IN ORIGIN AND STYLE

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HOW DO WE READ REVELATION?

1. IT IS UNIQUE IN ORIGIN

THE ONLY BOOK IN THE NEW TESTAMENT THE AUTHOR
HAD NEITHER INTENTION TO WRITE, NOR PLAN FOR
DOING SO

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HOW DO WE READ REVELATION?

1. IT IS UNIQUE IN STYLE

- 1:11 *WRITE ON A SCROLL WHAT YOU SEE*
- 1:12 *I TURNED ROUND TO SEE THE VOICE THAT WAS SPEAKING TO ME ...*

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*A ROLLER-COASTER RIDE
SET WITHIN A GALLERY
HUNG WITH IMPRESSIONIST ART*

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HOW DO WE READ REVELATION?

1. IT IS UNIQUE IN ORIGIN AND STYLE
2. REFUSING TO ALLOW IT TO DIVIDE US

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HOW DO WE READ REVELATION?

1. IT IS UNIQUE IN ORIGIN AND STYLE
2. REFUSING TO ALLOW IT TO DIVIDE US
3. UNDERSTANDING THE NATURE AND MEANING OF
'APOCALYPTIC' LITERATURE

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HOW DO WE READ REVELATION?

- THE PATTERN OF APOCALYPTIC WRITING
IS ESSENTIALLY MORAL

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HOW DO WE READ REVELATION?

- THE PRESENTATION OF APOCALYPTIC WRITING
IS OFTEN SYMBOLIC

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THE SYMBOLS COME IN 4 CATEGORIES —

- SOME ARE OBVIOUS IN MEANING (THE 'DRAGON' / 'SERPENT' = SATAN)
- SOME ARE EXPLAINED IN CONTEXT (THE 'STARS' IN CHAPTER 1 = ANGELS)
- SOME ARE PARALLELED ELSEWHERE IN SCRIPTURE, MAINLY THE OT ('MORNING STAR')
- SOME ARE OBSCURE, BUT VERY FEW (THE 'WHITE STONE' OF 2:17)

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NUMBERS ARE ALSO USED AS SYMBOLS —

- ONE, FIRST = EXCLUSIVENESS, PRIMACY, EXCELLENCE ('I AM THE FIRST AND THE LAST')
- FOUR = UNIVERSALITY, THE WHOLE OF THE CREATED ORDER ('THE FOUR WINDS')
- SIX = IMPERFECTION, MAN'S NUMBER, ONE SHORT OF PERFECTION ('666')

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NUMBERS ARE ALSO USED AS SYMBOLS —

- SEVEN = FULLNESS, PERFECTION, TOTALITY ('THE SEVEN SPIRITS...')
- TWELVE = THE TRIBES OF ISRAEL, THE APOSTLES (24 COMBINES THE TWO)
- THOUSAND = A LARGE NUMBER, A MULTITUDE, A LONG PERIOD OF TIME

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FOUR 'CLASSIC' METHODS OF READING REVELATION:

1. PRETERIST — ALL THE PREDICTIONS OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION WERE FULFILLED DURING THE DAYS OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE

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FOUR 'CLASSIC' METHODS OF READING REVELATION:

2. HISTORICIST — THE PREDICTIONS OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION COVER THE ENTIRE CHURCH AGE BETWEEN CHRIST'S FIRST AND SECOND COMINGS

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FOUR 'CLASSIC' METHODS OF READING REVELATION:

3. FUTURIST — THE PREDICTIONS OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION ALL APPLY TO THE LAST FEW YEARS OF EARTH HISTORY

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FOUR 'CLASSIC' METHODS OF READING REVELATION:

4. IDEALIST — THE PREDICTIONS OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION ARE PURELY FIGURATIVE, AND HAVE NO SPECIFIC FULFILMENT

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I SUGGEST WE

- **REJECT THE IDEALIST**
- **COMBINE THE OTHER THREE**

- REVELATION SPOKE INITIALLY AND POWERFULLY INTO THE REALITY OF THE 1ST-CENTURY CHURCH
- IT HAS CONTINUED TO SPEAK TO CHRISTIANS SUFFERING DOWN THE AGES AS A RESULT OF PERSECUTION
- IT CONTAINS TRUTH TO HELP THE FINAL GENERATION NAVIGATE THE LAST DAYS OF EARTH ...

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IN SCRIPTURE, THE FUTURE IS ONLY 'UNVEILED'
THAT IT MIGHT INFLUENCE THE PRESENT

THE HEAVENS WILL DISAPPEAR WITH A ROAR; THE ELEMENTS WILL BE DESTROYED BY FIRE, AND THE EARTH AND EVERYTHING IN IT WILL BE LAID BARE. SINCE EVERYTHING WILL BE DESTROYED IN THIS WAY, WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE OUGHT YOU TO BE? YOU OUGHT TO LIVE HOLY AND GODLY LIVES AS YOU LOOK FORWARD TO THE DAY OF GOD AND SPEED ITS COMING.

2 PETER 3:10-13

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How DOES REVELATION
FIT WITHIN
THE SWEEP OF SCRIPTURE?

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SCRIPTURE IS UNIVOCAL WHEN SPEAKING ABOUT “THE END TIMES”

1. THE WITNESS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

- THE OLD TESTAMENT IS THE WORD OF GOD AS SURELY AS IS THE NEW
- THE AUTHOR OF SCRIPTURE IS CONSISTENT
- SCRIPTURE IS BEST INTERPRETED BY SCRIPTURE
- THE MORE COMPLETE OUR VIEW, THE MORE ACCURATE OUR VIEW

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THE BOOK OF REVELATION IS STEEPED IN THE OLD TESTAMENT: 676 ALLUSIONS TO AND VERBAL PARALLELS WITH THE OLD TESTAMENT OCCUR WITHIN ITS CHAPTERS: INCLUDING

- 53 FROM EXODUS
- 99 FROM PSALMS
- 128 FROM ISAIAH
- 92 FROM EZEKIEL
- 82 FROM DANIEL

MORE THAN IN ANY OTHER NEW TESTAMENT BOOK (*UBS GREEK NEW TESTAMENT*)

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²⁵ IN THE BEGINNING YOU LAID THE FOUNDATIONS OF THE EARTH, AND THE HEAVENS ARE THE WORK OF YOUR HANDS. ²⁶ THEY WILL PERISH, BUT YOU REMAIN; THEY WILL ALL WEAR OUT LIKE A GARMENT. LIKE CLOTHING YOU WILL CHANGE THEM AND THEY WILL BE DISCARDED. ²⁷ BUT YOU REMAIN THE SAME, AND YOUR YEARS WILL NEVER END.

PSALM 102:25-27

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ALL THE STARS IN THE SKY WILL BE DISSOLVED AND THE HEAVENS ROLLED UP LIKE A SCROLL; ALL THE STARRY HOST WILL FALL LIKE WITHERED LEAVES FROM THE VINE, LIKE SHRIVELLED FIGS FROM THE FIG-TREE.

ISAIAH 34:4

36

*SEE, I WILL CREATE NEW HEAVENS AND A NEW EARTH.
THE FORMER THINGS WILL NOT BE REMEMBERED, NOR
WILL THEY COME TO MIND.*

ISAIAH 65:17

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SOME CHARACTERISTICS OF BIBLICAL PROPHECY

- IT IS SOMETIMES CAPABLE OF MULTI-REFERENCE APPLICATION
- IT SOMETIMES EXHIBITS A 'CONCERTINA' EFFECT
- SOMETIMES CONTRASTING PROPHECIES ARE GIVEN ABOUT THE SAME EVENT
- IT IS NEVER GIVEN WITHOUT PURPOSE (TELEOLOGICAL)
- IT IS CHRIST-CENTERED

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SCRIPTURE IS UNIVOCAL WHEN SPEAKING ABOUT
“THE END TIMES”

2. THE WITNESS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

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2. THE WITNESS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

ONLY PHILEMON AND 3 JOHN
MAKE NO MENTION OF THE END TIMES

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BUT IN KEEPING WITH HIS PROMISE WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO A NEW HEAVEN AND A NEW EARTH, WHERE RIGHTEOUSNESS DWELLS.

2 PETER 3:13

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¹⁰ HE ALSO SAYS, 'IN THE BEGINNING, LORD, YOU LAID THE FOUNDATIONS OF THE EARTH, AND THE HEAVENS ARE THE WORK OF YOUR HANDS. ¹¹ THEY WILL PERISH, BUT YOU REMAIN; THEY WILL ALL WEAR OUT LIKE A GARMENT.

¹² YOU WILL ROLL THEM UP LIKE A ROBE; LIKE A GARMENT THEY WILL BE CHANGED. BUT YOU REMAIN THE SAME, AND YOUR YEARS WILL NEVER END.'

HEBREWS 1:10-12

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*THEN I SAW 'A NEW HEAVEN AND A NEW EARTH,' FOR
THE FIRST HEAVEN AND THE FIRST EARTH HAD PASSED
AWAY, AND THERE WAS NO LONGER ANY SEA.*

REVELATION 21:1

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SCRIPTURE IS UNIVOCAL WHEN SPEAKING ABOUT
"THE END TIMES"

3. THE WITNESS OF JESUS

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3. THE WITNESS OF JESUS

- HE IS THE FULCRUM OF HISTORY & THE LENS BY WHICH WE VIEW PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE

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3. THE WITNESS OF JESUS

- HE IS THE FULCRUM OF HISTORY & THE LENS BY WHICH WE VIEW PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE
- HE USHERS IN 'THE LAST DAYS' (JOEL 2, ACTS 2, HEBREWS 1:2)

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3. THE WITNESS OF JESUS

- HE IS THE FULCRUM OF HISTORY & THE LENS BY WHICH WE VIEW PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE
- HE USHERS IN 'THE LAST DAYS' (JOEL 2, ACTS 2, HEBREWS 1:2)
 - ALL THE PROMISES OF THE OT ARE REINTERPRETED IN AND THROUGH HIM: ISRAEL ... LAND ... TEMPLE

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Mark 13	Revelation
Verses 1 – 4:	Chapters 1, 4 & 5:
A temple overthrown	A throne room revealed

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Mark 13	Revelation
<p>Verses 5 – 25:</p> <p>Tribulation on earth</p> <p>war, rumours of war, famine</p> <p>Persecution & Proclamation</p> <p>Desecration & Deceit</p> <p>Convulsions in the heavens</p>	<p>Chapters 6 – 18:</p> <p>Tribulation on earth</p> <p>war, rumours of war, famine</p> <p>Persecution & Proclamation</p> <p>Desecration & Deceit</p> <p>Convulsions in the heavens</p>

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Mark 13	Revelation
<p>Verses 26 – 31:</p> <p>The Coming of the Son of Man</p> <p>The Passing of heaven and earth</p>	<p>Chapters 19 – 22:</p> <p>The Rider on the White Horse</p> <p>A new heaven and a new earth</p>

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Mark 13	Revelation
Verses 32 – 37:	Chapters 2 & 3:
Warnings to be ready and to endure	Encouragements to be faithful and to overcome

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WHAT ON EARTH ARE WE TO EXPECT? (THAT'S A CLUE...)

- CREATION WAS GOD'S ORIGINAL GOAL; RECREATION IS HIS ULTIMATE GOAL
- A TIME OF GREAT TRIBULATION FOR 'THE SAINTS' TOWARDS THE END
- CHRIST'S PHYSICAL RETURN TO & RULE UPON EARTH, DEEPLY AFFECTING ALL CREATION
- A FINAL BATTLE AGAINST & JUDGMENT OF THE POWERS OF EVIL
- A NEW HEAVENS AND A NEW EARTH

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NEXT WEEK ...

WHAT? WHO?

IN THE CONTROL ROOM

CHAPTERS 1 – 5