

The Revelation to JR.

The Revelation is one of the most confusing books in the canon. Why? Mainly because John used a whole symbolic language that was very accessible to his ancient audience, but is gibberish to us. In this series, I want to update the symbols in Revelation, to make John's timeless picture of Christ more accessible to twenty-first century Americans. I will keep the chapter numbers so that readers can compare my reimagining to John's original visions.

1 The Prologue:

This is an uncovering and showcasing of Jesus Christ that God gave him to show us – his servants – what's going to happen soon. He made it known by sending his messenger to his servant JR., who preaches concerning the Word of God which is Jesus Christ.

God is with the person who reads this prophecy, and with the people who hear and live by it, because it's almost time.

JR., to the seven churches in America:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and was and will come, and from the seven doves in his Office, and from Jesus Christ the honest witness, the first to rise from the dead and the ruler of all presidents and prime ministers and dictators in the world.

To the one who loves us and freed us from our sins with his blood, and made us One Nation Under God, and ministers serving his God and Father, to Jesus be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen!

Look! He is coming back, and every person will see him – even the people who don't believe. And every denomination and ethnicity and nation will be in mourning because of him. It's going to happen. Amen.

The Lord God – the one who was and who is and who will come, the all-powerful – says,

“I am the A and the Z.”

The First Vision:

I, JR., your brother because through Jesus I share your pain and joy, your victories and defeats, I was in Dayton because of the Word of God which is Jesus Christ. I was worshiping one Sunday when I heard a loud voice coming from behind me. It was louder than a jet engine. The voice said,

“Write on your blog what you see and publish it so that the seven churches can see it. Make sure the Reformed, Hispanic, Wesleyan, Mainline Protestants, Baptists, Black and Evangelical churches.”

Then I turned to see who was talking to me, and I saw seven golden pulpits and in the middle of the pulpits I saw the Messiah. He was wearing a three-piece Armani with a Rolex and silk pocket-handkerchief. His head and hair were bright, pure white – practically glowing. His eyes burned with intelligence. He had on tough, sturdy steel-toed work boots. His voice was loud and powerful. He was holding seven stars in his right hand and he had a platinum gavel coming out of his mouth. His face was beautiful, but I couldn't even look at it – it was like trying to stare at the sun.

When I saw him, I was overwhelmed – I passed out. But he shook me back awake, telling me,

“Don't be afraid. I am the first and the last, and the ultimate source of life. I was dead, but look – now I'm alive forever and ever. I have the keys to Death and the Afterlife.

Now, write what you have seen, what you're seeing now and what you're about to see. And just to clarify the seven stars you saw in my right hand and the seven pulpits: the seven stars are the guardian angels of the seven churches – their representations in Heaven. And the seven pulpits are the seven churches themselves.

2 Write this to the angel of the Reformed churches: These are the words of the one who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden pulpits:

“I know what you're doing, how hard you work and your faithfulness. I know that you can't stand false teachers; you have tested those who claim to represent God but don't, and you've found them to be false. I also know that you're working hard in my name, that you're not giving up or getting tired. But I have this against you: you have abandoned the love you had at first. Look back and see where your system has tripped you up; repent and let what you do now look more like the Person you fell in love with. If you don't, I will come to you and remove your pulpit from its place (unless you repent!). I'll give you this: you hate the teachings of Universalists, which I also hate. Let anyone who has an ear hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches. To everyone who conquers, I will give permission to eat from the tree of life that is in the paradise of God.”

And write this to the angel of the Arab churches: These are the words of the first and last, who was dead and came to life, the ultimate immigrant:

I know your suffering, poverty and rejection (even though you're actually rich). I hear the slander coming from those who say they are God's chosen nation and are not – they're actually a Satan's nation. Don't be afraid of what you're about to suffer. Get ready: the devil is about to put you through the wringer – he's testing you, and it's not going to be pretty. Or short. Stay strong. Stay faithful even if it means death and I'll give you the gold medal in Life. Let anyone who has ears listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches. Whoever conquers won't be caught in the second death.

To the angel of the Black churches write: These are the words of the one who has the platinum gavel:

I know your struggles, what you face every day, right in the heart of where Satan seems to be working the most, your struggles that don't have an end in sight. Even still, you're holding tightly to my name, and you didn't turn your back on your faith in me even in the days of Martin Luther King, Jr., my faithful witness who was killed among you – clearly Satan's work. But here's my problem: some of you are listening who [Achan](#), whose lust for wealth brought destruction on all of God's people. And others among you have embraced the Universalists' teachings. So repent! If you don't, I will come soon, and when I do, I'll crush you with the gavel of my mouth. Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches. To everyone who conquers, I'll show the hidden doors to my treasury vault, and I'll give you a megaphone that has a battery that will never run out and that no one can find.

To the angel of the Mainline Protestant churches write: These are the words of the Son of God, who has eyes that burn with intelligence and tough, sturdy steel-toed work boots on his feet:

I know what you've done – your love, faith, service and patience. I know that you're doing things now that are greater than anything you've ever done. But I have this against you: you tolerate the likes of Ahab and Jezebel, who call themselves prophets and teachers and who are duping my servants to welcome and even celebrate fornication. I've given them time to repent, but they refuse to repent of their perversion. Watch out: I'm going to throw them onto a bed, and anyone who commits adultery with them I'm going to throw on the bed of suffering too (unless they repent!). I'm going to kill the children of her adultery. And all the churches will know that I am the one who explores your minds and hearts, and I'll give each person and church what your works deserve. But to the rest of you Mainline Protestants who don't hold to these teachings, who haven't learned what some call 'the open mind' of Satan, I'm not going to burden you with anything else. Just hold on to the faith and works you have until I come. To everyone who conquers and continues to do my works until the end, I will offer the invitation,

[“Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.”](#)

since it is my Father's party. To the one who conquers I will also give the whitest wedding dress ever. Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

3 To the angel of the Baptist churches write: These are the words of the one who has the seven flaming doves and the seven stars:

I know what you're doing. You have a reputation for being alive, but you are dead. Wake up! Strengthen what's left and is at death's door, because I have not found your works complete in the sight of my God. Remember everything you've been given, and everything you've learned. Obey it and repent! If you don't wake up, I will come like a thief and you won't know when I'll strike. There are a few of you Baptists who haven't gotten caught up in all the mud-slinging and are still clean. They're going to walk with me, dressed in white graduation robes, because they're worthy. If the rest of you conquer, you will also be dressed in white graduation robes, and I won't erase your names from the book of life. In fact, quite the opposite, I'll read it loud and proud in front of my Father and all the angels. Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

To the angel of the Hispanic churches write: "These are the words of the Holy One. The True Immigrant. He has the key of David and what he opens, no one can shut (and if he shuts it, no one can open it either!):

I know what you're doing. Look: I have opened the borders in front of you and no one can close them. I know you don't have much power, but even still you have kept my word and haven't denied my name. I will make those of the nation of Satan – who say they are God's people but are not (they're lying!) – I'm going to make them stand up and salute you and they will learn that I have loved you all along. Because you have been patiently listening to me, I'm going to protect you from the great tests that the whole world is going to take. I'm coming soon, so keep holding on tightly to what you have – you don't want anyone to take your gold medal from you! If you conquer, I will make you a load-bearing wall in the Church of my God – you'll never leave it! And I'll sign my name on your forehead – my name, God's name and the name of the New Utopia from God. Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

To the angel of the Evangelical churches write: These are the words of the Truth, the faithful and true reporter, the source of everything in God's world:

I know what you're doing. I know that you're neither full of tradition nor cutting edge. I wish you were either steeped in heritage or innovative but since you're neither – since you just follow the culture around, mimicking whatever you see, I'm going to foreclose on your buildings and burn them to the ground. You say, "I am hip, I'm relevant and people love me." You don't realize that you are pathetic, derivative, poor, uncool and naked. You want my advice? (Too bad if you don't!) You need to start following me around. I've got a light show that will dazzle you, and white graduation robes that are way cooler than anything in your closet. Look to me for your inspiration, and I'll show you a world unlike any you can imagine. I chastise and discipline the people I love – do you understand that that's what's happening here?

Take a good, hard look at yourself and repent! I'm not just some cheap slogan on a t-shirt or bumper sticker! Your community deserves to know that I'm more than a slick production. I'm in the lobby. All you have to do is ask and I'll come into your meetings and we'll transform this whole place together. To the one who conquers, I'll give a place with me in my office – the same way I have already conquered and sat down with my Father in his office. Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches

4 After this I looked, and there in Heaven I saw an open door. And the first voice – the one I'd heard that sounded like a jet engine – said, "Come up here, and I will show you what's going happen next." I was immediately pulled into a vision and there in Heaven I saw an Oval Office, with a large desk at the center of the office and someone seated at the desk. The person seated at the desk was more beautiful than the Hope Diamond or any other collection of jewels you could imagine. I saw a rainbow surrounding the desk, running throughout the whole Office.

Surrounding the desk were 24 more desks, and at each desk I saw a Congressperson, all dressed in white suits and wearing gold medals around their necks.

All around the center desk, I saw lightning crashing and heard peals of thunder, and in front of the desk – really, flying all around the Office – I saw doves that flew even though they were on fire. The longer I watched, I saw that the doves didn't burn up at all. In fact, from time to time, the doves would land and sleep in the sand in front of the desk (did I mention that there was a small ocean of glass in front of the desk, complete with a small beach?).

I also saw four living creatures at each of the cardinal directions surrounding the desk. The first creature looked like a bacterium or amoeba, the second like a mushroom, the third like a tree and the fourth had a human face, scales and the body of a lion, but with wings.

All day and all night, the creatures led a ticker-tape parade around the throne. They marched with the Congresspersons and as they marched, they sang this:

Holy, holy, holy,
The Lord God the Almighty
Who was, and who is and who will come.

And every time the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to the one who sits at the desk, who lives forever, the 24 congresspersons stand and salute the one who sits at the desk and pledge allegiance to the one who lives forever. They take their gold medals off and lay them down on the desk and say,

You are worthy, our Lord and God,
To receive Glory and Honor and Power,
For you created all things
And by your will they existed and were created.

5 Then I noticed that the one seated at the desk had an Executive Order in his right hand, and it had seven lines that required a signature on it. And I saw an enormous angel yell loudly,

“Who is worthy to sign this Order and enact it?”

But no one in Heaven or on Earth could take the pen and sign the Order.

I was heartbroken – so upset that I began to weep openly because no one was worthy to sign the Order or to enact it. But then one of the Congresspersons said to me,

“Don’t be upset. Look – the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, the best soldier ever to come from King David’s line – he’s conquered. He’s victorious. He’s won the day, so he can sign all seven lines on the Order and enact it!”

Then I saw between the desk and the four living creatures, among the Congresspersons, a Lamb standing there. He looked dead, like he had been sacrificed. Muscles bulged from every part of the Lamb’s body, and he had seven brains, which are the seven flaming doves that have been sent out all over the world.

As I watched, the Lamb went and took the Order from the right hand of the one seated at the desk. And as he took the Order and lifted his pen to sign, the four living creatures and the 24 Congresspersons stood and saluted the Lamb – each of them was holding open hymnals, which are the prayers of the saints. They sing a new song:

You are worthy to take the Order and to sign it into effect
For you were slaughtered and by your blood you bought back for God
Saints from every ethnicity and language group and people group and nation
And you have made them to be One Nation Under God, and ministers serving our
God. And they will rule the whole world.

Then I looked, and I heard the voices of many angels surrounding the desk and the living creatures and congresspersons. There were millions and millions of them, and they were all singing as loudly as they could,

The Lamb who was slaughtered is worthy
To receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength
And honor and glory and blessing!

Then I heard every single creature in the entire world – whether it flies, crawls, walks, digs or swims – singing,

To the one seated at the desk in the Oval Office and to the Lamb
Be blessing and honor and glory and strength forever and ever!

And the four living creatures agreed, and the congresspersons saluted and pledged their allegiance.

6 I saw the Lamb sign one of the lines on the Order, and I heard one of the four creatures call out in a voice like a jet engine, “Come!” I looked and saw a gleaming white 747! Its pilot was wearing a turban and he was given a gold medal, and wherever he flew, he conquered and destroyed.

When the Lamb signed the second line on the Order, I heard the second creature call out, “Come!” Out came a fleet of news vans, all blood red. Their driver was allowed to take peace from the earth, to spread dissention and fear so that people would turn on each other. He was given a giant gavel.

When the Lamb signed the third line, the third creature called out, “Come!” I looked, and a bear and bull came rushing out. Their rider was a banker; he held the keys to Fort Knox in his hand. And as the bear and bull ran rampant, destroying thousands upon thousands of houses, I heard a voice that sounded like it was coming from among the four creatures. It was saying,

“A McDonald’s Value Meal costs two hundred dollars, and gas is two hundred dollars per gallon! But the prices of caviar and steaks will not be touched.”

When the Lamb signed the fourth line, the fourth creature called out, “Come!” I looked and saw a broken-down, rickety wheel-chair coming out of a nursing home. A wizened old man, hooked up to an IV and heart monitors, was sitting in the wheel chair. He wore a long, black robe and carried a scythe, and his nametag read ‘DEATH’, and the hordes of Hell were right behind him. They were given authority over a quarter of the world’s population, to kill them in war, by famine, disease and even wild animals.

When the Lamb signed the fifth line, I saw under the desk the souls of everyone who had been slaughtered for the Word of God, and for the testimony they’d given. They shouted, cried as loudly as they could:

“Sovereign Lord, holy and true God, how long will it be before you judge everyone on earth, before you avenge our deaths?”

They were each given a white graduation robe and told to relax just a little bit longer, until the number of their brothers and sisters who were about to be killed (just like they’d been killed) was complete.

When the Lamb signed the sixth line, I looked, and every fault line in the world exploded – earthquakes and volcanoes everywhere. The sun was completely blacked out and the moon turned to blood – somehow a solar and lunar eclipse at the same time! Giant meteors were slamming into the earth – it was like someone was shaking an apple tree and the stars were falling out of the sky like deadly fruit! The sky itself was falling – literally! – and mountains and islands were vanishing, swallowed into the ground and oceans.

As everything fell apart, I saw presidents and prime ministers, dictators and despots, the CEOs and oil tycoons, movie stars and pop princesses – and not only them, but even the farmers and welfare moms, the homeless and illegal immigrants – everyone! They all tried to find a hole to hide in, and they began begging the earth itself,

Fall on us! Crush us! Anything to hide us from the face of the One seated at the Desk and from the wrath of the Lamb. See? The great Day of their wrath has come. Do you see anyone who can survive it?

7 Then I looked and saw four angels standing at the four cardinal directions. They were holding back the four winds so that nothing was moving anywhere – on land or sea. I saw another angel who was coming up with the dawn, and he held God’s notary seal. He called out to the four angels who had been given power to damage the land and seas,

“Don’t damage the land or sea – or anything on them, even the trees! – until we’ve notarized the servants of our God with a seal on their heads and their wallets.”

Then I heard how many were notarized – one hundred forty-four billion, notarized from every tribe of God’s chosen people.

Twelve billion were notarized from the Reformed churches.

Twelve billion were notarized from the Emergent churches.

Twelve billion were notarized from the Immigrant churches.

Twelve billion were notarized from the Baptist churches.

Twelve billion were notarized from the Black churches.

Twelve billion were notarized from the Catholic churches.

Twelve billion were notarized from the Holiness churches.

Twelve billion were notarized from the Mainline Protestant churches.

Twelve billion were notarized from the Prosperity churches.

Twelve billion were notarized from the Pentecostal churches.

Twelve billion were notarized from the Orthodox churches.

Twelve billion were notarized from the Evangelical churches.

Then I looked and all around me was an enormous multitude that no one could even begin to count. It was full of people from every country, ethnicity, language, demographic and people group. They were all standing in front of the desk and the Lamb, dressed in white graduation robes and waving campaign signs. As one, they shouted,

“Salvation belongs to our God who is seated at the desk and to the Lamb!”

All the angels stood around the desk and around the congresspersons and the four creatures, and they saluted in front of the desk and worshiped God by pledging their allegiance, singing,

“Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
And thanksgiving and honor and power and strength
Be to our God forever and ever! Amen!”

Then one of the congresspersons addressed asked me,

“Who are these, dressed in white graduation robes, and where did they come from?”

I responded, “Sir, you know better than I.” So he told me,

They’re the people who have finished the great trial. They’ve washed their graduation robes in the blood of the Lamb until they’re white. That’s why they’re before God’s desk, worshiping him 24/7 in his Oval Office.

The one seated at the Desk protects them. They’re never going to be hungry or thirsty again. They’re not going to swept away in a hurricane or buried in an earthquake because the Lamb at the center of the Desk will be their shepherd. He’s going to guide them safely to the springs of the water of life, and God is going to wipe away every tear they’ve cried.