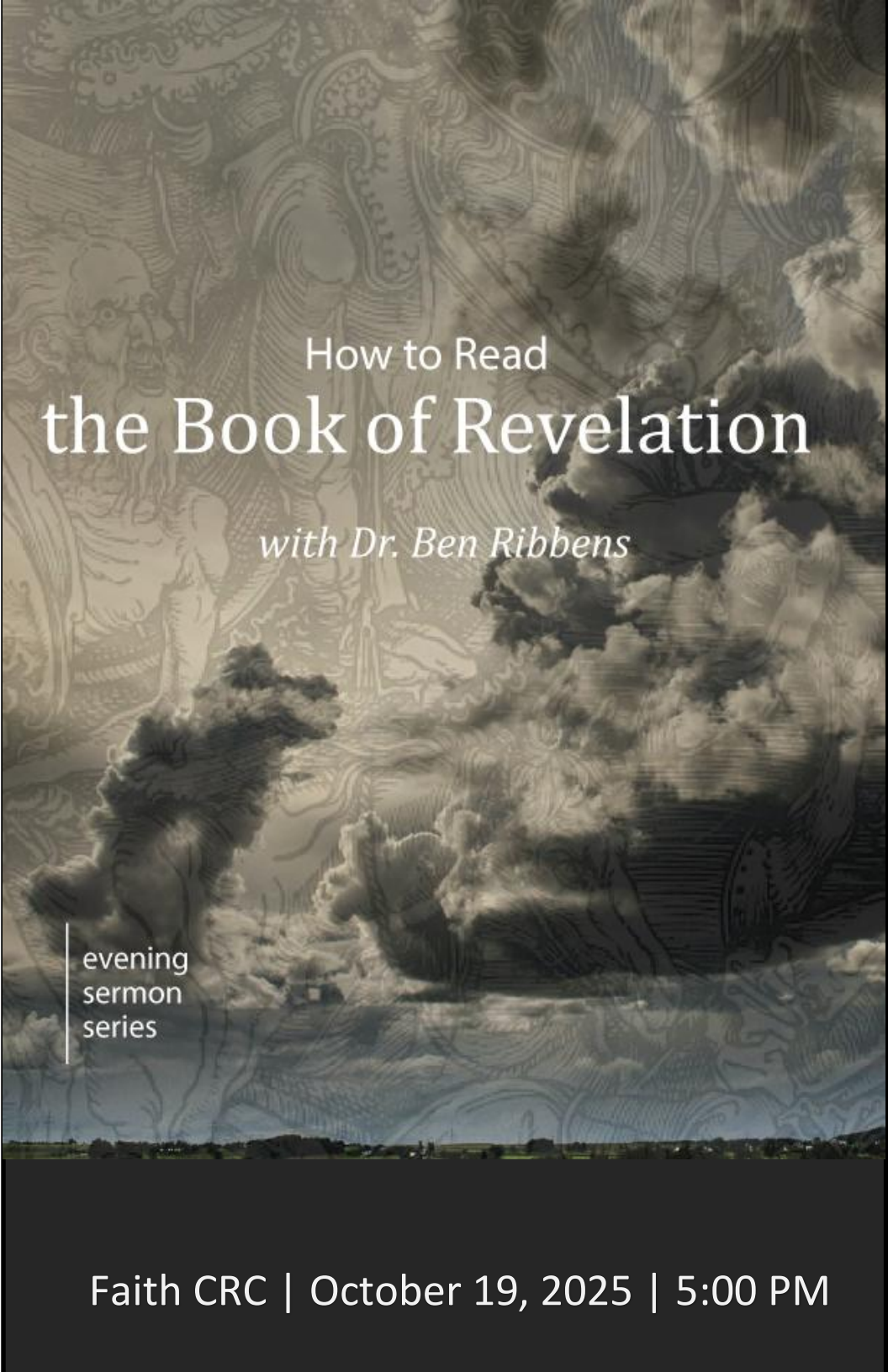




How to Read the Book of Revelation

with Dr. Ben Ribbens

evening
sermon
series

Faith CRC | October 19, 2025 | 5:00 PM

Welcome & God's Greeting

Song: "Shout For the Blessed Jesus Reigns"
#261 (LH)

Shout, for the blessed Jesus reigns;
through distant lands his triumphs spread.
And sinners freed from endless pains,
own him their Savior and their Head.

He calls his chosen from afar;
they all at Zion's gates arrive.
Those who were dead in sin before
by sovereign grace are made alive.

Gentiles and Jews his laws obey.
All lands and nations offerings bring
and, unconstrained, their homage pay
to their exalted God and King.

Oh, may his holy church increase,
his Word and Spirit still prevail,
while angels celebrate his praise
and saints his growing glories hail.

Loud hallelujahs to the Lamb
from all below and all above!
In lofty songs exalt his name,
in songs as lasting as his love.

Prayer

13 The dragon stood on the shore of the sea. And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. It had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on its horns, and on each head a blasphemous name. **2** The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion. The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority. **3** One of the heads of the beast seemed to have had a fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been healed. The whole world was filled with wonder and followed the beast. **4** People worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast and asked, “Who is like the beast? Who can wage war against it?”

5 The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise its authority for forty-two months. **6** It opened its mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander his name and his dwelling place and those who live in heaven. **7** It was given power to wage war against God’s holy people and to conquer them. And it was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation. **8** All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast—all whose names have not been written in the Lamb’s book of life, the Lamb who was slain from the creation of the world.

9 Whoever has ears, let them hear.

10 “If anyone is to go into captivity,
 into captivity they will go.
If anyone is to be killed with the sword,
 with the sword they will be killed.”

This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of God’s people.

¹¹ Then I saw a second beast, coming out of the earth. It had two horns like a lamb, but it spoke like a dragon. ¹² It exercised all the authority of the first beast on its behalf, and made the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose fatal wound had been healed. ¹³ And it performed great signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to the earth in full view of the people. ¹⁴ Because of the signs it was given power to perform on behalf of the first beast, it deceived the inhabitants of the earth. It ordered them to set up an image in honor of the beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived. ¹⁵ The second beast was given power to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that the image could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed. ¹⁶ It also forced all people, great and small, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hands or on their foreheads, ¹⁷ so that they could not buy or sell unless they had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of its name.

¹⁸ This calls for wisdom. Let the person who has insight calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man. That number is 666.

Message:

“Good Wins”

Q & A

Prayer

Blessing

Song: “Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise”
#326 (PH)

Savior, again to thy dear name we raise
with one accord our parting hymn of praise.
Once more we bless thee ere our worship cease,
then, lowly bending, wait thy word of peace.

Grant us thy peace upon our homeward way;
with thee began, with thee shall end the day.
Guard thou the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,
that in this house have called upon thy name.

Grant us thy peace, Lord, through the coming night;
turn thou for us its darkness into light.
From harm and danger keep thy children free,
for dark and light are both alike to thee.

Grant us thy peace throughout our earthly life,
our balm in sorrow and our stay in strife.
Then, when thy voice shall bid our conflict cease,
call us, O Lord, to thine eternal peace.

Offering: Love INC
(Look for the donation box to give)

Leading us in Worship

Worship Leaders & Sermon:

Matthew Lanser, Ben Ribbens

Accompaniment:

Mo Pacheco, Kristen Voss

(PH-Psalter Hymnal / WC-Worshiping Church / LH-Lift Up Your Hearts Hymnal)

Reading Revelation

Emperor worship:

Imperial Cult:

1. Deceased emperors were declared gods
2. Cults devoted to Roma—the personification of the city of Rome as goddess = civic religion, civic loyalty

Ideas:

1. The gods have chosen Rome
2. Rome and its emperor are agents of the gods' rule, will, salvation, and presence among human beings
3. Rome manifests the gods' blessings—security, peace, justice, faithfulness, fertility—among those who submit to Rome's rule

Regional Manifestations

Approaches to Reading Revelation:

1. Preterist
2. Historicist
3. Futurist
4. Idealist
5. Eclecticism

Grand Narrative:

Good

1. Ch. 4: God the Father
2. Ch. 5: Lamb
3. Ch. 11: Two Witnesses
4. Ch. 12: Woman

Evil

1. Ch. 12: Dragon
2. Ch. 13: Beast of the Sea
3. Ch. 13: Beast of the Earth
4. Ch. 17: Prostitute

Beast of the Sea: Revelation 13:1–10

- A. The Beast of the Sea is the counterpoint to the lamb (Jesus)—i.e., anti-Christ
 - a. Share power, throne, authority
 - b. Appear slaughtered
 - c. Outcome of work
 - d. Lamb conquers by enduring death for others; beast conquers by inflicting war and death
- B. The Beast of the Sea is a composite picture of evil empires
 - a. Daniel 7: Four Evil Empires
 - i) lion, ii), leopard, iii) bear, iv) ten horns with a boastful horn
 - b. Revelation 13: one beast combining lion, leopard, bear, and horns
- C. The Beast of the Sea corresponds to traits of Rome and its emperors
 - a. 7 heads = 7 hills
 - b. Authority over every “tribe, people, language and nation” (v. 7)
 - c. Who is like the beast?
 - d. Blasphemous names, worship the beast
 - e. Nero

Beast of the Earth: Rev 13:11–18

- A. False Prophet: Counterpoint to the Two Witnesses
- B. False Worship
- C. Mark of the Beast

Message: GOOD WINS, EVIL LOSES, so be on the side of good

Reading Revelation Sermon Notes