

Tuesday Night Bible Study

REVELATION

SESSION TWO

How To Read the Bible – Poetry

“Poetry is nearer vital truth than history.” – Plato

“Poetry is not an assertion of truth, but the making of that truth more fully real to us.” – T.S. Elliot

“Poetry is truth dwelling in beauty.” – Robert Gilfillan

“Great poetry often conveys truth to us, and yet the poem cannot be easily analyzed and dissected.” Justo and Catherine Gonzalez

Jesus used:

- Similes
- Metaphors
- Hyperbole
- Parables

FOG

by Carl Sandburg (1878–1967)

*The fog comes
On little cat feet.*

*It sits looking
over harbor and city
on silent haunches
and then moves on.*

The Swing

by Robert Louis Stevenson (1850–1894)

*How do you like to go up in a swing,
Up in the air so blue?
Oh, I do think it the pleasantest thing
Ever a child can do!
Up in the air and over the wall,
Till I can see so wide,
River and trees and cattle and all*

*Over the countryside—
Till I look down on the garden green,
Down on the roof so brown—
Up in the air I go flying again,
Up in the air and down!*

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Mending Wall

by Robert Frost (1874–1963)

Something there is that doesn't love a wall,
That sends the frozen-ground-swell under it,
And spills the upper boulders in the sun;
And makes gaps even two can pass abreast.
The work of hunters is another thing:
I have come after them and made repair
Where they have left not one stone on a
stone,
But they would have the rabbit out of hiding,
To please the yelping dogs. The gaps I mean,
No one has seen them made or heard them
made,
But at spring mending-time we find them
there.
I let my neighbor know beyond the hill;
And on a day we meet to walk the line
And set the wall between us once again.
We keep the wall between us as we go.
To each the boulders that have fallen to each.
And some are loaves and some so nearly
balls
We have to use a spell to make them bal-
ance:
'Stay where you are until our backs are
turned!'
We wear our fingers rough with handling
them.

Oh, just another kind of out-door game,
One on a side. It comes to little more:

There where it is we do not need the wall:
He is all pine and I am apple orchard.
My apple trees will never get across
And eat the cones under his pines, I tell him.
He only says, 'Good fences make good
neighbors.'
Spring is the mischief in me, and I wonder
If I could put a notion in his head:
'Why do they make good neighbors: Isn't it
Where there are cows? But here there are no
cows.
Before I built a wall I'd ask to know
What I was walling in or walling out,
And to whom I was like to give offense.
Something there is that doesn't love a
wall,
That wants it down.' I could say 'Elves' to
him,
But it's not elves exactly, and I'd rather
He said it for himself. I see him there
Bringing a stone grasped firmly by the top
In each hand, like an old-stone savage
armed.
He moves in darkness as it seems to me,
Not of woods only and the shade of trees.
He will not go behind his father's saying,
And he likes having thought of it so well
He says again, 'Good fences make good
neighbors.'

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God as Mother Hen

*Jesus said, "Jerusalem, Jerusalem! You who kill the prophets and stone those who were sent to you. How often I wanted to gather your people together, just as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings. But you didn't want that."
—Matthew 23:37 and Luke 13:34*

*You hide them in the shelter of your wings, safe from human scheming. You conceal them in a shelter, safe from accusing tongues.
—Psalm 31:20*

*Have mercy on me, God; have mercy on me because I have taken refuge in you. I take refuge in the shadow of your wings until destruction passes by.
—Psalm 57:1*

*Please let me live in your tent forever! Please let me take refuge in the shelter of your wings!
—Psalm 61:4*

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REVELATION

The Revelation of John

WHERE



WHEN

Perhaps near the end of the reign of Domitian who ruled from 81 to 96 CE. So maybe around 90 to 96 CE.



A fairly rare bust of Domitian who suffered damnatio memoriae (destruction of all memory) a process which entailed the destruction of his images and the abrasion of his name from all public monuments after his death.

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REVELATION

Pattern of Letters

1. Addressed to the Angel of _____ (City Name)
2. A Self-Description of Christ, Jesus' Identity _____
3. Affirmation/Praise _____
4. Warning/Correction _____
5. Exhortation – “Those who have ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the Churches.”
6. Promise of Deliverance _____

Outline of The Revelation of John

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| 1. Prologue | 1:1-3 |
| 2. Opening Greetings, Doxology, and Oracle | 1:4-8 |
| 3. John's Vision of the Son of Man | 1:9-20 |
| 4. Letters to the Seven Churches | 2:1—3:22 |
| 5. John's Visions of the Heavenly Thrones | 4:1-5:14 |
| 6. The Seven Seals | 6:1—8:5 |
| 7. The Seven Trumpets | 8:6—11:19 |
| 8. The Dragon, the Beast, and the Church | 12:1—15:4 |
| 9. The Seven Bowls | 15:5—16:21 |
| 10. Babylon the Whore | 17:1—19:10 |
| 11. The Open Heaven and the New Jerusalem | 19:11—21:8 |
| 12. The Bride of the Lamb | 21:9—22:9 |
| 13. Epilogue | 22:10-21 |