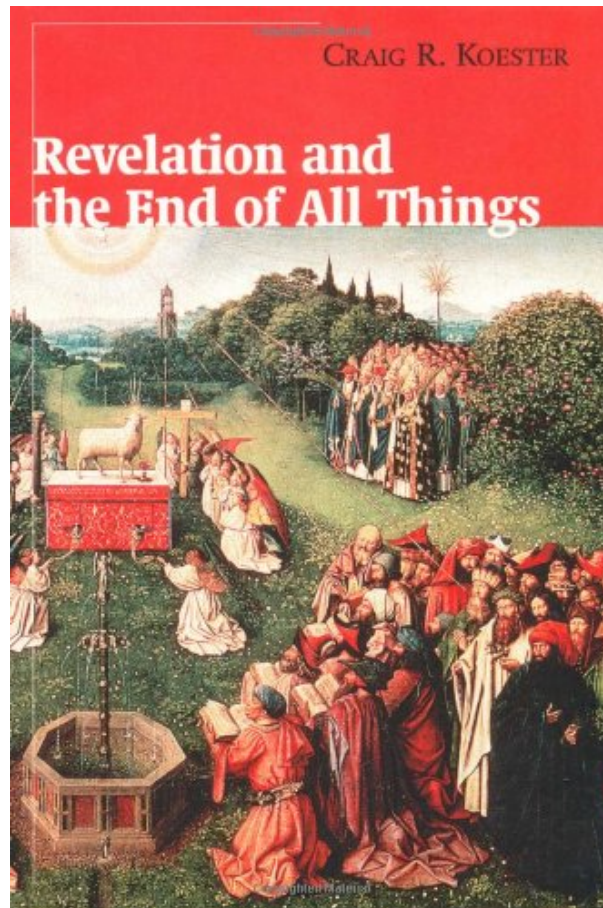


# REVELATION AND THE END OF ALL THINGS BY CRAIG R. KOESTER



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## Review

Fort Worth Star-Telegram

"Koester supplies excellent food for thought. . . [He] is particularly strong on connecting the book's language and imagery to Old Testament predecessors. *Revelation and the End of All Things* is a thoughtful and perceptive look at a difficult topic."

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"Anyone looking for a good, interesting, and nontechnical study of the book of Revelation will want to consider this fine work. Koester begins by tracing the remarkable history of interpretation of this haunting New Testament book. . . He then turns to his own reading of the text which is rich and insightful and filled with good Christian sense. This would make a fine background text for parish Bible study groups and their leaders."

M. Eugene Boring

"Craig Koester communicates current scholarship on Revelation with clarity, passion, and concern that the message of the Bible be understood and appropriated in today's world. Not merely an antidote or alternative to Left Behind and 'Jesus is coming soon' commercialism, *Revelation and the End of All Things* is a substantial contribution to good literature on Revelation in its own right. "

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Revelation is a book that captures the imagination. Songwriters and artists love its images of the Lamb and New Jerusalem. Interpreters are intrigued with its literary style. It's a book that both attracts and disturbs. I wrote this introduction to Revelation after listening to the questions that the book raises for many people. Popular treatments of Revelation can be sensationalistic and confusing. I see Revelation as a book that was deeply engaged with issues confronting its first readers, and one that engages questions that remain important for readers today. What I offer here is a way of reading Revelation that recognizes the ways it both challenges people and continues drawing them toward visions of hope.

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Revelation and the End of All Things is a highly readable guide to Revelation that engages the questions people most often ask about this difficult book in the Bible. After discussing sensationalistic interpretations of Revelation -- showing how these approaches work and why they are problematic -- Craig Koester ably leads readers through the entire book of Revelation, keeping in mind the situation of both first-century and twenty-first-century readers. Koester's exceptional grasp of Revelation's history, text, and purpose allows him to present the book's message in a way that is clear, engaging, and meaningful to modern readers.

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Most helpful customer reviews

83 of 87 people found the following review helpful.

The best book on the book of Revelation I've ever read.

By Dr. Marc Axelrod

I've never read anything before that helped me understand the book of Revelation like this book does. Not only is it elegantly written in attention getting prose, but Craig Koester's interpretations are characterized by careful theological reflection. It is also happily free from many of the sensational and erroneous reflections

that are heard coming from many of the apocalyptic television pulpits of America. I also like the way Koester understands the 7 cycles of visions in Revelation and how one blends into the next one. He points out that every vision ends with a triumphant vision of Christ, which is something I hadn't quite noticed before, but won't soon forget.

A previous reviewer pointed out that this book has no study questions, and for this reason I would hesitate to use it as a textbook for a Sunday school class. This is the kind of book you would give to the well read member of your parish or your family. And if you happen to be in some kind of ministry, then this is would be one of the books I would want with me if I were preparing to teach a class on Revelation or if I was preparing a sermon. It is easy to read, hard to put down at times, and always thought provoking.

47 of 50 people found the following review helpful.

Like putting on spectacles

By Matthew J. Williams

One of the world's leading experts on the apocalypse (I believe he is presently writing a replacement for Ford's commentary on Revelation in the Anchor Bible series), Koester has poured biblical scholarship, historical knowledge, cultural critique and pastoral care into this book. What emerges, however, is no inaccessible tome, but a delightful, sometimes humorous, piercingly relevant, remarkably brief read in engaging prose.

This book clears away the cobwebs surrounding the final book of the New Testament. The first 5th of the book (40 pages) is an enlightening synopsis of the history of interpretations and where they came from, as well as the impact they have had on world history. The rest of the book engages section by section with the text and is packed with deep insights simply expressed. Reading this book is like putting on the spectacles you always needed for the first time. For anyone wanting to understand John's revelation, I know of no better place to start.

46 of 50 people found the following review helpful.

A Book for All Ages

By Steve Turnbull

Thoroughgoing, balanced, compelling, and most importantly, Christ-centered, Craig Koester's book on Revelation is top-notch.

Recognizing that Revelation was originally a letter to seven specific churches in ancient Turkey, Koester takes the historical context of Revelation seriously and, by careful research, helps his readers to understand what the book's complicated symbolism would have meant to its original readers. Koester has written a previous book on symbolism in the Gospel of John, and he shows his literary expertise again here.

But Revelation is not only a book for people who lived 2000 years ago. Koester also brings home the function of Revelation as it shapes our lives today. Although most famous as one of today's best New Testament scholars, Craig Koester's heart as a church pastor shines through as he shows how Revelation call us over and over again to have faith in the God who in Christ was and is saving the world.

As a Christian and a Ph.D. student in New Testament, I appreciate this wonderful new book on Revelation. Without the sensationalism that has characterized much recent work with Revelation, Koester offers a reading of the book that is both compelling and responsible, well suited for both first-time reader and seasoned expert.

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