

# How Not To Read The Bible

**DISCUSSION GUIDE** | May 10, 2026

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## BIG IDEA

*Revelation isn't a puzzle about the future, it's a call to remain faithful.*

**Message title:** *How (Not) To Read Revelation*

**Scripture reading:** Revelation 1:4, 5:6, 21:1-5 NIV

Revelation is not a cryptic code about future events, but a letter written to first-century Christians facing real pressure to compromise their allegiance to Jesus. By reading it historically before speculatively, we see that its symbols expose the false promises of empire and call believers to faithful endurance. At its core, Revelation reveals that true power belongs not to the beast, but to Jesus.

- 1. How does understanding Revelation as apocalyptic literature change the way you read its imagery (beasts, numbers, cosmic events)?*
- 2. In the first century, Christians faced pressure to declare "Caesar is Lord." What are modern equivalents of that pressure today?*
- 3. The talk describes compromise as small, gradual decisions. Where do you see that pattern in your own life or culture?*
- 4. How does the image of Jesus as the slain Lamb challenge common ideas about power, success and influence?*
- 5. Which part of Revelation's message gives you the most hope right now—and why?*

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## THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE

This week, identify one place in your life where you feel pressure to compromise (whether it's for comfort, approval, success, or security) and choose a specific way to remain faithful to Jesus in that moment, trusting that His way, not the world's, ultimately wins.