

The Contents of the Book of Revelation

<i>PASSAGE</i>	<i>THEME(S)</i>
1.1-8	Prologue: a doxology of authority: from God, to Jesus, to an angel to John on the isle of Patmos
1.9-20	John, on Patmos, receives a vision and is commanded to write it and deliver it to seven <i>ekkl siai</i> (churches) in the Roman province of Asia
2.1-3.22	A single letter addressed to the angel of each of the seven churches, with both praise of and warnings about the degree of faithfulness they embody as a community
4.1-11	First “heavenly liturgy” celebrating God’s reign as the Creator
5.1-14	The revelation of a sealed scroll and the question of finding one “worthy” to break its seals and reveal its contents: the Lion/Lamb is found and a “new song” is sung in celebration (second heavenly liturgy)
6.1-17	Six seals are opened, revealing the meaning of each seal that keeps the scroll’s contents hidden
7.1-17	An angel from the east proclaims those sealed as servants of God: 12,000 from each Israelite tribe, which is then seen to be a countless multitude from “every nation, all tribes, peoples and languages”
8.1-9.21	The opening of the seventh seal, silence in heaven, the rising of the prayers of the saints, and the blowing of six trumpets, causing damage of “thirds”
10.1-11.19	The revelation of an open scroll, which John is told to eat and to prophesy; the witness of God’s servants in “the street of the great city”; they are killed but rise, leading some to give glory to God
12.1-18	The vision of the woman clothed with the sun, whose son is chased by a “dragon” who is Satan/the devil
13.1-18	The demonic liturgy: the “inhabitants of the earth” worship the “beasts” and the “dragon”
14.1-11	Third heavenly liturgy: a “new song” is sung only by those who have been redeemed by refusing to engage in imperial “intercourse” (fornication)
14.12-20	Vision of the Human One seated on a cloud, prepared to “harvest” the “vintage of the earth”
15.1-8	Vision of the seven plagues and the fourth heavenly liturgy
16.1-21	The pouring out of the seven plague bowls on the earth
17.1-18.24	Vision of fallen Babylon, “the great city”
19.1-8	The fifth heavenly liturgy: God’s judgment against Babylon is celebrated
19.9-20.10	The war in heaven: the devil and his minions are defeated by being thrown into a lake of fire
20.11-15	The Book of Life is opened and all are judged “according to what they had done”; Death and Hades are thrown into the lake of fire
21.1-22.15	Vision of New Jerusalem, the “holy city”
22.16-21	Doxological epilogue