

The Book of REVELATION

Cover to Cover series

Brian Bassham — 15 Feb 2026



The Book of Revelation

Cover to Cover

1. Key Takeaways
2. About the book itself
3. Overview & Key Observations
4. Personal experience



Modern day Patmos



The Book of Revelation - Key Takeaways

Cover to Cover

1. God wins in the end—all things are made new
 - Overall message should be one of love, hope, & victory
 - This book should **not** lead us into a fearful state regarding end times
2. Written **for** us but not **to** us
 - Like Daniel, Isaiah, & Ezekiel, heavy with OT symbolism & visions
 - Meant something very specific and familiar to Jews
3. Warning for those seeking ‘hidden knowledge’ and literalists
 - Not a code to decipher to determine timing of Christ’s return
 - Note in the letter the differences between what is **heard** and what is **seen**

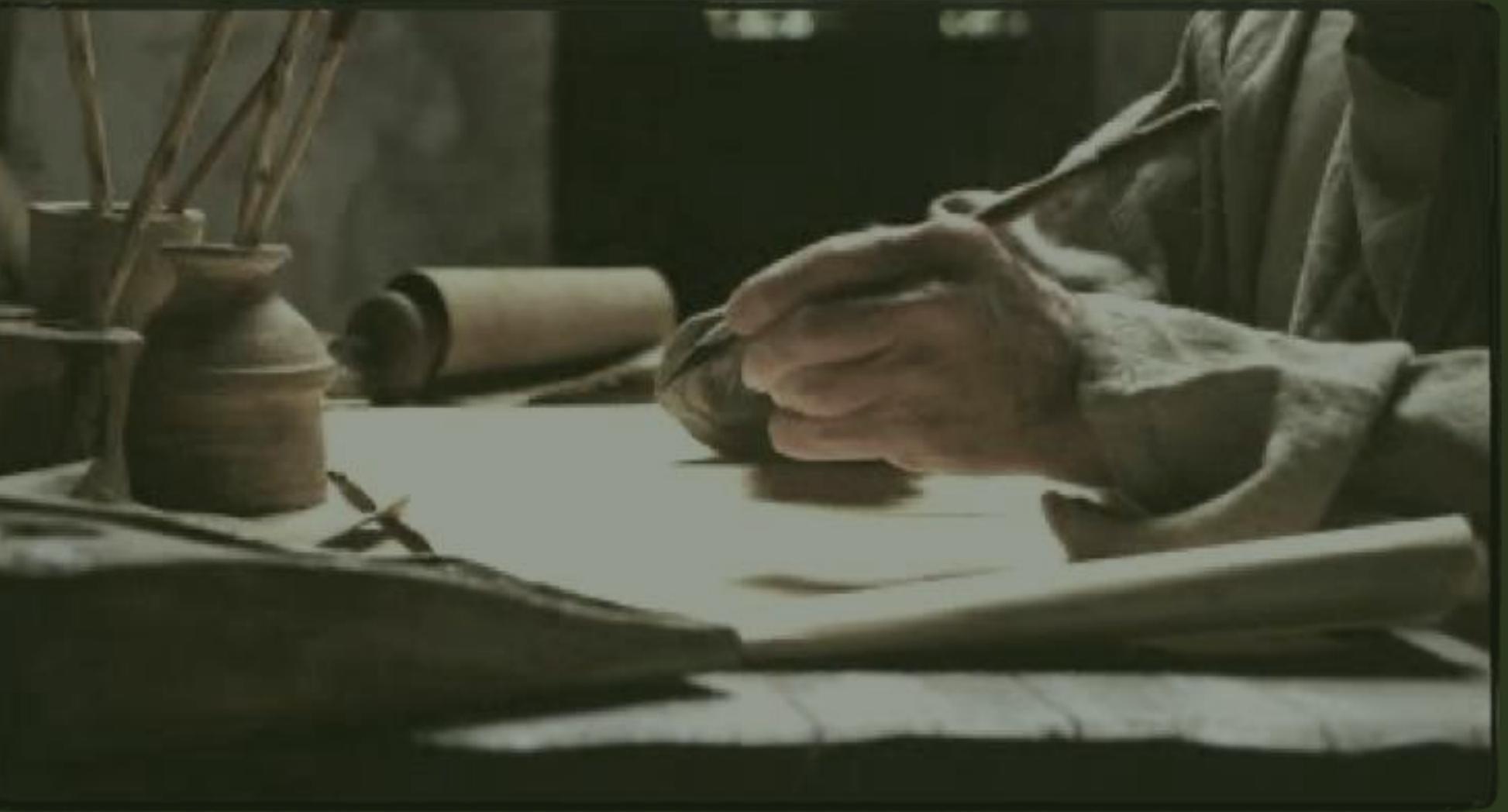
The Book of Revelation - Background

Cover to Cover

- Who was the writer?
- Was the author Jew or Gentile?
- To whom was it written?
- Under what context?

Writer

- Agreed upon
 - Jewish-Christian prophet
 - Probably written without help
- Disagreement on who actually wrote the letter
 - John the Apostle - most commonly attributed
 - Johannine community - least likely for this book
 - John of Patmos
 - John the Presbyter

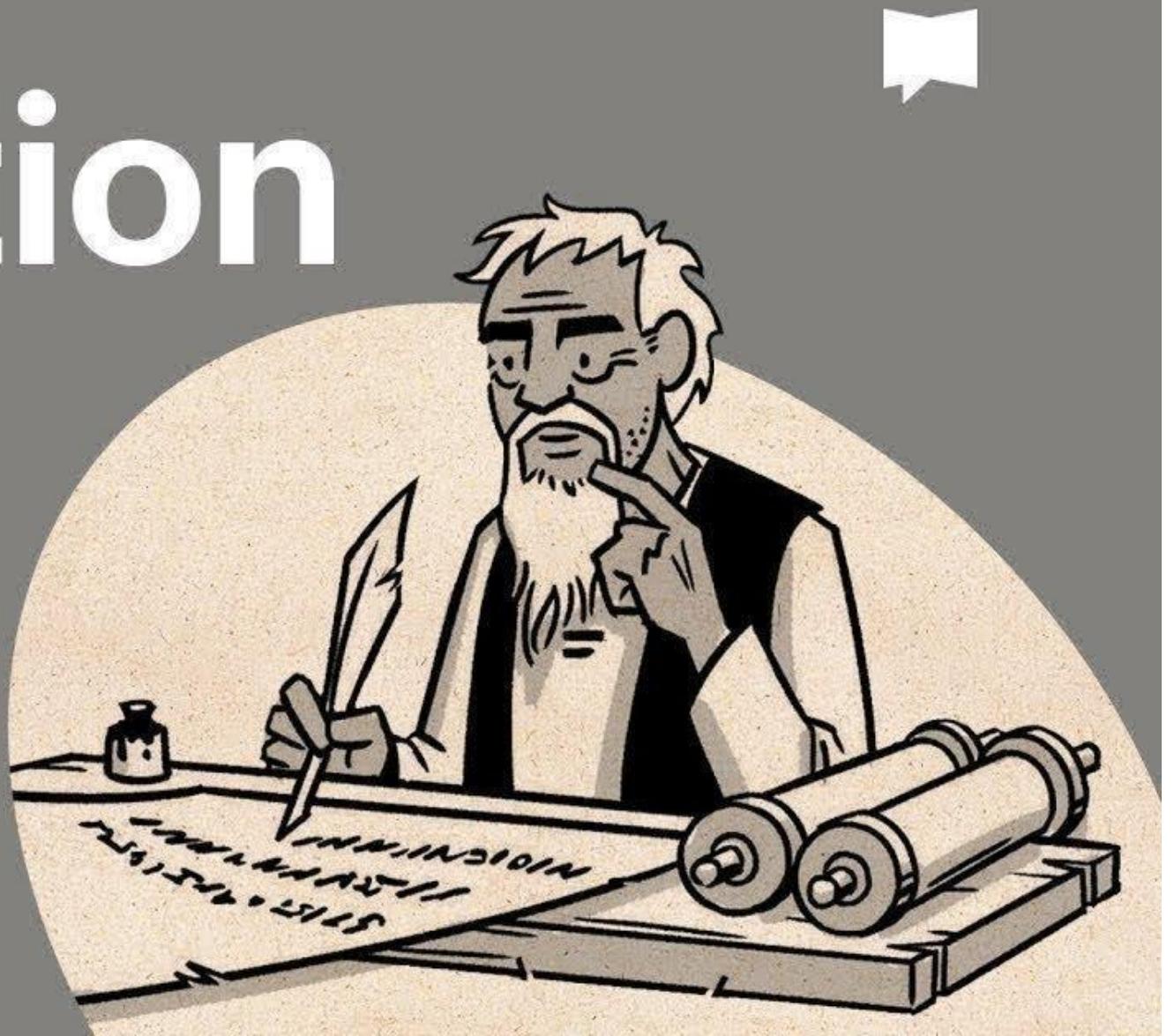


Context

- Typically dated around 95 AD due to clues in visions
- Exile was indeed used by the Romans at this time
- Written to those undergoing persecution at the time, e.g. extended “tribulation” (2:10)
- Letter spans three literary genres
 - **Epistolary** - message from one to other(s) thru a medium
 - Rev 1-3: Words for the seven churches
 - **Apocalyptic** - unveiling of things not previously known and which could not be known prior to the unveiling
 - Rev 4-16: Heavenly throne & seven divine judgments
 - **Prophetic** - message communicated to a person by a supernatural entity
 - Rev 17-22: Final Battle and New Heaven & Earth

Part 1 of 2

Revelation



Part 2 of 2

Revelation



Key Observations

Book of Revelation

- Lots of Sevens
 - Angels, Bowls, Churches, Crowns, Eyes, Heads, Hills, Horns, Kings, Lampstands, Letters, Plagues, Scrolls, Seals, Spirits, Stars, Thousand people, Thunders, Torches, Trumpets
- Lots of Characters
 - Heavenly Beings: Angels, God, Lamb, Michael, Spirits, Woman (?)
 - Unholy Beings: Babylon, Beasts, Dragon, Gog, Impure Spirits, Magog, Woman (Jezebel)
 - People: Churches, Elders, People, Woman (?)
- Time
- Striking symbology
 - Difference between things 'heard' then 'seen'
 - Nested judgements
 - Eat this scroll

Broad Approaches to Interpretation

Historicism

- Sees in Revelation a broad view of history

Preterism

- Mostly involves events of apostolic era or fall of Jerusalem or Roman Empire

Futurism

- Describes future events

Idealism/Allegoricalism

- Does not refer to actual people or events, rather an allegory of the spiritual path and ongoing struggle between good & evil

The Millennium

Revelation 20:1-5

And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a **thousand years**. He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the **thousand years** were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time.

I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony about Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a **thousand years**. (The rest of the dead did not come to life until the **thousand years** were ended.) This is the first resurrection.

Revelation 20:1-5

Approaches to the Millennium

Premillennialism

- Holds a literal interpretation of the "millennium" and generally prefers literal interpretations of the contents

Amillennialism

- Rejects a literal interpretation of the "millennium" and generally prefers allegorical interpretations of the content of the book

Postmillennialism

- Includes both literal and allegorical interpretations of the "millennium" but views the Second Coming as following the conversion to Christianity of a gradually improving world