

BEHOLD
OUR

King

TEACHER GUIDE

"Behold,
He is coming with the clouds,
and every eye will see Him."

— REVELATION 1:7

BARB WILSON

TEACHER GUIDE by KERRY NENN

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Getting the Most Out of This Guide



The amazing Revelation contains drama, suspense, mystery, passion, and horror. It tells of apostasy by the church. It speaks of unprecedented economic collapse, and of the ultimate war of human history, the war that will truly end all wars. It is also a book of hope and joy with a happy ending, as sin, sorrow, and death are forever banished.

And...

Its picturesque images, mysterious symbols, and apocalyptic language make it one of the most challenging books in Scripture to interpret. (John MacArthur)

Wow, that's a lot for a Bible study teacher to cover! The many facets of Revelation might make it a bit...intimidating. But, remember:

The book of Revelation is not meant to obscure, but to reveal. The Word of God is like a two-sided coin. One side reveals His truth to those who seek Him. The other side hides that same truth from those who have hardened their heart against Him. (Tony Garland)

As you and your Bible study participants dig into this book with the desire to seek God and learn from His Word, it will truly be a revelation. And it even comes with a promise of blessing!

“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.” – Revelation 1:3

Prepare to be blessed as you use this guide to share the Revelation of Jesus Christ.

Companion Book

This teacher guide is designed as a companion book to the study *Behold Our King* by Barb Wilson. This study is written from a futurist, pre-tribulational, pre-millennial, dispensational, literal view.


The participant workbook includes reflection, research, and discussion questions that walk individuals through Revelation and related scriptures. This teacher guide offers additional content to supplement the workbook. It takes you through Revelation verse by verse, providing insights into the text to share with your class, for a better understanding of the Scriptures. You can use this material to guide your teaching and discussion times. The content can work for groups of all sizes, so don't worry if you only have three group members or are teaching to a room of 300. Whatever your setting, the goal of this guide is the same: to come alongside you in your journey through Revelation.

Note: This is not meant to be an answer key for the workbook. So, teachers, you don't get a pass — you'll need to complete the questions in the lessons, just as participants do! The material here will give you “bonus content” that you can share with your study group members, to supplement the workbook material.

Ideally, each teaching time will be followed by Small Group time, when participants can gather in groups of 6-10 to discuss questions, review what impacted them the most from the week's study, and spend time in prayer together.


Format


Each chapter in the teacher guide corresponds to a lesson in the workbook. In these chapters, you'll find seven types of content. These are focused on clarifying the meaning behind the text of Revelation and understanding how it applies to our lives today (and our futures!) Feel free to use what you find most helpful, what works best in your setting, and what fits well with your teaching style and gifts.


 **Crown points:** As you teach each lesson, use the crowns as your main talking points, explaining the verses and their meanings to Bible study participants. These include passage summaries, language clarifications, cross-references to other relevant scriptures, and insights from various Bible commentaries and Christian authors.

“ Quotes: Some of the crown points are supplemented with quotes that emphasize core truths of a specific portion of scripture. You may want to read these aloud in class, to give further insight or impact to a concept. Many of the quotes offer concise thoughts that participants can quickly jot down in their notes during the teaching time.

? Workbook Questions: As you go through the lesson, you won't be answering every question in the workbook. However, you'll notice that notes are provided for select questions. The corresponding number of the question in the workbook is indicated for each of these points.

 **Illustrations:** The cloud icon indicates a suggested illustration. These visuals can give your lectures greater impact. Incorporating illustrations into your teaching time can help participants grasp biblical concepts and understand how to apply them to their lives.

 **Handouts:** These pages offer a more in-depth look into a specific aspect of the study. They are designed to be copied and distributed to each participant. Use the handouts to send participants home with something to read and consider, or use them as activities during your teaching or small group time together.

 **Class notes:** These are notes that are included in the participant workbook which are to be filled in during class. The words in italics correspond to the blanks in the workbook.

- **Teacher Resources:** At the beginning of each lesson is a teacher resource section. Here you'll find a list of the tools you'll need for that session. These might include objects to use for an illustration, handouts that are provided at the end of the lesson, or other reference materials that would be helpful to have on hand.

Behold!

Are you ready to be blessed by the study of Revelation?

Not quite—first, let's pray.

Father, thank you for the opportunity to study your Word and share its powerful, life-giving truths with others. Please bless this study of Revelation. Guide this teacher with wisdom and discernment. Prepare the hearts and minds of those completing the study to hear and receive your message. Use this study to draw people to you and bring you glory, today and forever.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

Now - behold, our King!



Teacher Resources

- **Map:** Reference map of the 7 churches on page 21 of this guide and page 10 of the workbook

☁ **Letter blocks:** Children’s letter blocks A and Z

Introduction

Many people are fascinated by the future and the possibility of knowing THEIR future. Some read horoscopes, have palms read, call psychic hot lines. But there is only One who knows and declares the future and we are going to study what He wants us to know about it.

The book begins with a statement of the origin and transmission of God’s revelation through Jesus Christ and an angel to John, who in turn is to make it known to others. Vv.1–3 form an introduction or prologue to the entire book. They tell how and for what purpose the revelation was given, and then pronounce a blessing on both reader and obedient listener.⁷

Key points:

- 👑 This book is prophecy that Jesus reveals to John for him to record. God will bless all who obey its teachings.⁸
 - 👑 Jesus is worthy of all praise because of who he is and what he has done, and his Second coming will be glorious and public, because the Lord God Almighty will make it happen.⁹
 - 👑 Revelation is not good news for everyone...but it certainly is for believers.
-

Verse 1

👑 **The revelation of Jesus Christ:** The opening words indicate the subject of the entire book. The word “revelation” is a translation of the Greek *apokalypsis*, meaning “an unveiling” or “a disclosure.” From this word comes the English “apocalypse.”¹⁰ It was not unusual for God to send revelations in the Bible: Dan 9, Zech 1, 2, 4, 5, 10; Luke 1, Matt 1. The book covers things which have been (ch 1), which are (ch 2-3) and which will take place (4-22).

? **#1 – Jesus Christ:** Jesus is the Chief Subject. The full designation, “Jesus Christ,” is found three times in Rev 1:1–5 but nowhere else in the book. It is appropriate in the elevated style of the prologue. Throughout the rest of the book the simple name “Jesus” is used (11 times).¹¹

⁷ Mounce, R. H. (1997). [The Book of Revelation](#) (p. 39). Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.

⁸ Easley, K. H. (1998). [Revelation](#) (Vol. 12, p. 12). Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

⁹ Easley, K. H. (1998). [Revelation](#) (Vol. 12, p. 13). Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

¹⁰ Walvoord, J. F. (1985). [Revelation](#). In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 2, p. 928). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

¹¹ Mounce, R. H. (1997). [The Book of Revelation](#) (p. 40). Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.

“*The Apocalypse reveals a great many divine truths. But supremely, overarching all those features, the book of Revelation reveals the majesty and glory of the Lord Jesus Christ. It describes in detail the events associated with His second coming, revealing His glory that will one day blaze forth as strikingly and unmistakably as lightning flashing in a darkened sky (Matt 24:27) – John MacArthur*

👑 **What must soon take place:** The express purpose of God in giving the revelation is to “show his servants what must soon take place.” History is not a haphazard sequence of unrelated events but a divinely decreed ordering of that which *must* take place. It is a logical and moral necessity arising from the nature of God and the revelation of his purpose in creation and redemption.¹²

👑 **Soon:** This must be understood from the perspective of heaven rather than earth. With God, a thousand years is only a day (2 Pet. 3:8). This means that the events described in Revelation were written down less than two days ago! If they do not come to pass for another two or three days, that will still be “soon.”¹³

👑 **Angels:** Jesus used a revealing angel to communicate part of the revelation to his servant John (for example, see Rev. 19:9), who describes himself, too, as a “slave” or “bondservant.” The line of communication may be simply illustrated: God >>> Jesus >>> angel >>> John >>> servants.¹⁴

Angels appear in every chapter except 4 and 13. The word angel or angels used 71x. This book is an important source of information on the ministry of angels. (And note—you are not and never will be an angel!!)

👑 **Inspiration:** Sometimes Christ Himself conveyed information to John (Rev 1:10); sometimes it was an elder (Rev 7:13); and often it was an angel (Rev 17:1; 19:9-10). The book came from God to John, no matter what the various means of communication were; and it was all inspired by the Spirit.¹⁵

? **#8 – John:** During Christ’s earthly ministry, John and his brother James asked Jesus for special places of honor by His throne. The Lord told them that they would have to merit their thrones by sharing in His suffering. James was the first apostle martyred (Acts 12:1–2); John was the last of the Apostles to die, but he suffered on Patmos before his death (see Matt. 20:20–23).¹⁶

Verse 2

? **#9 – What John saw:** “And I saw”....used 40x in Revelation

¹² Mounce, R. H. (1997). [The Book of Revelation](#) (p. 41). Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.

¹³ Easley, K. H. (1998). [Revelation](#) (Vol. 12, p. 12). Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

¹⁴ Easley, K. H. (1998). [Revelation](#) (Vol. 12, p. 12). Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

¹⁵ Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). [The Bible exposition commentary](#) (Vol. 2, pp. 566–567). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

¹⁶ Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). [The Bible exposition commentary](#) (Vol. 2, p. 566). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

This verse shows the authority and inspiration of Revelation in the strongest terms. John uses the language of a legal witness called to appear in a courtroom. His role is simply one who reliably testifies to everything he saw. This is John's way of affirming that the book is "the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth." Here also he gives two subtitles to his book: the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ.¹⁷

Verse 3

? **#11 – Blessing:** A blessing is pronounced on the person who will read "the words of this prophecy" to the church and upon those who will hear it and take to heart what it says. The beatitude in 1:3 is the first of seven beatitudes in Revelation. (The others are found in 14:13; 16:15; 19:9; 20:6; 22:7, 14.) It virtually reproduces the words of Jesus in Luke 11:28, "Blessed ... are those who hear the word of God and obey it!"¹⁸

Three activities are recommended: to read, to hear, and to take to heart. The setting implied is a local congregation. In a time of little literacy, one oral reader (he who reads) addressed many listeners (those who hear it).¹⁹

“*Note the importance of “the words.” The best translation is one which follows a policy of formal equivalence where the very meaning of the individual words is preserved as closely as possible. Some translations involve more interpretation than others.* – Tony Garland

Verse 4

? **#16 - Greeting:** This verse reminds us of Paul's and Peter's epistles by following the ancient letter-writing customs. First the authors name themselves; then they mention the addressees; then they give a greeting.²⁰ The authority with which John writes indicates his role as a leader in the Asian church.²¹

“*What other John would designate himself simply as John? John the Apostle was the most prominent John amongst the Asian churches during this period. He was ideally suited to write to these churches because he had been living in Asia Minor and ministering among the churches since about A.D. 66.* – Robert Thomas

? **#17 – Churches:** These 7 churches were about 30-45 miles apart.

“*It is hard to know why these particular churches were chosen. It is possible they were chosen because these cities lay on the major Roman roads through the province and they were intended to be*

¹⁷ Easley, K. H. (1998). [Revelation](#) (Vol. 12, pp. 12–13). Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

¹⁸ Mounce, R. H. (1997). [The Book of Revelation](#) (p. 43). Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.

¹⁹ Easley, K. H. (1998). [Revelation](#) (Vol. 12, p. 13). Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

²⁰ Easley, K. H. (1998). [Revelation](#) (Vol. 12, pp. 13–14). Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

²¹ Mounce, R. H. (1997). [The Book of Revelation](#) (p. 45). Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.

representative of the rest of the churches. The cities are addressed in the geographical order by which a courier could drop off copies of the book traveling on these Roman roads. – Grant Osborne

- ? **#18 – Grace and peace:** Grace and peace to you had become a standard Christian greeting by the time John wrote.²² Grace is the divine favor showed to the human race, and peace is that state of spiritual well-being that follows as a result. Metzger calls attention to the fact that grace and peace always stand in that order and observes that “it is because of God’s grace that his people can enjoy peace.”²³
- ? **#18 – Sources of grace:** The source of these blessings is the Father, the Spirit, and the Son. Here is striking early evidence for Christian belief in the Trinity—one God existing eternally in three Persons. God the Father is described as him who is, and who was, and who is to come, found in the Bible only here and in 1:8 and 4:8. Although the Greek grammar is awkward here, this is a development of God’s Old Testament name, “I AM WHO I AM” (Exod. 3:14). The unique phrase—the seven spirits before his throne—occurs only in Revelation and probably refers to the Holy Spirit.²⁴ See Zechariah 4:2-6 which associates the seven lamps as God’s spirit.²⁵

Verse 5

- 👑 **Faithful witness:** This designation of Jesus applies in the first place to his role in mediating the revelation he received from God (Rev 1:1; the “testimony for the churches” referred to in 22:16). But it also refers to the larger purpose of his life as the one who bore witness to the truth from God (John 3:32–33; 18:37) with special emphasis on his death that followed as a result. The Greek word for witness (*martyrs*) has come over into English as “martyr,” one who suffers death for allegiance to a cause.²⁶
- 👑 **The firstborn from the dead:** This title is also found in Col 1:18, where Christ is declared sovereign over the church by virtue of his resurrection from the dead.²⁷
- 👑 **The ruler of the kings of the earth:** All terrestrial authorities are subject to him and can continue their reigns only as he sovereignly permits.²⁸

²² Easley, K. H. (1998). [Revelation](#) (Vol. 12, p. 14). Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

²³ Mounce, R. H. (1997). [The Book of Revelation](#) (p. 45). Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.

²⁴ Easley, K. H. (1998). [Revelation](#) (Vol. 12, p. 14). Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

²⁵ Patterson, P. (2012). [Revelation](#). (E. R. Clendenen, Ed.) (Vol. 39, p. 59). Nashville, TN: B&H.

²⁶ Mounce, R. H. (1997). [The Book of Revelation](#) (p. 48). Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.

²⁷ Mounce, R. H. (1997). [The Book of Revelation](#) (p. 48). Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.

²⁸ Patterson, P. (2012). [Revelation](#). (E. R. Clendenen, Ed.) (Vol. 39, pp. 60–61). Nashville, TN: B&H.

Verse 6

👑 **Kingdom and priests:** In His love, God called Israel to be a kingdom of priests (Ex. 19:1–6), but the Jews failed God and their kingdom was taken from them (Matt. 21:43). Today, God’s people (the church) are His kings and priests (1 Peter 2:1–10), exercising spiritual authority and serving God in this world.²⁹

Verse 7

👑 **Behold:** The statement in Revelation 1:7, “Behold, He cometh with clouds,” describes our Lord’s return *to the earth*, and is amplified in Revelation 19:11–21. This is not the same as His return *in the air* to catch away His people (1 Thes. 4:13–18; 1 Cor. 15:51ff). When He comes to catch away (rapture) His church, He will come “as a thief” (Rev. 3:3; 16:15) and only those who are born again will see Him (1 John 3:1–3). The event described in Revelation 1:7 will be witnessed by the whole world, and especially by a repentant nation of Israel (see Dan. 7:13; Zech. 12:10–12). It will be public, not secret (Matt. 24:30–31), and will climax the Tribulation period described in Revelation 6–19.³⁰

“Behold” is an arresting call to attention. This is the first of its 25 times used in Revelation. – John MacArthur.

The Bible repeatedly affirms that Jesus will return. That truth appears in more than 500 verses in the Bible. – John MacArthur

👑 **Mourn:** Those who have rejected Christ in every age, beginning with those who pierced him, have thought they were superior to him. At last they will realize their terrible error. He will become their Judge. As the doom of all the peoples (unbelievers) sinks in, they will mourn because of him. Although such mourning is taken by some as grief and repentance, Revelation contains no indication that this will happen. Rather, they will realize that all is lost and that he is about to inflict judgment on them.³¹

👑 The Two Comings of Jesus:

First coming:

Lowly
Private, few saw
Some pierced/rejected Him
Rejoicing over His defeat

Second coming:

Glorious
Public, all will see
Those who reject Him are judged
Mourning about His victory over them³²

²⁹ Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). [The Bible exposition commentary](#) (Vol. 2, p. 568). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

³⁰ Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). [The Bible exposition commentary](#) (Vol. 2, p. 568). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

³¹ Easley, K. H. (1998). [Revelation](#) (Vol. 12, p. 15). Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

³² Easley, K. H. (1998). [Revelation](#) (Vol. 12, p. 16). Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

Class Notes: Nine Reasons Why Christ Must Return by John MacArthur

First: The *promises of God* require that Jesus return: everlasting earthly rule and Israel's future

Second: The promise of *Jesus* that He would return: John 14:2-3

Third: The guarantee of the *Holy Spirit* Who is the Spirit of truth

Fourth: God's program for the *church* demands that Jesus return: the Rapture, Rev. 3:10, one aspect

Fifth: Christ program for the *unbelieving nations* requires His return: judgement, rule

Sixth: God's program for *Israel* demands that Christ returns: God is not finished with Israel Rm 11:1-2, Jer 31

Seventh: Christ's *humiliation* demands that He return: He was rejected, story cannot end that way Phil2:10

Eighth: The judgment of *Satan* demands that Christ returns: Jesus will destroy him

Ninth: The expectation of *believers* demands that Christ returns: Titus 2:13, 2 Tim 4:8

Verse 8

? **#31 – Greek:** Alpha and Omega represent the Hebrew *Aleph* and *Tau*, which were regarded not simply as the first and last letters of the alphabet, but as including all the letters in between. Hence, the title sets forth God as the sovereign Lord over everything that takes place in the entire course of human history.³³ Like the other titles in the verse, it is intended to encourage and support believers in a time of crisis.³⁴

☁ **Letter blocks:** Use children's letter blocks A and Z to illustrate the Lord's title of Alpha and Omega: What comes in between these letters? Everything else. He is the first and last and is the sovereign Lord over everything in between.

? **#32 – Three statements:** First, he is the **Alpha and Omega**, the A and Z, the one in control from before the beginning of time until after the end. His eternity is further noted in the phrase, **who is, and who was, and who is to come** (v. 4). Finally, his power is seen in the title **the Almighty** (*Gr. pantokrator*), the one whom none can resist. The term translated "Almighty" is a reference to the idea of the supremacy of God over all things.³⁵ Nine of the ten times this term appears in the New Testament are in Revelation (also 4:8; 11:17; 15:3; 16:7, 14; 19:6, 15; 21:22). Revelation's language thus reflects the Old Testament's triple designation, **Lord God ... Almighty**. It is the full Old Testament name of God, traditionally translated "Lord God of Hosts."³⁶

³³ Mounce, R. H. (1997). [The Book of Revelation](#) (pp. 51–52). Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.

³⁴ Mounce, R. H. (1997). [The Book of Revelation](#) (p. 52). Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.

³⁵ Patterson, P. (2012). [Revelation](#). (E. R. Clendenen, Ed.) (Vol. 39, p. 63). Nashville, TN: B&H.

³⁶ Easley, K. H. (1998). [Revelation](#) (Vol. 12, p. 16). Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

