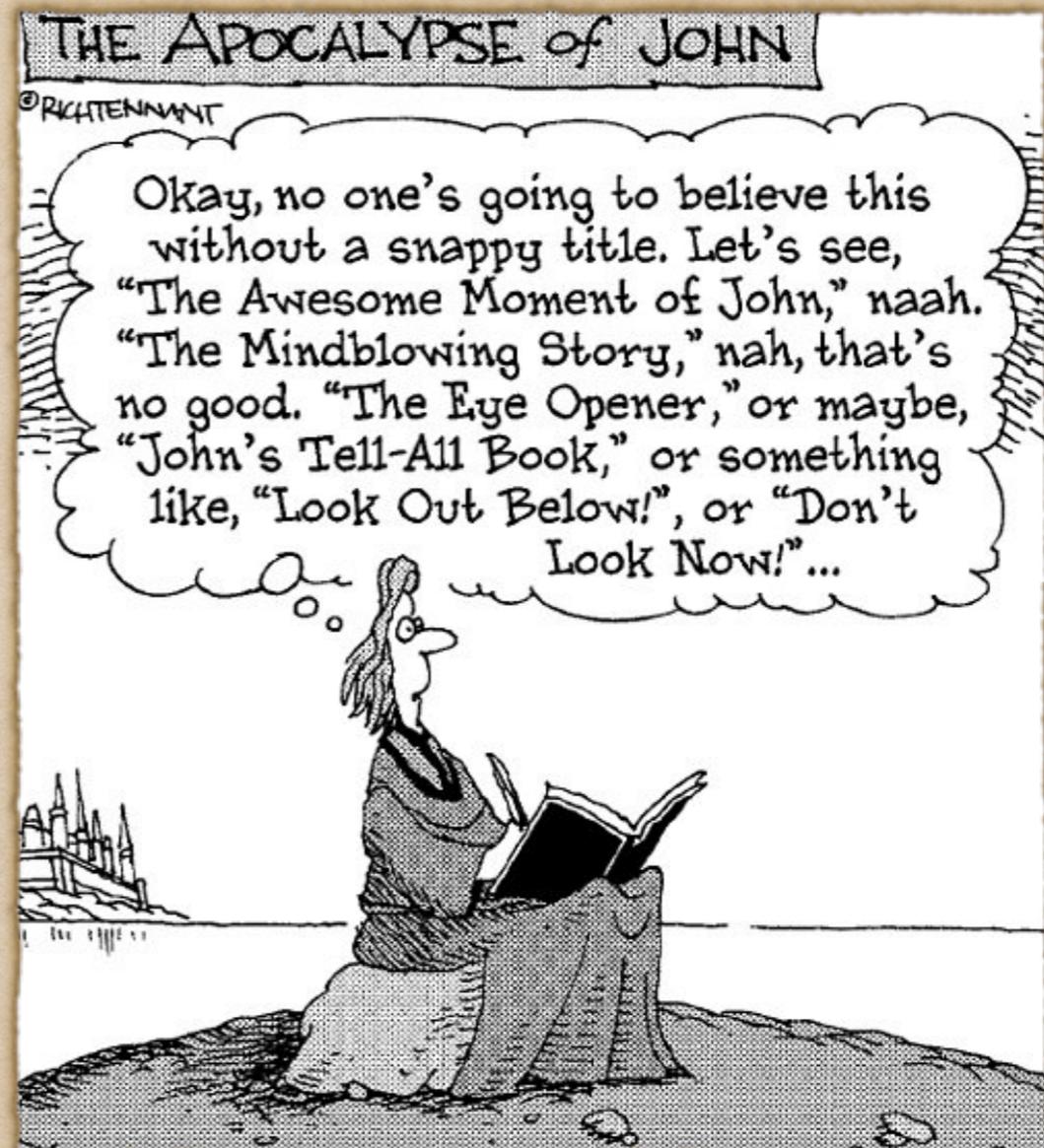


# Theological Themes in Revelations

- ◆ Suffering and victory for both punishment and refinement
- ◆ Glory due to God because of full salvation and final judgment
- ◆ The Throne - God and Christ are in ultimate control



- ◆ To encourage and admonish Christians to remain faithful
- ◆ "The one having ears, let him hear." - Parabolic
- ◆ Patience and trust
- ◆ Sovereignty of God

The Prologue  
Chapter 1: 1-20

Superscription: verses 1-3

1

The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place; he made it known by sending his angel to his servant John,

## Parallels of Christ as Mediator

- ◆ John 1: 18 No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.
- ◆ John 5: 20 The Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing; and he will show him greater works than these, so that you will be astonished.
- ◆ John 12: 49 for I have not spoken on my own, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment about what to say and what to speak.

After 2000 years of waiting, what can "soon" mean?

- ◆ Suddenly, once the appointed time has arrived
- ◆ Not the consummation of history, but the persecution of the church
- ◆ The beginning of a new age with the resurrection of Christ
- ◆ In the prophetic outlook, the end is ALWAYS imminent (prophecy vs. apocalypse)

## Four stages of transmission

- ◆ God to Christ
- ◆ Christ to angel
- ◆ Angel to John
- ◆ John to servants

2

who testified to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw.

Theme of completeness

3

Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of the prophecy, and blessed are those who hear and who keep what is written in it; for the time is near.

- ◆ This is the first of 7 beatitudes in the book
- ◆ "Take to heart", "keep" = moral instruction
- ◆ "Time" (Kairos) - A decisive moment

Salutation and  
Doxology  
Chapter 1: 4-8



4.

John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne,

◆ The 7 Churches of Asia Minor



# Why "7" Churches?

- ◆ 7 groupings of churches?
- ◆ Circular route that connected these churches?
- ◆ "7" as a symbol of completeness?
- ◆ Cities with emphasis upon worship of the emperor?

# "Grace and Peace" from three sources

- ◆ "Him who is and who was and who is to come"
- ◆ 7 spirits - the 7 archangels, the heavenly entourage, the Holy Spirit divided by 7?
- ◆ Jesus Christ