

the  Venues  
**Go Deep**

“Revelation: What the Hey?”  
“What Does Revelation Reveal?”  
October 25, 2015

*Did you see “Back to the Future”?  
What do you think of predictors and their  
predictions?  
How would you describe the book of Revelation?  
What does it reveal?*

Some say it reveals the end of history. Some say it reveals a rapture in which Christians are “taken up” to escape the coming Tribulation.

*What if Revelation isn’t intended to reveal the end of history?*

**1. What does it reveal about the earth?**

*If it reveals the Rapture, and that the earth will be destroyed, why bother with “creation care?”*

The above question is a common thought among many who hold the Rapture view.

*How does that view fit with the following verses (Psalm 50:10, Psalm 24:1 Revelation 11:18, Genesis 2:15)?*

**2. What does it reveal about Jesus?**

*How would you describe the Jesus portrayed in Revelation?*

One well-known pastor put it like this: *“In Revelation, Jesus is a pride fighter with a tattoo down His leg, a sword in His hand and the commitment to make someone bleed. That is a guy I can worship. I cannot worship the hippie, dapper, halo Christ because I cannot worship a guy I can beat up...”*

*Is the pastor right? Is that the Jesus portrayed in Revelation?*

*What do you think about the pastor’s last line: “I cannot worship a guy I can beat up.”*

*How does that sentiment fit with the fact that Jesus was beat up (crucified)?*

*If Jesus came the first time preaching and living out a “love your enemies” message, why would he come the second time any different?*

What do these verses say about Jesus?

Revelation 1:16

*What is the symbolism of a sword coming out of his mouth?*

Revelation 19:13

*Why would Jesus' robe already be bloody before the battle (See 19:14)? Whose blood was on the robe?*

Revelation 5:1-10

“Right hand” – a symbol of power and rule

“The number 7” – a symbol of perfection

*What do you think these symbols mean as they relate to God and the scroll?*

*What is the image of Jesus in Revelation 5:5?*

*What comes to your mind when you think of a lion?*

*What is the image of Jesus in Revelation 5:6?*

*What comes to your mind when you think of a lamb?*

The lamb has 7 horns – perfect power.

*What is John trying to say about Jesus?*

*What do you get when you cross a lion and a lamb?*

Jesus is a king but a king who serves.

Jesus is a fighter but he fights like a lamb.

Jesus is victorious not by shedding the blood of others but by shedding his own blood.

*How do most nations display their strength?*

*How did God display his strength?*

*If Jesus is the perfect expression of God's power, how would you describe that power?*

See Colossians 2:15. *How did Jesus conquer his enemies?*

See 1 Corinthians 1:22-23. *Does God's display of power sound crazy to you?*

### **3. What does it reveal about us?**

The original readers of the letter were going through serious persecution – beheadings, etc.

*How would they apply the message of Jesus in Revelation to their situation?*

*How did Jesus defeat his enemies?*

*What does that say about how we are to defeat our enemies?*

*If Jesus describes the way God rules the world, what does that say about how we are to live our lives?*

*What do you think about this interpretation of Revelation?*