

Glossary of Terms in the Book of Revelation Study compiled by Pastor Dave

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This is by no means an exhaustive list.

We also, may not be covering every one of these terms, but most.

Alpha and Omega

A title for God and Christ meaning *the beginning and the end*, emphasizing God's sovereignty over all history (Rev. 1:8; 22:13).

Antichrist

A figure empowered by Satan who opposes Christ; often associated with the Beast from the Sea (Rev. 13; cf. 1 John 2:18).

Babylon the Great

A symbolic representation of corrupt world systems—political, economic, and religious—that oppose God (Rev. 17–18).

Beast

A symbolic figure representing oppressive political power opposed to God. Two beasts appear: one from the sea and one from the earth (Rev. 13).

Book (or Scroll) with Seven Seals

A divine document representing God's plan for judgment and redemption, opened only by the Lamb (Rev. 5).

Dragon

A clear symbol of Satan, the adversary of God and His people (Rev. 12:9).

Elders (Twenty-Four)

Heavenly figures surrounding God's throne, often understood as representing God's redeemed people (Rev. 4:4).

Four Horsemen

Symbols of conquest, war, famine, and death released by the opening of the first four seals (Rev. 6:1–8).

Gog/MaGog

In the Bible, Gog and Magog represent powerful, hostile forces allied against God and His people, appearing in [Ezekiel](#) as a prophesied leader (Gog) from a northern land (Magog) planning an attack, and in [Revelation](#) as symbolic names for nations deceived by Satan for a final battle against Jerusalem after the Millennium, all ultimately defeated by divine fire. While Ezekiel identifies them with specific (though debated) ancient peoples, Revelation uses them symbolically for all anti-God nations, representing the ultimate rebellion before final judgment.

In the Book of Ezekiel (Chapters 38-39)

- **Gog:** A powerful ruler or title, often associated with nations from "the far north".
- **Magog:** The land or people ruled by Gog, believed by some scholars to refer to ancient peoples from the region of modern-day Russia/Ukraine (Scythians).
- **Prophecy:** Gog will lead a vast confederation of nations (including Persia, Cush, Put, Gomer, Tubal, Meshech) to attack restored Israel, but God will intervene, destroying them to demonstrate His power and holiness.

In the Book of Revelation (Chapter 20)

- **Symbolic Figures:** Gog and Magog represent the nations of the world, rallied by Satan after his temporary release, for a final rebellion against God's saints in Jerusalem.
- **Final Battle:** This is the last great conflict before the final judgment, where God sends fire from heaven to consume them, just as He did in Ezekiel's prophecy.

Key Interpretations

- **Ezekiel's Gog:** A specific historical/prophetic enemy, possibly linked to northern tribes.
- **Revelation's Gog & Magog:** A symbolic term for all nations opposing God at the end times, mirroring the rebellion described in Ezekiel.
- **Common Theme:** Both passages depict a massive, final war where God's enemies, motivated by rebellion, are utterly destroyed by divine judgment.

Harlot / Prostitute

A metaphor for spiritual unfaithfulness and corrupt alliance with worldly power (Rev. 17).

Hermeneutics: *the art or science of interpretation.* With the Word of God there is a gap between the writer and the reader (the gap grows wider with time). The critical rule of hermeneutics says that unless the Bible can transcend time and culture, it is irrelevant; it is useless. Hermeneutics bridges that gap; for instance, if what John had written in Revelation was just for 1st century churches, it would be irrelevant for us today.

Lamb

Jesus Christ, portrayed as sacrificed yet victorious—the central figure of redemption (Rev. 5:6).

Lake of Fire

The final place of judgment for Satan, death, and all who reject God (Rev. 20:14–15).

Mark of the Beast

A sign of allegiance to the Beast, symbolizing loyalty to anti-God systems rather than necessarily a literal mark (Rev. 13:16–18).

Millennium

The thousand-year reign of Christ described in Rev. 20; interpreted variously as literal or symbolic depending on theological view.

New Heaven and New Earth

God's renewed creation where sin, death, and suffering are eliminated (Rev. 21–22).

Seven Churches

Actual first-century churches in Asia Minor that also represent types of churches throughout history (Rev. 2–3).

Seven Seals

A series of judgments that initiate the unfolding of God's end-time plan (Rev. 6–8).

Seven Trumpets

Judgments announcing divine warnings and partial judgments upon the earth (Rev. 8–11).

Seven Bowls (Vials)

The final and most intense judgments expressing God's wrath against evil (Rev. 15–16).

Son of Man

A messianic title for Jesus, drawn from Daniel 7, emphasizing His authority and glory (Rev. 1:13).

Throne

Symbolizes God's absolute authority and rule over creation (Rev. 4).

Tribulation

A period of intense suffering and judgment preceding the final victory of God (Rev. 6–18).

White Throne Judgment

The final judgment of all humanity before God (Rev. 20:11–15).

Woman Clothed with the Sun

A symbolic figure often understood as representing God's covenant people, from whom the Messiah comes (Rev. 12).