

Revelation Simplified and Clarified (2017-2018)

- Truth #1: This book is about Jesus—who he is and what he is doing.
- Truth #2: A blessing is promised to those who read, hear, and take this to heart.
- Truth #3: This final book is addressed to believers in churches in a regional presbytery.
- Truth #4: Jesus is always living; he is the faithful witness, the firstborn from among the dead & the ruler of all earth's kings. (4-5)
- Truth #5: The believer knows Jesus' love and freedom from sins.
- Truth #6: When Jesus comes, even his enemies will know it.
- Truth #7: Sometimes, the good guys suffer and even get imprisoned.
- Truth #8: The Lord's Day was important enough to mention then; and it still is (v. 10; Acts 20:7 and 1 Cor. 16:2).
- Truth #9: This letter is addressed to churches, not individuals only.
- Truth #10: Jesus is depicted at the end in OT terms. This is where the OT is helpful.
- Truth #11: The proper reaction to the real Jesus (v. 17) is to fall in awe.
- Truth #12: A Jesus who is too weak to war with evil, too tolerant of your and my sinfulness, or too hedonistic as to only love pleasure, not only is not the Jesus of Revelation; neither is he one who could save and do all the other things Scripture records.
- Truth #13: These early chapters are about the state of the church. Why wouldn't the rest of the Book also be about that?
- Truth #14: For the church in all ages; it's an epistle, like Romans, Ephesians, etc., except it particularly focuses on what Jesus is doing to rule. Thus, let it inform us how the church today should look, act, respond.
- Truth #15: These early churches had an assigned spiritual leader (angel, messenger). God communicated through these "angels."
- Truth #16: Jesus walks among his lampstands = churches (2:1)
- Truth #17: Christ knows our church's deed and works (2:2-4).
- Truth #18: Jesus also knows our failings.
- Truth #19: How to regain spiritual love: *Remember, Repent, and Repeat* earlier steps.
- Truth #20: You need to know Who/What does Christ hate? (2:6)
- Truth #21: What is the promise to Ephesus?
- Truth #22: Christ knows when you are slandered.
- Truth #23: Not all worship is true; some religious gatherings are referred to as 'synagogue of Satan.' (2:9)
- Truth #24: At times, Christ allows Satan to harass his people. (2:10)
- Truth #25: All ears do not hear. (2:11 ff)
- Truth #26: If you live in the shadow of Satan, don't renounce the faith.
- Truth #27: Religions that mimic the lusts of culture arouse God's opposition (2:14-16)
- Truth #28: God's promises are often repeats of the OT (2:7, 17, 28, etc.)
- Truth #29: Heresy follows "in the direction of the culture, not away from it." (A. Kuyper)
- Truth #30: Jesus knows all our activities (2:19).
- Truth #31: God does not like Jezebelism.
- Truth #32: God gives opportunities to repent, but not forever (21-22)
- Truth #33: Chesterton: "*Tolerance is the virtue of the man without convictions.*"
- Truth #34: God sees through fake spiritual life. (3:2)
- Truth #35: God commands churches to wake up! (3:3)
- Truth #36: This 'heptagonal' view (7-sided) of the church helps us diagnose our church.
- Truth #37: No one can stop Sovereign God from closing or opening a door. (3:7)
- Truth #38: Even those with little strength can keep God's word. (3:9)
- Truth #39: Holding on (11) is an important mandate.
- Truth #40: The promises of 3:12-13!! Enduring Pillar, Presence, Three 'News'
- Truth #41: God desires intensity of commitment.
- Truth #42: God will not forever put up with mediocrity (16).

Truth #43: Self-deception is lethal (17).

Truth #44: If God loves us, he disciplines us—a relentless love.

Truth #45: Those who stay with Christ will join him on his Throne!

Truth #46: A sequence of visions is not necessarily the same as a sequence of time. “After this, I LOOKED” (cf. to 5:1; 7:1 etc).

Truth #47: Common objects are often symbols (door, throne = not literal), without jeopardizing the total truthfulness of the Bible.

Truth #48: Certain figures, when repeated, are the same (cf. 4:1 and 1:15) The loud voice speaking . . .

Truth #49: The Occupant of the Throne is the Divine Ruler.

Truth #50: The rainbow (3b) is the normal symbol for God’s covenant peace.

Truth #51: There is a hierarchy of order in heaven: 24 thrones (4:4). *God is not a socialist.*

Truth #52: Nor should you be a socialist (egalitarian).

Truth #53: The number 24, symbolizes two-twelves (OT tribes of Israel + NT apostles)—this is no accident.

Truth #54: Will there be presbyters in heaven? Yes, in white clothes w/ gold crowns.

Truth #56: The 7 lamps & 7 spirits in 4:5 = The 7 lamps & 7 spirits in 1:19-20. *Note the pattern!*

Truth #57: The Four Living Creatures, closest to the throne → Ezekiel 1:6, 14; also Is. 6.

Truth #58: God is praised as Holy-Cubed in all ages (Is. 6; Rev. 4:8).

Truth #59: From 4:9, if we follow these closest to the throne, we will give glory, honor, and thanks to God. That is the proper response to the presence of God.

Truth #60: Learn to count the “fall down” reactions to the presence of God (1:17; 4:10).

Truth #61: God is worthy; and here that is tied to being Creator (4:11).

Truth #62: The attributes of God are repeated many times. Here: worthy, honorable, all- powerful, creator, sustainer.

Truth #63: The Throne-Occupant has a Pre-scripted Plan (5:1).

Truth #64: This pre-scripted Plan with writing on both sides signifies a full text.

Truth #65: The Sealing of God’s providential plan is revealed as the Seven Seals in Ch. 6.

Truth #66: Even the Mightiest of Angels cannot penetrate God’s plan.

Truth #67: The One who is worthy to open and read the scrolls is as worthy (5:2 and 4:11) as the One worshipped above.

Truth #68: Neither can any created being read the scroll (5:3): the Creator/Creature Distinction is maintained.

Truth #69: From 5:4, we see how lamentably sad it is when revelation is absent.

Truth #70: Our true Hope is in the Lion of the Tribe of Judah (Gen. 49:9; Heb. 7:14), who is also the Root of David (Is. 11:1,10)

Truth #71: Christ is able to interpret the Father’s will (Jn 14:10; 15:15b; 16:13-15; 17:26); he also has acted definitively to triumph.

Truth #72: The Lamb occupies the Throne, as if slain (5:6).

Truth #73: This Lamb is also described as having 7 horns, 7 eyes = 7 spirits (cf. 1:20).

Truth #74: The Lamb is co-Worthy but distinct from the other Throne Occupant (5:7). See #64.

Truth #75: However, the response to this Lamb is the same (Falling down-5:8) as to God.

Truth #76: Musical instrumentation (or symbol for such) is allowed in heaven.

Truth #77: Bowls of Incense = prayers (8:3 and throughout).

Truth #78: Songs of praise should be filled with praise for God’s Worth—not emotions, theories, experiences, vague sentiments.

Truth #79: This song for the Lamb specifies that he is: worthy, active, slain, the Buyer for God, who creates an intl group of kings and priests who will reign (5:9-10).

Truth #80: The angelic hosts number over 100M!; they give praise to God and sing

Truth #81: Among this choir are: 4 living creatures, 24 elders, millions of angels, and every creature (v. 13).

Truth #82: God WILL BE PRAISED by all his creation.

Truth #83: To whom do you give honor, glory, power, and wealth?

Truth #84: The Lamb actively opens each seal (6:1).

Truth #85: The Four Living Creatures, in concert, project a loud voice.

Truth #86: An invitation to “Come” and look is often repeated—Another Series!

Truth #87: First Seal (1) = White horse with a Bow Given a Crown Conquest

Truth #88: Second Seal = Red horse Large Sword Given Power Chaos/No Peace

Truth #89: Third Seal (5) = Black horse Pair of Scales Scarcity/Famine

Truth #90: Fourth Seal (7) = Pale horse Death/Hades Given Power ¼ Plague/Famine

Truth #91: Fifth Seal (9) = No horse: martyrs’ plea Given White Robe Persecution

Truth #92: Sixth Seal (12) = Cosmic signs Day of Wrath

Truth #93: Meanwhile (same period, next in the vision-cycle), Supernatural powers control the climate.

Truth #94: An angel commands the four-corner angels not to harm the land, etc (7:3).

Truth #95: A “seal” protects contents and proves authenticity (7:2-4); also Eph. 1:13

Truth #96: The multitude of v. 9 is the same as 7:4-8, described differently.

Truth #97: White Robes symbolize purity; palm branches = the Sufferer of Palm Sunday.

Truth #98: Hymn of v. 10 focuses on God, Throne and the Lamb. *Rev. models good hymns!*

Truth #99: Rev. 7:11, AGAIN, they “fell down”.

Truth #100: Rev. 7:13-14 refer to the same group as in 7:9.

Truth #101: Which book of the Bible is most cited in Rev. 7:15-17?

Truth #102: Rev. 8:1-5 pulls back the curtain (same word as in 1:1) to show what is going on heaven as God is working on earth. *We live in a heaven-driven earth.*

Truth #103: Silence, speechlessness in heaven signifies incredible awe.

Truth #104: v. 2: Angels “are given,” a passive term showing God’s sovereignty.

Truth #105: Heaven is depicted in terms of the OT Temple (altar, censer, incense, etc).

Truth #106: Incense symbolizes prayer (4); note the effect when poured out on earth (5).

Truth #107: The 7th seal (8:1) Blossoms out into the next series of Sevens: Trumpets.

Truth #108: 1st Trumpet (8:7) Hail & Fire 1/3 of earth, trees, grass burnt

Truth #109: 2nd Trumpet (8:8) Fiery Mountain→Sea 1/3 of sea, ships, marine life

Truth #110: 3rd Trumpet (8:10) Fiery Star→earth 1/3 of rivers, waters

Truth #111: 4th Trumpet (8:12) Sun, Moon, Star 1/3 of Lights

 Pattern: Interlude (8:13) after the 4th of 7 in the series (4+2+1 pattern).

Truth #112: The following 3 Woes are more Intense; they are also Trumpets #5-7.

Truth #113: 5th Trumpet (9:1) = First Woe (9:12).

Truth #114: Seal of God in 9:4 = 7:3.

Truth #115: Persecution but not death is allowed (Also Luke 23:30).

Truth #116: These Locusts were composite Beasts as in Rev. 4-5; cf Ex. 10:1-20; Joel 1:2-2:11.

Truth #117: They had a ruler named “Destroyer”—all under the Sovereignty of God.

Truth #118: 6th Trumpet = Second Woe (9:13 ff); he releases 4 Euphrates Angels.

Truth #119: These are chartered to eliminate 1/3 of mankind—what devastation!

Truth #120: These angels had a spiritual army numbering 200M—*not literal!*

Truth #121: This spiritual cavalry were composite Beasts like in (4-5); cf. also OT.

Truth #122: Focus on the timeless app of v. 20-21: “God is not mocked.”

Truth #123: Note how detailed the Sovereignty of King Jesus is in 9:15!

Truth #124: God frequently dispenses Angels (1), who are not small or timid creatures.

Truth #125: This angel has no difficulty opening the scroll (which stands for God’s Message), and he spans the whole world.

Truth #126: This Angel (v. 3) has an impressive sound and triggers 7 Thunders.

Truth #127: At times God’s message is sealed, not revealed (v. 4). God may unveil or veil!

Truth #128: There are times when oaths are fine. But a lawful oath is tied only to God, not to anything created.

Truth #129: Note, again, the repetition of the doctrine of creation (v. 6). What other attributes of God are clear in this chapter?

Truth #130: The mystery of God will not remain unknown (7; cf also Eph. 1:9-10; 3:3). This mystery flows from the previous prophets: Scripture is a unity!

Truth #131: The Word of God is to be digested (8-10). Cf. Ezekiel 3.

Truth #132: John has more ministry ahead.

Truth #133: John obeys God's commands unquestioningly; do we?

Truth #134: God's measurements are to make a point; this is symbolism.

Truth #135: God is the God who *excludes* as much as he *includes*. He is not a one-sided God.

Truth #136: To measure the temple is to assess the church. The sanctuary of God is his people.

Truth #137: For a short, defined period (3.5 yrs = 42 mos = 1260 days), God's church will both be vandalized (v. 2) and will prophesy in repentance (v. 3).

Truth #138: Olive trees and Lampstands (see chap. 1) stand for the church and its spread.

Truth #139: God's mouthpieces have special protection from him.

Truth #140: The power to shut up (cf. Elijah in 1 Kgs 17) and to unleash is also the same as Mt. 16:19—"the keys of the kingdom."

Truth #141: Satan, the "beast from the abyss" is always opposing God's Message (v. 7).

Truth #142: The city of Jerusalem is compared to Sodom and Egypt (8).

Truth #143: The world hates the ambassadors of Christ (John 15-16); they will rejoice in our demise; so be warned about friendship with and accommodation to the world.

Truth #144: The Church will come back; again and again!! (v. 11).

Truth #145: Believers will rise as Christ did (Rev. 11:12 with Romans 6).

Truth #146: God judges unbelief, with earthquakes and devastation (11:13).

Truth #147: The third Woe = 7th Trumpet (11:15-19) manifests the Victory of Jesus.

Truth #148: All creation is transformed, not mutated (11:15); this leads to heavenly praise.

Truth #149: What modern hymn is like these words? Is our praise impoverished?

Truth #150: The ark, like the Temple in this chapter, is symbolic and draw our mind back to the OT.