

30 DAYS WITH

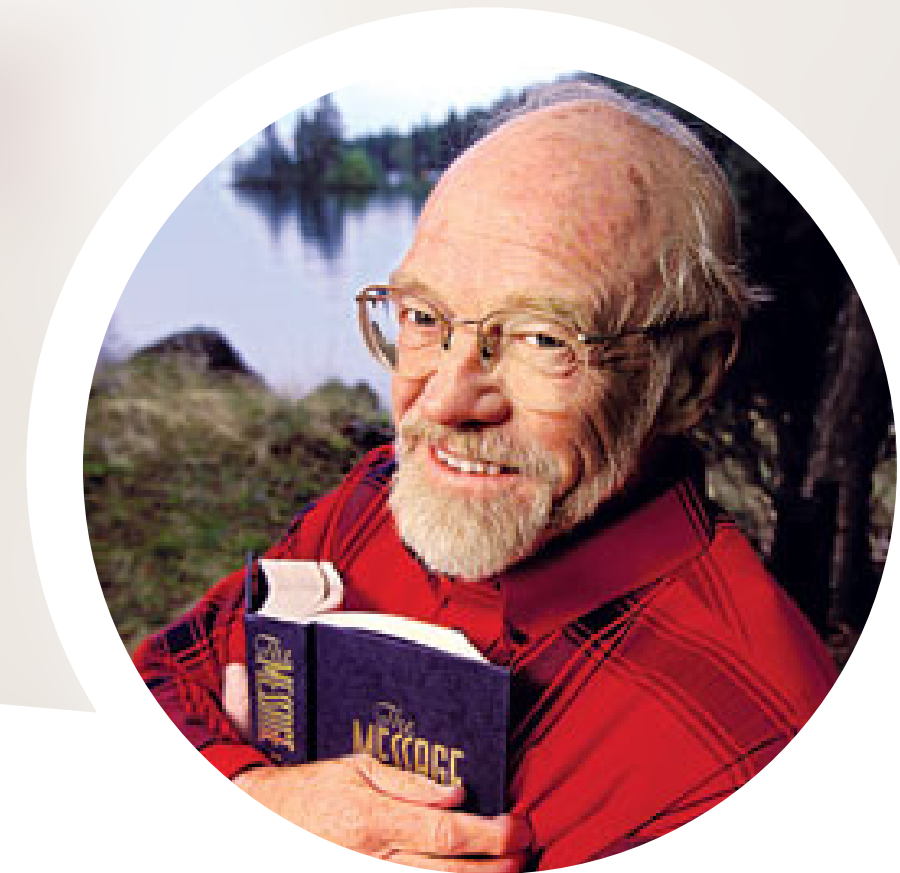
the book of

REVELATION



*“I read Revelation not to get more information but to revive my imagination. St John uses words the way poets do, recombining them in fresh ways so that old truth is freshly perceived. He takes truth that has been eroded to platitude by endless usage and sets it in motion before us in an animated impassioned dance of ideas...”**

***Eugene Peterson: Reversed Thunder**



STANDARD QUESTIONS



Author... *unknown?*



Date... *unknown?*



Audience:

- **Primary**... 7 churches in Asia-Minor:
- **Secondary**... Rest of 1st Century Church
- **Tertiary**... Us!



REVELATION'S GENRE

1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave to show his servant what must soon take place...

Apocalypse

3 John to the seven churches that are in Asia

Letter

5 Look! He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him...

Apocalyptic

6 "I am the Alpha and the Omega", says the Lord God...

Prophecy

8 I, John, your brother...

Letter

APOCALYPTIC TEXTS...

Think of apocalypses
as the original political
cartoons...



REVELATION: TEXT

What to observe as you read...



Key Characters

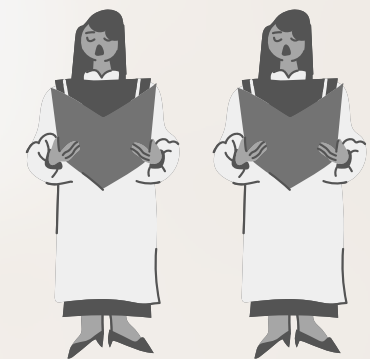
- **Goodies vs Baddies!**
- **Leaders (Described metaphorically)**
- **Followers (Described literally)**



VS

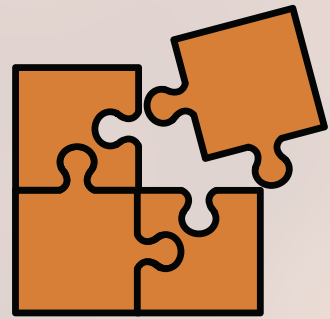


VS



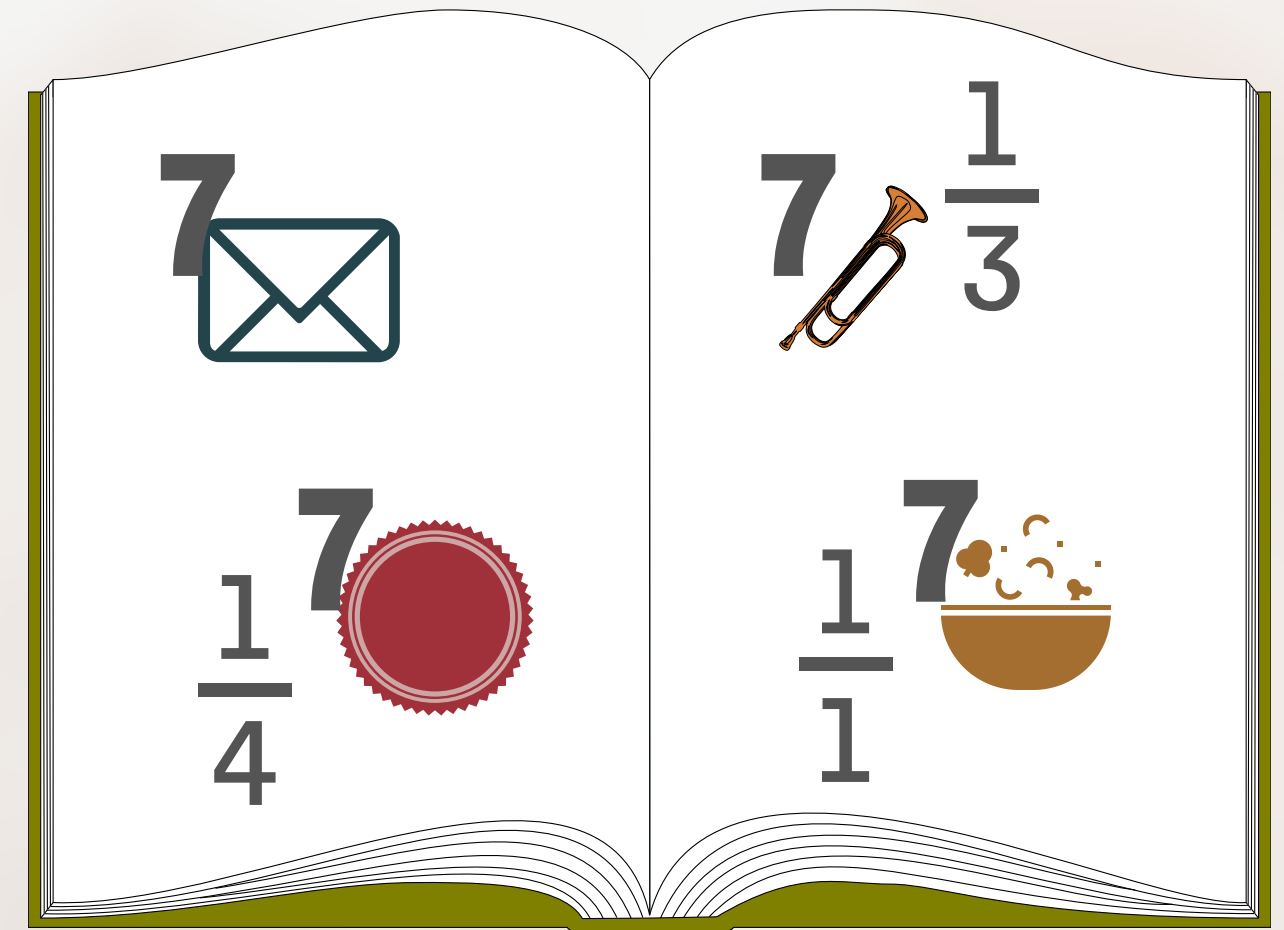
REVELATION: TEXT

What to observe as you read...



Patterns and Contrasts:

- *Heard / Saw*
- *Violence / Martyrdom*
- *Whore / Bride*



REVELATION: TEXT

What to observe as you read...



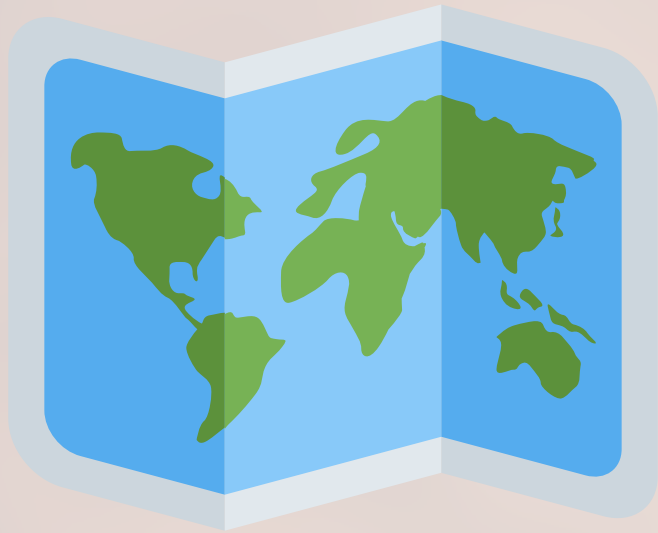
The Action

- *What actually happens?*
- *Who actually does what?*
- *What's the climax?*



(Rev 19:11-12)

REVELATION: CO-TEXT



"The *Nations*"
throughout
Revelation

- **Chapter 2...** will be under the authority of God's people (and the lamb!)
- **Chapter 10-11...** are prophesied to... react badly
- **Chapter 12...** reminded Jesus born to be Lord of Nations
- **Chapter 14...** told they've been sent mad by Babylon
- **Chapter 15...** Jesus again declared to be Lord of nations
- **Chapter 16...** collapse along with Babylon
- **Chapter 18...** reminded the nations were led astray by Babylon
- **Chapter 19...** Jesus again declared rule of the nations
- **Chapter 20...** Satan thrown into the Abyss to stop him deceiving nations
- **Chapter 21...** Nations now walk in the light of the New Jerusalem (God!)
- **Chapter 22...** Leaves of the tree of life are there to heal the nations.

REVELATION: CONTEXT

The world and circumstances the text emerge from



Greco-Roman Context

- *Roman Imperialism*
- *Theo-Political Cultism*
- *Cultural mythology*



(Rev 12:1-17)

REVELATION: CONTEXT

The world and circumstances the text emerge from



Historical Context

- **Historical realities**
 - *Plague / Famine*
 - *Earthquakes*
 - *War*
- **Geography**



(Rev 3:14-22)

REVELATION: CONTEXT

The world and circumstances the text emerge from



Literary Context

- **Numerology**

- *Numbers used symbolically*
- *Letters have numerical value*
- *Significant Numbers (7, 12, etc)*
- *Shaped Numbers (square, cube, etc)*



144,000

12 x 12

10 x 10 x 10

(Rev 7:4-10)

REVELATION: INTER-TEXT

The text in relation to the rest of the Bible...

“ References and allusions

- **More than one allusion per verse!!**
- **Most frequently to:**
 - *Isaiah* - 128
 - *Daniel* - 82
 - *Psalms* - 99
 - *Exodus* - 53
 - *Ezekial* - 92



(Rev 11:1-14)

CONTEXTUALISATION

What the text means for us today...



Key to interpreting: does your reading...

...actually reflect the words on the page? (Text)

...resonate with the rest of the book and its message? (Co-Text)

...make sense for a first-century audience / writer? (Context)

...cohere with the rest of scripture, particularly the gospel? (Intertext)

CONTEXTUALISATION

What the text means for us today...

“Revelation is... *“A theopoetic, theopolitical, pastoral-prophetic writing. It is above all a community-forming document, intended to shape communities of believers in Jesus as the Lamb of God into more faithful and missional communities of worship and witness. The primary agenda of John the Seer is to increase covenant faithfulness in the church universal – **then and now.**”**



*Michael Gorman: Reading Revelation Responsibly




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the book of

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