

REVELATION 1: 1-20

The opening of this letter makes it clear that John is writing to two audiences: the churches of his time, and all Christians in his future. John's churches are made up of a persecuted minority: a mix of Jew and Gentile, all following the testimony of Jesus, and living under Roman occupation. They are on the margins of the empire, poor and religiously persecuted by Rome. John's message to them during this time is to "patient endurance" and to resist falling for the propaganda of the empire.

This is not Jesus as he appeared in the gospel stories. He is glorious and sublime. John struggles to find words to describe him. There is nowhere to go – nowhere to hide from this vision. No wonder John drops to the ground as though he were a dead man. It is a vision of perfect holiness and power. It cuts through and challenges our images of gentle Jesus, meek and mild, and reminds us that Jesus is the Almighty God, not some ordinary man we can influence and manipulate.



01 — Entering Revelation

We're starting a new series on the book of Revelation. How familiar are you with this book? Do you have a 'Marmite' relationship with it?



02 — Jesus the man vs Jesus the God

In this passage, we see a description of Jesus in glory, the true Lamb of God. What differences are there between this Jesus, and the Jesus of the Gospels?



03 — Echoes of the Old Testament

Jesus (like all parts of God) are the same, yesterday, today, and forever – but He is seen differently in different situations. What is the Jesus we need today? As a church, or from your personal perspective?



04 — Practising what (Angie) preaches

Consider this our 'health check' for Jesus – we can't domesticate him, make him into our image. We're meant to be growing into His image. How will you live this out this week?

