



# REVELATION

New Sermon Series

9th Sept to 1st Oct

LifeGate Church



# REVELATION

*The Seven Seals*

Revelation is not  
written  
*to* us...

It was written to the seven churches

*To the seven churches in the province of Asia..*

Rev. 1:4

It was written to be obeyed

*Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.*

Rev. 1:3

It was written for the first century

*Then he told me, "Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this scroll, because the time is near.*

Rev. 2:10

Revelation is not  
written  
*to* us but *for* us.

*Revelation is a book about the first-century Christians and their world, not about our twenty-first-century world, though as God's word it is still relevant to us today.*

David L. Mathewson



IGENRE

Apocalypse Rev. 1:1

“Watch out for Rome. It is an evil, violent, godless empire that means you harm.”

“Watch out for Rome. It is an evil, violent, godless empire that means you harm.”

“I saw a beast coming up out of the sea, having ten horns and seven heads”

# IGENRE

Apocalypse Rev. 1:1

Prophecy Rev. 1:3; 22:7, 10, 18-19

Foretelling | *predicting the future in  
advance.*

**Foretelling** | *predicting the future in advance.*

**Forthtelling** | *proclaiming a message to the present time of the first readers, a message of comfort, exhortation, or warning.*

# IGENRE

Apocalypse Rev. 1:1

Prophecy Rev. 1:3; 22:7, 10, 18-19

Letter Rev. 1:4-5; 22:21

# OPENING

John,

To the seven churches in the province of Asia:

Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne,  
<sup>5</sup>and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

Revelation 1:4–5



# CLOSING

The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen.

Revelation 22:21

# I HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Persecution Rev. 2:13

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Persecution Rev. 2:13

Compromise Rev. 3:14-22

*To those churches suffering persecution at the hands of the empire, the vision of Revelation is a message of comfort. But to those churches who are complacent and compromising, John's vision would function as a message of warning to repent and cease compromising.*

David L. Mathewson

# STRUCTURE

Introducing the main characters

Rev. 1-3

Heavenly scene Rev. 4-5

Judgements Rev. 6-20

A new heaven and a new earth Rev.  
21-22

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Communicates in metaphors, not literally.

Intended to inspire godly living and obedience.

## Revelation 6:1–2

I watched as the Lamb opened the first of the seven seals. Then I heard one of the four living creatures say in a voice like thunder, “Come!” <sup>2</sup>I looked, and there before me was a white horse! Its rider held a bow, and he was given a crown, and he rode out as a conqueror bent on conquest.

## Revelation 6:3–4

When the Lamb opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, “Come!”<sup>4</sup> Then another horse came out, a fiery red one. Its rider was given power to take peace from the earth and to make people kill each other. To him was given a large sword.

## Revelation 6:5–6

When the Lamb opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, “Come!” I looked, and there before me was a black horse! Its rider was holding a pair of scales in his hand. <sup>6</sup>Then I heard what sounded like a voice among the four living creatures, saying, “Two pounds of wheat for a day’s wages, and six pounds of barley for a day’s wages, and do not damage the oil and the wine!”

## Revelation 6:7–8

When the Lamb opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, “Come!” <sup>8</sup>I looked, and there before me was a pale horse! Its rider was named Death, and Hades was following close behind him. They were given power over a fourth of the earth to kill by sword, famine and plague, and by the wild beasts of the earth.



## Revelation 6:9–11

When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained. <sup>10</sup>They called out in a loud voice, “How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?” <sup>11</sup>Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait a little longer, until the full number of their fellow servants, their brothers and sisters, were killed just as they had been.

## Revelation 6:12–14

I watched as he opened the sixth seal. There was a great earthquake. The sun turned black like sackcloth made of goat hair, the whole moon turned blood red, <sup>13</sup>and the stars in the sky fell to earth, as figs drop from a fig tree when shaken by a strong wind. <sup>14</sup>The heavens receded like a scroll being rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place.