

1 **WK 1: REV 1: Introduction** (55:02 Minutes)

2 **NOTE: Study Guide: Read pages 1-8** and this Handout

3 **READINGS for next week:** Revelation 1; CCC 16, 1719-1723; Is 44:6-8, Lk 11:27-28; Jm 1:22-25; Rev

4 14:13, 16-15, 19:9, 20:6, 22:7, 22:14)

5 **Book of Revelation:** Captures imagination of our culture today; preoccupied w/end times, Rapture (ex:

6 Left Behind series, etc.); Pope Benedict saw *Book of Revelation* as key to revealing human history; type

7 of Jewish *apocalyptic* literature such as Daniel 7:12 (appeared about 200 BC-100 AD) (also known as

8 Apocalypse¹ – the **unveiling of Jesus to His bride, the Church** and **invitation to intimacy with God.**²

9 Intimate Relationship revealed: **Rev 1:1-11:** Revealing the *groom*, the lamb, Jesus Christ **Rev 12:12-22:**

10 Unveiling of the *bride*, the Church

11 **Rev 1:1-11:** God creates Adam and Eve to have a *close relationship* with them (Trinity: Father, Son, Holy

12 Spirit); **they sinned and lose the life in their soul** but GOD has a plan and makes a promise³ (Gen 3:15);

13 **Covenant between GOD and Moses:** This is broken and Rev relates to that covenant (Ex 24)

14 **Covenant between GOD and David** (prototype for Messiah); Israel breaks covenant; decades of

15 conquerors and exiles for Israel, return from captivity, other conquerors up to Roman occupation during

16 Jesus' birth; He sets up New Covenant to spread gospel throughout the entire world; 40 yrs after Jesus'

17 death, judgment again on Jerusalem (and those who reject Jesus) and consequences; Book of Revelation

18 relates back to this in terms of the bride and bridegroom, the Church of Jesus Christ; tremendous

19 blessing as they stepped into the role as the bride of Christ.

20 **The Temple:** Destroyed on ninth of the month of Av² 587 BC by Babylonians (predicted because of

21 *hardness of their hearts*; Rev about destruction of a future temple, same location

22 Guidelines for studying the Bible especially when reading Revelations

23 1. **CCC Article 112:** ...**Be especially attentive to the content and unity of the whole scripture;** take

24 into consideration Exodus, Psalms, 1Samuel, Isaiah, and 1; cannot just read something and pull it

25 out and say, "Well I read this in a book, and I think it means that...".

26 2. **CCC Article 113, read the Scripture within the living tradition of the whole church:** Book of

27 Revelation came from the Church and interpreted in light of the Church and that's really very

28 important that is I have found as a, as a former pastor who reverted to

29 3. **CCC Article 114: Be attentive to the analogy of faith** (coherence between the truth and not

30 coming to conclusions that are opposite of what we know to be true and revealed to us by

31 Christ, ***either in written form or in tradition.***

32 4. **CCC Article 115 – 117:** When we study scripture, use the **quadriga**⁴, or the fourfold senses: 1)

33 Find the **literal sense**³; difficult to do in Revelations because have different kinds of

34 figures/foreign animal-looking creatures that do not look real. **Questions:** What did these

35 metaphors, images, colors, numbers mean to them back then? 2) the **spiritual senses**³:

36 A. **Allegorical sense**³: How does this relate to Christ/Jesus? (NOTE: Hebrew Scriptures is all

37 Christo centric - it is all pointing to Jesus)

38 B. **Moral sense**³: How does it relate to me, to my conduct, the way I live my life? e.

39 C. **Anagogical sense**³. Greek word meaning *to lead* and deals with the future. How does this text

40 relate to the future? Most everybody has eyes on the future.

41 **AUTHOR of Revelations:** Four times author names himself as **John** (Rev 1: 1, 4, 9; 22:8) and early

42 Church testifies to this (St Aaron, St Clement of Alexandria, Origen, St Jerome) **Unique similarities**

43 between gospel of John and Revelations. (God uses talents, insights and personality of each writer);

44 Similarities: both use *living water*, Jesus as *the lamb* (x2 Gospel, x28 in Rev); *Word of God/Church. Uses*

45 **apocalyptic style**⁵ Jesus as the center of history (404 verses in Revelation, but John has over 500

46 **allusions** (refers back) to the Old Testament.)

47 **DATES of Revelation:** About 90's AD during reign of the Emperor Domitian⁶ (81 to 96); for this study, we
48 favor written in the 60s during reign of Nero (54-68).

49 **Mt 24: End of times**

50 "Truly I say to you, this **generation** (40 yrs) will not pass away till all these things take place."

51 Problem with DATES: In 70 AD, center of entire worship life, the center of their whole identity (the
52 Temple). 1) Revelation **speaks of a great persecution** (happened under Nero, not Domitian); 2) focus of
53 this book of Revelation is on destruction of Jerusalem on one hand and revealing of the bride and
54 groom, the new bride on the other,

55 **AUDIENCE of Revelations:** Who is this book written for, who is the intended audience? Four views: (See
56 pg. 3 of Study Guide)

- 57 1. **Historicism View** Book follows 7 stages of church history from Christ to 2nd coming of Christ
58 attempts to map the historical events. MAJOR FLAWS: Generally anti-Catholic views
- 59 2. **Preterist View:** From Latin word **praeter** meaning *past*; looks to the past; holds that all has already
60 happened. MAJOR FLAW: No application for following generations
- 61 3. **Futurist View:** Looks to the last days
- 62 4. **Idealist View:** Neither past nor future; the Alexandrian School. Uses **Allegorical** interpretation (how
63 does it relate to Christ); concerned with ideas, principles, *timeless truths*; every generation can learn
64 from these; purpose to depict struggle of good and evil in every age, both in life of
65 individual/Church; ignores relevance of 1st century and specific historical references to 1st century;
66 the apocalypse is a theological vision of the entire panorama of history.

67 **Our View for Study of Revelations:** What is our view? What are we going to look at; how are we going
68 to approach this book? According to this interpretation, which was favored by most of the Church
69 Fathers, St John is describing the situation of the Church in his own time and he is also surveying the
70 panorama of the last times and taking into consideration, our times; **we are going to be collecting the
71 good in all of these views**; 1) know what was relevance 2000 years ago, this spoke to them, things were
72 happening and there is certainly things that are going to pertain to the future and the final judgment. 2)
73 This has relevance in my life today; will consider all of these - the **Literal** (sense), then look at the three
74 **Spiritual Senses (Allegorical, Moral, and Future)** and the **primary audience** that we're going to be
75 looking at is 2000 years ago (a fledgling church, persecuted, desperate need of hope) and our lives
76 today/future – we go behind the scenes and see a *glimpse of Heaven*, of hope

77 **Keys to understanding REV:** that I want to go over with you really quickly in the time that we have left
78 some keys here.

79 I. **READ Chapter 19:** Major Theme: Describes a city as a *harlot* that will be destroyed by fire (Rome?
80 Jerusalem?) Always keep in mind the relationship and the **Old Covenant**, and the **New Covenant**.

81 II. **Covenant Lawsuit:** Structure of writing of this book called a **covenant lawsuit judgment:** From
82 beginning of Bible to the end, GOD's relationship with His people is seen as a covenant relationship. (Ch
83 24: Israel made covenant with GOD at Mount Sinai- was seen as a **bridle-spousal covenant
84 relationship** -Covenant broken quickly {Ex 32-golden calf incident}. GOD and Israel swore oaths:
85 Obedience=blessings; disobedience=curses (**Deuteronomy**,

86 **Structure of Covenant Lawsuit** (Book of Hosea also uses this model)

87 **Pre-Amble:** Identifies the power of the king (or dominant leader)

- 88 1. **Historical Prologue:** recounts king's past relationship to you
- 89 2. **Ethical Stipulations:** Recounts the obligation of you toward the king
- 90 3. **Sanctions:** Lists the blessings/curses that accompany the covenant if it is fulfilled or broken.
- 91 4. **Succession:** If the covenant is broken, the plan for succession; to continue the covenant with the
92 future generations.

93 **Every time the covenant lawsuit is used in Bible, it is brought against the current generation**

94

95 Matthew 21, Jesus said, "I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a people
96 who will produce its fruit." The chief priests and the scribes realized He was speaking about them (there
97 will be succession). John is acting like a prosecuting attorney, bringing down the lawsuit. Isaiah/Hosea
98 spoke against the North; Jeremiah/Ezekiel spoke against the South. GOD gave Israel 40 years after Sinai
99 to think about His covenant that they had broken and here, those (Jerusalem) who rejected Jesus Christ
100 were given 40 years to repent

101 **OTHER KEYS:**

102 **Book of Liturgy:** The *liturgy* is going to become center stage, the relationship between the bride groom
103 and the bride is consummated in the marriage supper of the Lamb, the Liturgy of the Eucharist. **We**
104 **cannot understand the book of Revelation, without the Eucharist, and understanding the Eucharist**
105 **will help us to understand the book of Revelation.** The only thing according to the saints that comes
106 close to the ecstasy of union with God is the **marital union**; *Book of the heavenly liturgy* (Pope Benedict
107 XVI). **The Lamb's Supper** provides a list of items seen in both Revelation and in Holy Sacrifice of the
108 Mass, for example, a high priest, altar, priests vestments, consecrated celibacy, lamp stands, penitence,
109 incense, the book or scroll, the Eucharist, chalices, Sign of the Cross, the Gloria, the Alleluia, *Lift up your*
110 *hearts, Holy, holy, holy, Lamb of God*, the prominence of the Virgin Mary, intercession of the saints and
111 angels, devotion to St. Michael the Archangel, reading from scripture, priesthood of the faithful, silent
112 contemplation, and the marriage supper of the Lamb. **Book of Revelation is focused on the coming of**
113 **the Lord**; it is in the liturgy that we see the true meaning of the Lord's coming. "WORD", used for the
114 Lord's coming in the book of Revelation, is **Parousia** (chief meaning of the word, *parousia* is not coming
115 but **presence** in the Mass. We see that the true coming of the Lord is in the **real presence of the**
116 *Eucharist*. Every Eucharist is *parousia* (Pope Benedict); the revealing of the Lord in our lives.
117 **Symbolism:** Understanding the symbols used throughout Revelation is vital to understanding the study
118 Rev 1:19: John says, "Now write what you see and what is and what is to take place here after."
119

121 ¹**Apocalypse:** Used primarily in relation to weddings which could take as long as a week then groom
122 carries bride to marriage tent/room/house and *apocalypse* was act of lifting the veil, embracing each
123 other and then intimacy with one another.

124 ²**Intimacy with God:** See Exodus 33: 11-23 (We are all seeking this)

125 ³ **Bible Timeline:** Gen 3:15 - God's plan: OT (Hebrew Scriptures) – *seed line/blessing*; Adam and Eve:
126 **ONE HOLY COUPLE**; Noah: **ONE HOLY FAMILY**; Abraham (**PROMISE**- 1. Land, 2. Kingdom, 3. Blessing to
127 the world), Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses (Covenant): **ONE HOLY NATION**; David: **ONE HOLY KINGDOM**;
128 Jesus **ONE HOLY, CATHOLIC and APOSTOLIC CHURCH**

129 ⁴ **Day of Av** (when temple was destroyed in 587 BC); **Tisha B'av** (The Ninth of Av) is a day of mourning
130 and fasting. The holiday commemorates various tragedies that befell the Jewish people throughout
131 history, particularly the destruction of the two temples in 586 BCE and 70 CE. It is believed that
132 many of the tragedies remembered on Tisha B'Av actually occurred on this date. Tisha B'av is the
133 culmination of a three-week period of mourning.

134 ⁵ **Literal sense** (when reading the Bible) Senses of Scripture (CCC 116)

- 135 1. Literal Sense – intended meaning of the author within context and/or culture; leads to
- 136 Spiritual Sense
- 137 2. Spiritual Sense –
- 138 a. Allegorical Sense – how does it relate to Jesus Christ?
- 139 b. Moral Sense – how does it relate to my conduct in my everyday life?
- 140 c. Future – how does this relate to the future?
- 141

142 ⁵**Quadriga** – meaning four; generally, to describe a chariot drawn by four horses

143
144 ⁶ **DATE of Revelation:** Emperor Domitian was Roman emperor from 81 to 96. He was the son of
145 Vespasian and the younger brother of Titus, his two predecessors on the throne, and the last member of
146 the Flavian dynasty. During his reign, the authoritarian nature of his rule put him at sharp odds with the
147 Senate, whose powers he drastically curtailed

148
149 ⁷ **The Lamb’s Supper: The Mass as Heaven on Earth by Dr Scott Hahn**

150 *The Lamb’s Supper* reveals a long-lost secret of the Church: the early Christians key to understanding the
151 mysteries of the Mass was the New Testaments Book of Revelation. With its bizarre imagery, it is mystic
152 visions of Heaven, and its end-of-time prophecies, Revelation mirrors the sacrifice and celebration of the
153 Eucharist; beautifully written and a must read for all Catholics.

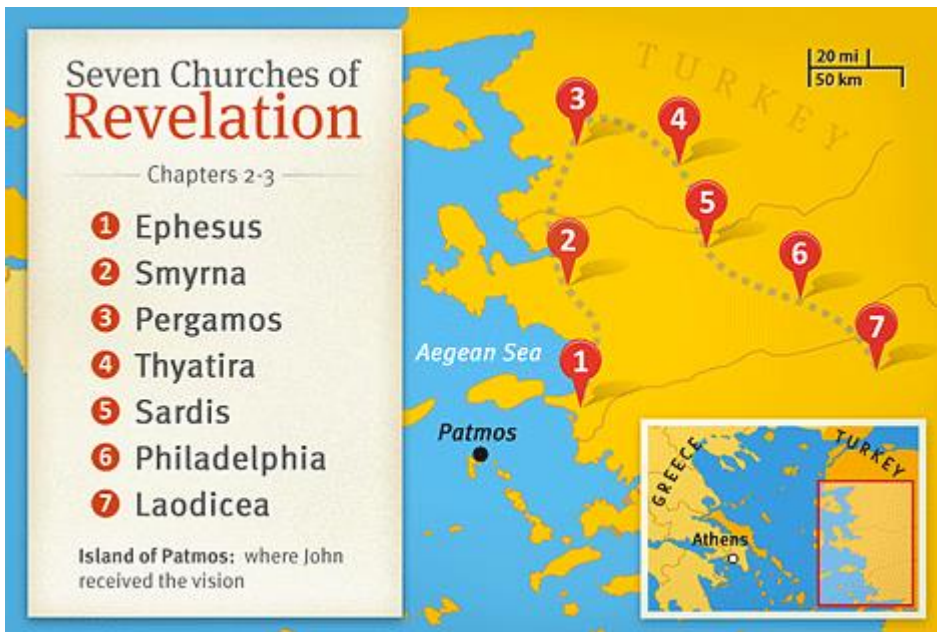
Mass	Biblical Reference (Revelation)
Sunday worship	1:10
High priest	1:13
Altar	8:3-4; 1 1:1; 14:18
Priests	4:4; 1 1:15; 14:3; 19:4
Vestments	1:13; 4:4; 6:11; 7:9; 15:6; 19:13-14
Consecrated celibacy	14.4
Lamp stands or Menorah	1:12; 2:5
Penitence	Chapters 2 and 3
Incense	5:8; 8:3-5
Book or Scroll	5:1
Eucharistic Host	2:17
Chalices	15:7; ch.16; 21:9
Sign of Cross (the <i>tau</i>)	7:3; 14: `; 22:4
Gloria	15:3-4
Alleluia	19:1, 3, 4; 6
Life up your hearts	11:12
“Holy, Holy, Holy”	4:8
Amen	19:4; 22:21
Prominence of Virgin Mary	12:1-6; 13-17
Intercession of Angels/Saints	5:8; 6:9-10; 8:3-4
Devotion to St Michael the Archangel	12:7
Antiphonal Chant	4:8-11; 5:9-14; 7:10-12; 18:1-8
Readings from Scripture	Ch 2 – 3; 5; 8:2-11
Priesthood of the Faithful catholicity	7:9
Silent contemplation	8:1
Marriage supper of the Lamb	19:9, 17

182
183 **COLORS**

- 184 WHITE: Victory, purity, dignity
- 185 BLACK: Death, disaster, distress
- 186 RED: bloodshed, violence
- 187 GREEN (literally “pale”): Impending death
- 188 PURPLE/SCARLET: Immorality

189

- 190 **SYMBOLS**
- 191 **BABYLON:** Place of exile; greatest threat to Israel and its freedom to worship
- 192 **BEASTS:** Foreign nation opposed to GOD’S people
- 193 **CROWNS:** Authority
- 194 **DRAGON/SERPENT:** Satan
- 195 **EYES, FULL OF:** All seeing, all-knowing power
- 196 **EQYPT:** Oppressor of GOD’S people
- 197 **EAGLE, OX, LION, MAN:** Four mightiest creatures
- 198 **HORNS:** Power
- 199 **JEWELS:** Unique, rare, precious
- 200 **KEY OF DAVID:** Power to open or shut GOD’S kingdom
- 201 **PALM BRANCHES:** Joy, victory
- 202 **RIGHT HAND:** Power, authority
- 203 **SEALS, TRUMPETS, BOWLS;** Liturgical images used in Rev to call for repentance, to announce and
- 204 dispense judgment
- 205 **SODOM:** Immorality
- 206 **SPIRITS:** Angels
- 207 **THUNDER:** GOD’S voice
- 208



209