

Revelation: Promises for a Dangerous World

Week 14: Revelation Recap

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

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.

Revelation: Three Kinds of Visions

1. The Message Vision (Revelation 1-3)
2. The Throne Room Vision (Revelation 4-5)
3. The "Battle" Vision (Revelation 12-14)

The Four Most Important Books to Read if You Want to Understand Revelation

1. Daniel
2. Ezekiel
3. Zechariah
4. Isaiah

Revelation: Two Vision Cycles

1. Opening up Daniel's Scroll (Revelation 4-11): Begins with the scroll of Daniel being presented in the heavenly throne room, ends with God's thundering in the heavens as he did in Exodus 19.
2. The Beast and the Lamb (Revelation 12-22): Begins with the birth of a baby who will be the salvation of the world, ends with the descent and celebration of the New Jerusalem.

Some Questions to Ponder Now that We're Finished

From the description of Jesus in chapter 1 in terms of Daniel's vision of the Son of Man to the description of the New Jerusalem in chapter 22 in terms of Ezekiel's Heavenly Temple, Revelation is a moment in God's history with humanity that uses the Hebrew Scriptures to tell its story. Why does this sort of oracle make so much sense in that moment of persecution?

What about Revelation most surprised you, now that we've read the whole thing? What do you see as the most common misconceptions that people have about Revelation, and how has the actual text made you think differently about those misconceptions?

What big problem seems to be motivating Revelation, and what big messages does the book seem to offer in response to that big problem? How do these answers compare to the occasion and the message of books like Ephesians and Philemon?

What good might this combination of Bible references, fights-that-do-not-happen, songs of victory, and exhortations to faithfulness do for a 21st-century Christian?