

Seeing Jesus Christ in Heaven

How do you react when you hear the word “apocalypse”? Do you automatically think of the “End Times”? Does it frighten you? Or do you get excited to talk about it? Revelation is an apocalyptic book of the Bible. Knowing what exactly that means provides us the right foundation on which to understand the meaning of Revelation’s content. As we study the opening chapter, John states clearly who he is, who God is, who has given him the visions, and to whom he’s writing. He reminds followers of Jesus Christ that we are kingdom citizens. His powerful opening vision of Jesus Christ enthroned in heaven provides assurance and comfort to believers, because it means what we believe is true right now.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we’ll cover in the episode.

- What do you find comforting? Why? What does comfort mean to you?
- What comes to mind when you hear the word “apocalypse”? How do you generally feel about studying the book of Revelation or talking about the End Times? Are you curious? Do you find it scary? Exciting? Intimidating? Comforting? Confusing? Do you have a different response entirely? Why do you think you feel this way?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [Seeing Jesus Christ in Heaven](#)

READ [Revelation 1](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- Reflect on host Scott Hoezee’s definition of apocalypse and the contents of Revelation: “The Greek title of this book is *apokalupsis*, and you can hear in that already, that is where we get our English word apocalypse...In Greek, *apokalupsis* just means *revealing*—the revelation. That is why we call it Revelation in English. It is the revealing...so it is a revelation, and apocalyptic things are not scary things. God is going to reveal good things.” Does this explanation change or affect your understanding of or feelings about the book of Revelation? Why or why not?
- John begins his letter by reminding his readers who God is, what God has done for them, and therefore who they are. In segment 2, host Darrell Delaney notes that the Apostle Paul usually started his letters with a similar greeting, reminding his readers who God is, what he has done, and who they are (and therefore how they should act). Why do you think it is so important to *first* remember who God is, what he has done for us, and who we are *before* hearing or reading the revelation John has to share with us?
- Reread [Revelation 1:17-20](#). Darrell observes that in this passage we see “the transcendence of God” and “the eminence and the intimacy of him.” Do you think Christians commonly emphasize both of these natures of God when they teach Revelation?

- Reflect on Scott's statement in segment 3 about John's encounter with Jesus in [Revelation 1:17-20](#):
"That is just the Jesus we know and we love. All the resplendence doesn't take away his gentleness and his grace." Why does Jesus want to first provide comfort and assure John and us that he is still the same Jesus we met in the gospels before he reveals more of himself and heaven to us?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

[Psalm 2](#), [Philippians 2:1-7](#), [Ezekiel 1](#), [Matthew 17:1-8](#), [John 1:4](#), [Psalm 37](#)

CONCLUSION

John was exiled to Patmos for his faith. It was likely a lonely and desolate place for him. In Revelation 1, God tells him to look up and he gains a fresh perspective. Through a heavenly vision, God assures John that Jesus is still the same Jesus, that Jesus is alive forevermore and in control on the throne in heaven, and that God's kingdom is now and will be forevermore.

All of these truths have the power to reassure our faith and provide profound hope, especially when we experience dark nights of the soul. Which of the three truths resonates most with you right now? How does picturing Jesus Christ in Heaven assure you, comfort you, and encourage you in this moment?

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