

## Goals

1. To give you a framework for reading the book of Revelation
2. To see the book of Revelation as encouraging, not frustrating
3. To embrace truth and avoid sensationalism
4. To understand different views

## Overview of the Book<sup>1</sup>

1. Letters to the Seven Churches (1-3)
2. Seven Seals (4:1-8:1)
3. Seven Trumpets (8:2-11:18)
4. The Dragon and the Lamb (11:19-15:4)
5. Seven Bowl Judgments (15:5-16:21)
6. The Harlot Babylon (17:1-19:10)
7. Thousand Years and Last Battle and Judgment (19:11-21:8)
8. The New Creation and the Bride of Christ (21:1-22:21)

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<sup>1</sup> Dennis Johnson, Triumph of The Lamb: A Commentary on Revelation. (Phillipsburg: P&R Publishing, 2001) 347-349.

## Genre (Apocalyptic)

*Revelation seems resistant and unresponsive to the way of regular interpretation as applied to the other books of Scripture. It is neither historical narrative like 1 Samuel, nor an epistle like Romans, nor a collection of laws (Leviticus), songs (Psalms), or wise aphorisms (Proverbs).<sup>2</sup>*

## History and Characteristics of Apocalyptic Literature

### Numbers as Symbols

1	12
2	7
3	3 ½
4	6
10	

### Approaches to Revelation<sup>3</sup>

Futurist

Historicist

Preterist

Idealist

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<sup>2</sup> Johnson 2.

<sup>3</sup> Venema, Cornelis. "Interpreting Revelation." Tabletalk January 2012: 11-13.

## Interpretive Principles<sup>4</sup>

1. Revelation is given to reveal
2. Revelation is a book to be seen
3. Revelation only makes sense in light of the Old Testament
4. Numbers are significant in Revelation
5. Revelation is for a Church under attack
6. Revelation concerns “what soon must take place”
7. The victory belongs to God and to His Christ

## Guide Posts - Key Features

Paradox

Contrast

Sets of Seven

Anticipation

Repetition

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<sup>4</sup> Johnson 6-22.

## Seven Applications of Revelation<sup>5</sup>

1. Revelation helps Christians see our situation in its true perspective
2. Revelation shows our enemies in their true colors
3. Revelation reveals our champion in His true glory
4. Revelation enables us to see ourselves in our true beauty
5. Revelation summons us to endure as we suffer
6. Revelation calls us to stay pure when compromise invites
7. Revelation encourages us to bear witness as God waits.

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<sup>5</sup> Johnson, Dennis. "Seven Applications of Revelation." *Tabletalk* January 2012: 24-26.