

A vertical photograph of the Milky Way galaxy, showing a rich spectrum of colors from deep blue and purple at the top to bright yellow and orange at the bottom. The galaxy's core is visible as a bright, dense band of light. The foreground features the dark silhouette of a forest of evergreen trees against the glowing sky.

revelation



- Who is God?
- Who are we?
- Where are we going?



John (and thereby his readers with him) is taken up into heaven in order to see the world from the heavenly perspective. He is given a glimpse behind the scenes of history so that he can see what is really going on in the events of his time and place.



He is also transported in vision into the final future of the world, so that he can see the present from the perspective of what its final outcome must be, in God's ultimate purpose for human history.

Richard Bauckham, [The Theology of the Book of Revelation](#)



John,

To the seven churches in the province of Asia:

Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

Revelation 1:4–5 NIV



To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father – to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.

Revelation 1:5b–6 NIV



“Look, he is coming with the clouds,”  
and every eye will see him,  
even those who pierced him”:  
and all the peoples on earth “will mourn because of  
him.”

So shall it be! Amen

Revelation 1:7–8 NIV



I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.

Revelation 1:9 NIV





On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet, which said, "Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea"

Revelation 1:10–16 NIV



I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, and among the lampstands was someone like a son of man, dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. The hair on his head was white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire.

Revelation 1:10–16 NIV



His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. In his right hand he held seven stars, and coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.

Revelation 1:10–16 NIV



Above the vault over their heads was what looked like a throne of lapis lazuli, and high above on the throne was a figure like that of a man. I saw that from what appeared to be his waist up he looked like glowing metal, as if full of fire, and that from there down he looked like fire; and brilliant light surrounded him.

Ezekiel 1:26–28 NIV



Like the appearance of a rainbow in the clouds on a rainy day, so was the radiance around him.

This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. When I saw it, I fell facedown, and I heard a voice of one speaking.

Ezekiel 1:26–28 NIV



When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead.  
Then he placed his right hand on me and said:  
“Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am  
the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive  
for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and  
Hades.

Revelation 1:17–20 NIV



“Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later. The mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand and of the seven golden lampstands is this:

The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

Revelation 1:17–20 NIV

