

# Revelation: Promises for a Dangerous World

## Week 1: Revelation 1-3

All handouts will be available at <http://www.nathangilmour.com/hardly/sunschmaterials/>

### Introduction: One Particular Way to Read

#### Gilmour's Four Rules for Reading Revelation

1. Always look for a reference to the Old Testament. (Footnotes are your friends.)
2. Always ask what a first-century audience would have heard.
3. Always look for a promise, not a threat, from God.
4. Always think of yourself as overhearing God's words to the first-century Christians.

#### The Appearance of the “One who was Crucified”

In what ways do the opening eight verses resemble the openings to Paul's letters? In what ways do they differ?

In pairs, compare Galatians 1:11-24 to Revelation 1:9-20. How do these personal narratives differ, and what role does each seem to be playing in its respective book?

#### Letters to Churches

City	What's Good	What's Bad	What's to Be Done
Ephesus (2:1-7)	Spotting false teachers, adhering to the truth	Left first love	Remember, repent, and return to earlier deeds
Smyrna (2:8-11)			
Pergamum (2:12-17)			
Thyatira (2:18-29)			
Sardis (3:1-6)			
Philadelphia (3:7-13)			
Laodicea (3:14-22)			