

The Book of Revelation

Apocalyptic literature: from the Greek *apokaloupsis*, which means *revelation*.

A type of writing popular in the Jewish-Christian culture from 200 BC to 200 AD

Characteristics:

- pseudonymity
- powerful and bizarre visions
- narrative structure
- eschatological concerns
- judgment of oppressors

Persecution literature written in a “code” language; intended to give courage, comfort and strength to the group being persecuted.

Biblical apocalypses: Daniel (OT) and Revelation (NT).

Non-Biblical Apocalypses

1 Enoch (Ethiopic Apocalypse)
2 Enoch (Slavonic Apocalypse)
3 Enoch (Hebrew Apocalypse)
Sybylline Oracles
Treatise of Shem
Apocryphon of Ezekiel
Apocalypse of Zephaniah

The Fourth Book of Ezra
Greek Apocalypse of Ezra
Vision of Ezra
Questions of Ezra
Revelation of Ezra
Apocalypse of Sedrach
2 Baruch (Syrian Apocalypse)

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Symbolic Numbers

1 = God
2 = witness
3 = God; God's salvation
3 1/2 = time allowed for evil to work
4 = the world
5 = Moses and/or the Law
6 = sin and imperfection
7 = the perfection and completion of God's work
10 = testing
12 = God's people of the Covenant
40 = (days) individual testing
(years) one generation
1000 = infinite; uncountable