

Interpreting Revelation



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A. Clarity of Revelation

Revealing (1:1)

God's
plan



unveiling, disclosure

Christ knows
our need

show, not
keep in the dark

to his servants (you!)

made known

The revelation of
Jesus Christ,
which God gave
him to show to his
servants the things
that must soon
take place. He
made it known ...

Blessing for Reading (1:3)

“Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it.”



- The only book of the Bible with an explicit blessing for reading. Extra encouragement.
- “Keep” means it’s practical. Strengthening the heart, not tickling the fancy.

Are Its Symbols Difficult?

Yes

- Unfamiliar
- Apocalyptic
- Need OT background

No

- It's obvious.

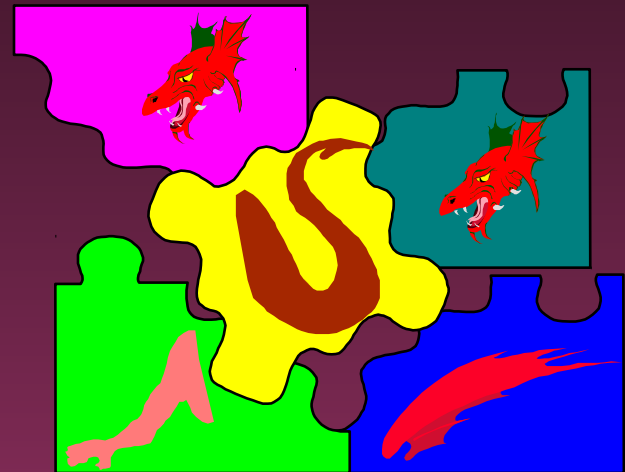


Fearsome!
Hideous!



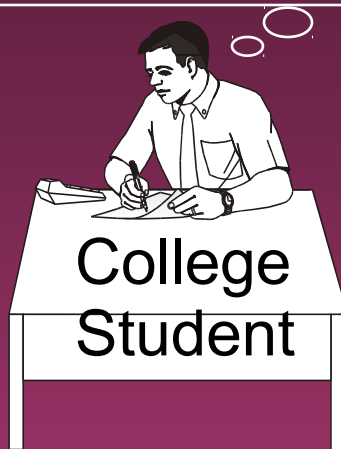
It's Simple

- A picture book, not a puzzle book.
- For children also.

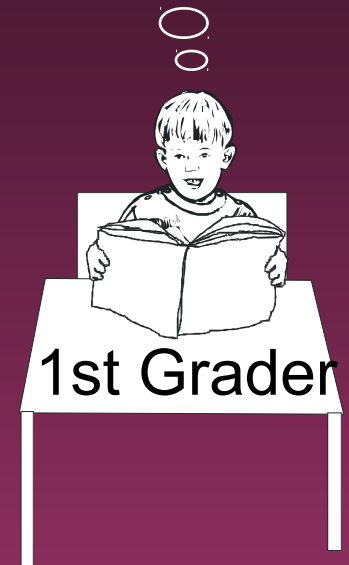


See the Whole

Hmm.... Let's see now. What does the "locust" of Rev. 9 mean? The "horse" part must refer to one of the months of the Chinese calendar. "Crowns of gold" must refer to Babylonian kings. "Women's hair" surely suggests that it is women who will bring about the final downfall of mankind. "Scorpion tails" ... hmm... Now let me see.



Awesome!
It's a monster!



Confidence in God

Don't be the "expert."

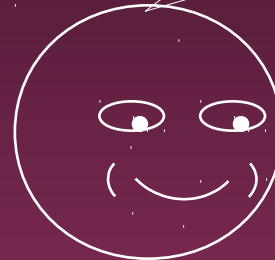
You can't possibly
understand
without my help!

You're right.
I give up.



Encourage.

Look at God's
greatness!



The Majesty of Christ

- Christ is our friend (John 15:14-15).
- He is also our majestic, awesome king!

Not a tame lion!

