

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.

***The Triumph of the Lamb*, by Dennis Johnson (2001).**

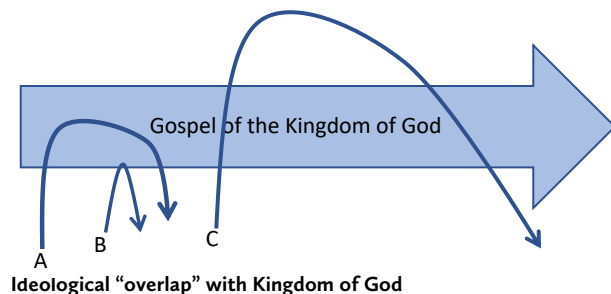
This is less verse-by-verse and more section-by-section. It is scholarly, but very readable. Johnson is a scholar/pastor and writes with the churchgoer in mind.

Videos: scan QR code with your smartphone camera

Bible Project Video #1



Bible Project Video #2



THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST



REVELATION 13:11-16

FEBRUARY 12, 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 Ideology

February 12, 2023 | Revelation 13:1-10 | Pastor Roger Williams

We are called to courageous wisdom against earthly ideologies subverted by the dragon in his war on the woman.

Courage in the face of deceit, power, and threat.

(Revelation 12:17 – 13:10) 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.

¹And I saw a beast rising out of the sea.....¹⁰ Here is a call for the endurance and faith of the saints.

Revelation 13:11-18

¹¹ Then I saw another beast rising out of the earth. It had two horns like a lamb and it spoke like a dragon.

¹² It exercises all the authority of the first beast in its presence, and makes the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose mortal wound was healed.

¹³ It performs great signs, even making fire come down from heaven to earth in front of people, ¹⁴ and by the signs that it is allowed to work in the presence of the beast it deceives those who dwell on earth, telling them to make an image for the beast that was wounded by the sword and yet lived.

¹⁵ And it was allowed to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast might even speak and might cause those who would not worship the image of the beast to be slain.

¹⁶ Also it causes all, both small and great, both rich and poor, both free and slave, to be marked on the right hand or the forehead, ¹⁷ so that no one can buy or sell unless he has the mark, that is, the name of the beast or the number of its name.

¹⁸ This calls for wisdom: let the one who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man, and his number is 666.

(Revelation 14:1) Then I looked, and behold, on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads...

The Beast from the Earth is, in modern parlance, the ideology, whether religious, philosophical, or political —which 'gives breath' to any human social structure organized independently of God.

– Michael Wilcock, *The Message of Revelation*, 127.

1 John 4 ¹ Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. ² By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³ and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already.

1 Corinthians 1 ²⁶ For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, ²⁹ so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰ And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹ so that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

2 Corinthians 10 ³ For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. ⁴ For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. ⁵ We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, ⁶ being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete.

The Way of Courageous Wisdom

Revelation 12

¹¹ And they overcame the Dragon 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.