



Glory to the Lamb

A study of the Book of Revelation

A white lion and a white lamb are sitting on a large, fluffy white cloud. The lion is on the left, looking directly at the camera with a calm expression. The lamb is on the right, partially obscured by the lion's mane and looking towards the camera. The background is a bright blue sky filled with soft, white clouds.

Glory to the Lamb

Session #1: *Overview and Chapter 1*



Course Objective

The revelation from Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. (Revelation 1:1)

- Our task is to understand what God has revealed**

A lion's head is superimposed on a background of a bright blue sky filled with fluffy white clouds. The lion's face is centered in the upper left quadrant, looking directly forward. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Goals for Session #1

- **To identify commonly used terms**
- **To identify four common approaches**
- **To understand the use of symbolism**
- **To gain a perspective on the nature of apocalyptic literature**
- **To get an overall sense of the book's outline**

A lion and a lamb are shown resting on a large, fluffy white cloud. The lion is on the left, looking towards the camera, and the lamb is on the right, also looking towards the camera. The background is a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

NOT a goal ...

- **Complete understanding**

“But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.” (Matthew 24:36)

Commonly Used Terms

- **Revelation**
- **Apocalypse**
 - *Sensational in its descriptions*
 - *The present is bleak; the future is wonderful*
 - *Heavily coded language*
 - *Not necessarily mean to be taken in a factual sense*

Commonly Used Terms

A surreal image of a lion and a lamb resting on a large, fluffy white cloud against a blue sky with scattered clouds. The lion is on the left, looking towards the camera, and the lamb is on the right, resting its head on the lion's chest.

- **Millenium**
 - Pre-millennial
 - Post-millennial
 - A-millennial
 - Pan-millennial
- **Tribulation**

Approaches

A lion and a lamb are shown resting on a large, fluffy white cloud. The lion is on the left, looking towards the camera, and the lamb is on the right, also looking towards the camera. The background is a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. The overall scene is peaceful and symbolic.

- 1. Futurist**
- 2. Historicist**
- 3. Preterist**
- 4. Idealist**

Symbolism of the Numbers

1 = Unity, uniqueness

2 = Strength

3 = Symbol of the divine

6 = Evil (falls short of perfect)

7 = Sacred

10 = Completeness, whole

Symbolism of the Numbers

12 = Religion (12 tribes, disciples)

70 = Very sacred (7 x 10)

144 = A multiple of 12 (12 x 12)

1000 = Ultimate completeness (10 x 10 x 10)

We will see other non-numeric symbols throughout the book. These are meant to confuse those on the “outside.”



Basic Outline

FOUR visions inside of ONE revelation

- 1. Vision of the Son of Man (chs 1-3)**
- 2. Vision of Heaven (chs 4-19)**
- 3. Vision of the End of the Age (chs 19-20)**
- 4. Vision of the New Heaven and New Earth (chs 21-22)**



Introduction (1:1-3)

- **A “revelation”**
- **From God → Jesus → Angel → John → the readers**
- **Purpose: Must “soon take place”**
- **Dual testimony (two are required)**
- **Blessing on the readers**



Greetings (1:4-8)

- **Typical greeting (grace and peace)**
- **The letter is from John**
- **Note descriptions of God and Jesus in the rest of the chapter**
- **Note 7 churches and 7 spirits**

Authorship & Commission

- **John is the author (your brother)**
- **Patmos – an island used for political prisoners and criminals**
- **Jesus speaks to commission him**
- **Seven specific churches**



TURKEY

MYSIA

BITHYNIA

PHRYGIA

CARIA

LYCIA

A S I A

Patmos

Pergamum

Thyatira

Smyrna

Sardis

Philadelphia

Hierapolis

Ephesus

Laodicea

Colossae

Miletus

Halicarnassus

Cnidos

Rhodes

Patara

Myra

Perga

Attalia

MARMARA SEA

Cyzicus

Nicaea

Prusa

Abydos

Troas

Adramyttium

Assos

Lesbos

Mitylene

Samos

Maeander River

Dalaman River

Sangarius River

Songur River

Hermus River

Propontis

Byzantium (Istanbul)

Vision of Christ (1:12-16)

- **Seven candlesticks (the seven churches)**
- **One like the Son of Man**
 - Priestly garb
 - White hair (wisdom)
 - Eyes of fire (omniscience)
 - Bronze feet (strength)
 - Voice like many waters (authority)
 - Seven stars (the angels/pastors of the churches)
 - Shining face (Shekinah; majesty)
 - Two-edged sword (judgment)

Vision Interpreted (1:17-20)

- **Do not be afraid**
- **The living one**
- **The holder of the keys of death and Hades**
- **Commission restated**
- **Mystery revealed**



Homework

Read Revelation 2:1 - 3:22

