



Behold

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

ROOTED ACT VIII



ROOTED is an invitation to see Christ's redemptive work throughout the entire arc of Scripture by reading through the Bible as a community. In Rooted Act VIII, we will study the last book of the Bible, Revelation.

Revelation is a complex book. In response to its complexity, you will find five diverse ways scholars have interpreted Revelation. Each voice maintains Christ as the center of the story and provides unique perspectives to consider as we find hope in this book. As you read Revelation, pay attention to the themes and observations that each scholar highlights. May each perspective enrich your own reading of Revelation!

Over the next five weeks, if you miss a day, just pick up where you left off or skip ahead. Keep going! It is good to be on this journey together.

The point isn't to accomplish a task; the point is to spend meaningful time in Scripture.

The Bible is the living word of God, meant to shape us as we read it. Full of thought-provoking and life-changing material, the redemptive arc of the Bible points to the core message: that a man, Jesus, who was fully God, came to live among us, die on our behalf, and rise in a cosmic act of love and redemption so that we can have a restored relationship with God and others. We believe He will return to bring the culmination of His hope for His people and creation. The Church around the world lives this hope together in community.

Find out how to go deeper in your faith this season:



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Framing Statement

REVELATION 1:1 - THIS IS A REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST...

Among all the ways that Revelation has been interpreted, from the very beginning of the book, we're told that first and foremost this book is about Jesus! Every word, image, and passage reveals Jesus in timeless, transcendent, and transformative ways.

As a **timeless** book, Revelation speaks from a first-century context to our present context with an enduring message that will resonate into the future.

As a **transcendent** book, Revelation engages our imagination to be able to grasp the significance of Jesus.

As a **transformative** book, Revelation challenges us to find ourselves in the pages of Scripture.

And as a **timeless, transcendent** and **transformative** book, Revelation invites us to embody the mysteries of faith and participate in the redemption of all creation.

As we bring our year-long Rooted series to an end, Revelation calls us to embrace a fresh start—yielding fruit that blesses all creation as we root ourselves in Scripture and allow it to deepen our connection to God.

Use of Allusion

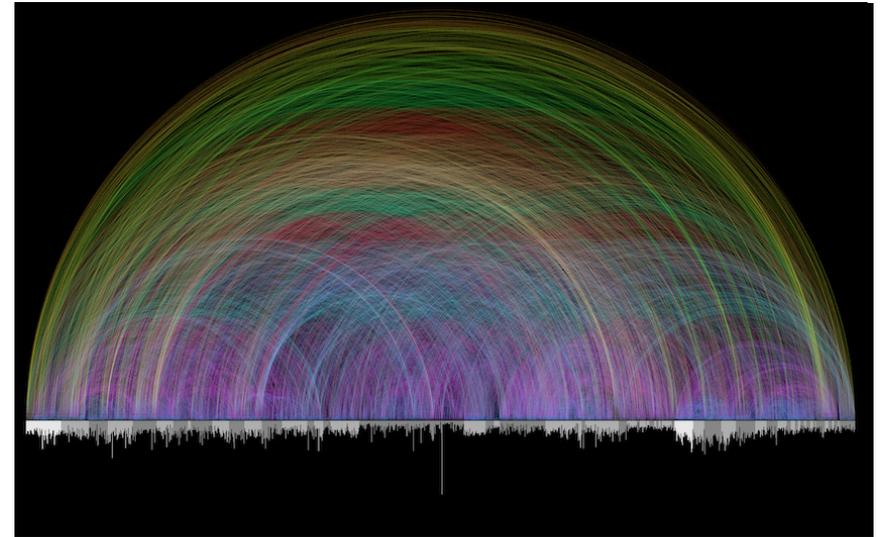
A note before this section: While it's important to understand scriptural concepts, remember to sit back and **BEHOLD. This book is BEAUTIFUL.**

It's an overwhelming and confounding piece of literary work. A masterpiece. We can behold its beauty without grasping its full meaning. In this "Revelation of Jesus Christ," as the author writes, the complexity in this text mirrors the complexity of looking to Jesus, as He is now in full glory.

There are many characters in the book of Revelation, including humans, angels, demons, monsters, nations, and more. While each one of these characters has a specific meaning and purpose, it will be most important for you to notice Christ's role as the center of our focus. There are 36 NAMES FOR CHRIST that you will encounter, and each name is a reference to another section of the Bible or a cultural allusion at the time of this book's conception.

These references and allusions create layers of meaning for the reader similar to how we gather meaning in art and culture. Although one piece of work may have many layers of interpretation, this does not mean it can be interpreted however the reader wishes. There are specific allusions within many works of art. For example, think about when we might say something is our "kryptonite." In order to gather meaning from that reference, it's important to know that kryptonite is Superman's only weakness and it puts him in danger. In this circumstance, if the hearer knows the reference, they will interpret "kryptonite" as a weakness that should be avoided. It has a specific interpretation, but the exact meaning changes in particular contexts. We create meaning from the allusion as it relates to a moment or story.

The Hebrew Bible layers meaning at an overwhelming rate and complexity, and there are over 1,000 REFERENCES to other parts of the Bible in the book of Revelation.* As our knowledge of the Bible deepens, so does our ability to pull meaning from these allusions. It is a lifelong journey.



*Above, you'll see a graph representing the Bible. The gray blocks at the bottom represent books of the Bible and the colorful lines represent allusions made throughout the text. From Genesis as the starting point on the left, to Revelation as the final book of the Bible at the end on the right.



The Key Person

This complexity is why we will turn our attention to the main character, Jesus, as the primary source for meaning. Instead of describing every key character, here you'll find 36 names used for Christ in the text. Jesus is in His full Glory, center stage—the Risen Savior as He can be pictured NOW after His resurrection. These names offer a meaning-filled dimension for us to understand Christ's transcendent position as the center of the story.

THESE NAMES HAPPEN IN THE NIV TRANSLATION AS FOLLOWS:

1. **Jesus Christ** | *Revelation 1:1*
2. **Faithful Witness** | *Revelation 1:5.*
3. **First Born from the Dead** | *Revelation 1:5*
4. **Ruler of the Kings of the Earth** | *Revelation 1:5*
5. **Alpha and Omega** | *Revelation 1:8-13*
6. **First and Last** | *Revelation 1:8, 11, 13*
7. **Son of Man** | *Revelation 1:13*
8. **The Living One** | *Revelation 1:13, 18*
9. **Him Who Holds the Seven Stars** | *Revelation 2:1*
10. **(He Who) Walks Among the Golden Lampstands** | *Revelation 2:1*
11. **He Who Has the Sharp, Double-Edged Sword** | *Revelation 2:12*
12. **Son of God** | *Revelation 2:18*
13. **He Who Searches Hearts and Minds** | *Revelation 2:23*
14. **Him Who Holds the Seven Spirits of God** | *Revelation 3:1*
15. **Him Who Holds the Seven Stars** | *Revelation 3:1*
16. **Him Who Is Holy and True** | *Revelation 3:7*
17. **Who Holds the Key of David** | *Revelation 3:7*
18. **(He Who) Opens and No One Can Shut** | *Revelation 3:7*
19. **(He Who) Shuts and No One Can Open** | *Revelation 3:7*
20. **The Amen** | *Revelation 3:14*
21. **The Faithful and True Witness** | *Revelation 3:14*
22. **The Ruler of God's Creation** | *Revelation 3:14*
23. **Lord** | *Revelation 4:11*
24. **Lion of the Tribe of Judah** | *Revelation 5:5, 9*
25. **The Root of David** | *Revelation 5:5, 9*
26. **A Lamb As If It Had Been Slain** | *Revelation 5:6-7*
27. **The Lamb** | *Revelation 5:8-9*
28. **Lord of Lords** | *Revelation 17:14*
29. **King of Kings** | *Revelation 17:14*
30. **Faithful and True** | *Revelation 19:11*
31. **Rider of the White Horse** | *Revelation 19:11* (This name may be unique to Revelation, found nowhere else in Scripture.)
32. **The Word of God** | *Revelation 19:13*
33. **Christ** | *Revelation 20:4*
34. **The Lord God Who Inspires the Prophets** | *Revelation 22:6*
35. **Beginning and the End** | *Revelation 22:13*
36. **The Bright Morning Star** | *Revelation 22:16*

Daily Reading Guide

WEEK 1

- June 23 Sunday Worship
- June 24 Revelation 1 Introduction and Vision of Christ
- June 25 Revelation 2:1-11 Letters to Ephesus and Smyrna
- June 26 Revelation 2:12-29 Letters to Pergamum and Thyatira
- June 27 Revelation 3:1-13 Letters to Sardis and Philadelphia
- June 28 Revelation 3:14-22 Letter to Laodicea
- June 29 Revelation 4 Vision of Heaven

WEEK 2

- June 30 Sunday Worship
- July 1 Revelation 5 The Scroll and the Lamb
- July 2 Revelation 6 The Seven Seals
- July 3 Revelation 7 The 144,000 Sealed
- July 4 Revelation 8 The Seventh Seal and the Golden Censer
- July 5 Revelation 9 The Fifth and Sixth Trumpets
- July 6 Revelation 10 The Angel and the Little Scroll

WEEK 3

- July 7 Sunday Worship
- July 8 Revelation 11 The Two Witnesses and the Seventh Trumpet
- July 9 Revelation 12 The Woman and the Dragon
- July 10 Revelation 13 The Two Beasts
- July 11 Revelation 14:1-13 The Lamb and the 144,000, Three Angels
- July 12 Revelation 14:14-20 Harvesting the Earth and Trampling the Winepress
- July 13 Revelation 15 Seven Angels with Seven Plagues

WEEK 4

- July 14 Sunday Worship
- July 15 Revelation 16 The Seven Bowls of God's Wrath
- July 16 Revelation 17 Babylon, the Prostitute on the Beast
- July 17 Revelation 18:1-8 The Fall of Babylon
- July 18 Revelation 18:9-24 Lament Over Fallen Babylon
- July 19 Revelation 19:1-10 Rejoicing in Heaven
- July 20 Revelation 19:11-21 The Rider on the White Horse

WEEK 5

- July 21 Sunday Worship
- July 22 Revelation 20:1-10 The Thousand Years
- July 23 Revelation 20:11-15 The Judgment of the Dead
- July 24 Revelation 21:1-8 A New Heaven and a New Earth
- July 25 Revelation 21:9-27 The New Jerusalem
- July 26 Revelation 22:1-5 The River of Life
- July 27 Revelation 22:6-21 Jesus Is Coming

SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT & DISCUSSION STARTERS

In this final Act of Rooted, we encourage you to explore the scholars below (one each week). Though these scholars represent various theological backgrounds and cultural contexts, they collectively approach Revelation with a focus on its spiritual, pastoral, and imaginative dimensions rather than a solely apocalyptic standpoint. By paying attention to what each scholar brings to the conversation, we can weave their insights into our own discovery in Revelation.

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