

Want to learn more? Here are few suggested resources:

***Blessed: Experiencing the Promise of the Book of Revelation*, by Nancy Guthrie (2022).**

This is a popular level book exploring the main themes of the book of Revelation and taking special care to explore how these themes encourage our life.

***Revelation: A Shorter Commentary*, by G.K. (Greg) Beale (2015).**

This “shorter” commentary is still 500+ pages but he writes in a way that is accessible to serious Bible students. If you are looking for a verse-by-verse approach, this is what you want. It is a bit pricey but worth it! If you are super ambitious, you could get his longer commentary which clocks in at 1309 pages! Anything from Greg Beale is worthwhile.

**Videos:** scan QR code with your smartphone camera

Bible Project Video #1



Bible Project Video #2



# THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST



***REVELATION 13:1-10***  
**FEBRUARY 5, 2023**

**Winter 2023**

Revelation is the last book of the Bible and is often treated as “mysterious” and “futuristic.” However, we contend that it only *seems* mysterious because it is full of images rooted in the Old Testament and first century Roman culture—from which we are far removed. A patient and careful reading yields an understanding that is neither bizarre nor exclusively future. Rather, we find the book of Revelation to be presently encouraging and empowering for the people of God. This is because it reveals heaven’s view of events that transpire on earth throughout history—including our history and the history of its original audience.

# The Way of the Dragon: Earthly Power

February 5, 2023 | Revelation 13:1-10 | Pastor Roger Williams

**We are called to faithful endurance against earthly powers subverted by the dragon in his war on the woman.**

Revelation 12:17 And the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus. And he stood on the sand of the sea.

**Revelation 13** <sup>1</sup> And I saw a beast rising out of the sea, with ten horns and seven heads, with ten diadems on its horns and blasphemous names on its heads. <sup>2</sup> And the beast that I saw was like a leopard; its feet were like a bear's, and its mouth was like a lion's mouth. And to it the dragon gave his power and his throne and great authority.

<sup>3</sup> One of its heads seemed to have a mortal wound, but its mortal wound was healed, and the whole earth marveled as they followed the beast. <sup>4</sup> And they worshiped the dragon, for he had given his authority to the beast, and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast, and who can fight against it?"

<sup>5</sup> And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months. <sup>6</sup> It opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against God, blaspheming his name and his dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven.

<sup>7</sup> Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them. And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation, <sup>8</sup> and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain. <sup>9</sup> If anyone has an ear, let him hear:

<sup>10</sup> If anyone is to be taken captive, to captivity he goes;  
if anyone is to be slain with the sword, with the sword must he be slain.

Here is a call for the endurance and faith of the saints.

## The Way of Endurance

### Revelation 12

<sup>11</sup> And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death.

### Ephesians 6

<sup>10</sup> Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. <sup>11</sup> Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. <sup>12</sup> For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

### Romans 13

<sup>1</sup> Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. <sup>2</sup> Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. <sup>3</sup> For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, <sup>4</sup> for he is God's servant for your good.

Where will we place our faith: the way of the dragon or the way of the lamb of God? We march in the procession of one kingdom or the other (Col 1:13). The way of the dragon is fixated on the spectacular, obsessed with recognition and validation, intoxicated by fame and power. The way of the lamb is committed to worship, pursues God in the ordinary, and is faithful in hiddenness. The dragon devours and dominates, while the lamb humbly and sacrificially serves.

- Goggin and Strobel, *The Way of the Dragon or the Way of the Lamb*, 117.

The line between patriotism and idolatrous nationalism isn't always easy to draw, especially when Christian Americanism seems *normal*....For Christians in Asia Minor, civil religion combined Roman ideology and pagan religiosity. For Christin in the United States, civil religion blends American ideology with a form of Christian spirituality. This makes American civil religion all the more seductive and worship of the beast even harder to resist.

-Dean Flemming, *Foretaste of the Future*, 139-140.