

## Reading and Understanding the Bible

---

February 21, 2024  
Apocalyptic Literature

### Text

Revelation 5:1-6 (NIV)

### Introduction

- ***When we think of apocalypse, what do we usually mean?***

### The Biblical Definition and Nature of Apocalypse

- Definition - It's when God pulls back the curtain to show the true nature of the world from a \_\_\_\_\_.
  
- 2 Kings 6:15-19 - Elisha's Servant has an Apocalyptic Vision.

### Biblical Apocalypses

Adam in Genesis 2	Micaiah in 1 Kings 22
Abraham in Genesis 12, 15, 17, and 22	Elisha's servant in 2 Kings 6
Abimelech in Genesis 20	Isaiah in Isaiah 6
Jacob in Genesis 28	Jeremiah in Jeremiah 1
Moses in Exodus 3 and 19-24, 25-31, and Deuteronomy 32-33	Ezekiel in Ezekiel 1, 8-11, 40-48
Samuel in 1 Samuel 3	Amos in Amos 8-9
David in 2 Samuel 7	Zechariah in Zechariah 1-6
Solomon in 1 Kings 3	Daniel in Daniel 1-7

- Biblical apocalypse tends to:
  - Decisively divide the world into \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Have significant content that deals with \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Usually comes from \_\_\_\_\_ visions or dreams.
  - Tends to be \_\_\_\_\_ in nature.

- Tends to be \_\_\_\_\_.
- Revelation is written as a \_\_\_\_\_.
- Highly \_\_\_\_\_.

### Examples of Apocalyptic Symbols

- Revelation 5 - the Lion who is the Slain Lamb
  
- Revelation 13:15-18 - The Mark of the Beast
  - ***If we assume that first century readers could decode this symbol, what do you think it meant to them?***
  - Other "Mark/Seal" verses from Revelation - Revelation 3:12; 7:3; 14:1; 17:4-5; 19:12; 22:3-4.
    - **Who are the primary people being "marked" in Revelation?**
    - **With what are they being marked?**
  - Other NT verses about "marking/sealing" - 2 Corinthians 1:21; Ephesians 1:13.
  - Economic discrimination in the history of Israel and the church.
  
- ***How does realizing that apocalyptic literature is a pulling back of the curtain allowing readers to see what is happening behind the scenes help us interpret and understand writings like the book of Revelation?***
- ***How does it change the way we look at what is happening in the world right now?***

### Homework

- Bible Project - The Gospel and The Parables of Jesus