



## Signs of The Times: Rediscovering Revelation

Week One: Because The Time Is Near

*Revelation 1:4-8*

*There is no future without God's grace and there is no end without a new beginning*

### ***The Apocalypse of John—The Most Misunderstood Book Of The Bible***

*How do you know it's the end of the world?*

#### ***Signs of the Apocalypse***

*The problem with modern "prophets"*

### ***Revelation's Influence On Church and Culture***

*Books, Movies, Music, Art, Literature....*

*But what is it really saying? This series will take that question on.*

*Today—we're going to learn some historical background on Revelation...*

*And we're going to learn what tools to use to interpret it.*

***THERE IS NO FUTURE WITHOUT GOD'S GRACE AND THERE IS NO END WITHOUT A NEW BEGINNING***

### ***Revelation 1:4-8***

- *John The Revelator & The dates for his Apocalypse (exile on Patmos)*
- *Written to the Seven Churches—real places, real people, real challenges*
- *It speaks directly to Christians who are struggling with assimilation issues.*
- *Some of the images that are used are pointedly political - Beast, Harlot, Dragon*
- *It was never meant to be a coded collection of secrets—it was an open book*
- *Mainline churches tend to gloss over the strange parts, Evangelicals dwell on them*

***Revelation is meant to unmask false senses of security, and to invite readers to join in the joyous celebration of God's great story of redemption and resurrection.***

### ***As We Read Revelation We Need To Understand Some Things***

- ***Apocalyptic Tradition***—highlights the conflict between forces of good and evil
- ***Contextual & Timeless***—written for a moment, but lessons for all times
- ***Spiritual Meaning***—a vision for a new world and a new way of being
- ***Hope Filled***—just when you think it's all going to fall apart...

***THERE IS NO FUTURE WITHOUT GOD'S GRACE AND THERE IS NO END WITHOUT A NEW BEGINNING***



## SERMON EXTRAS & FURTHER READING

### **FOR FURTHER READING:**

***Revelation and The End of All Things***

*Craig R. Koestra*

***Reading Revelation Responsibly***

*Michael J. Gorman*

***Revelation For Everyone***

*N.T. Wright*

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