

The Revelation of Jesus
Simply Christmas
Revelation 1:10–18
December 6, 2020

耶稣的启示
简单的圣诞节
启示录1:10-18
2020年12月6日

Well, it is officially the Christmas season, so let's open our Bibles to the book of Revelation. I bet you didn't expect me to say that. Now this may be the most unusual Christmas series you've ever heard. But I assure you that *this IS* a Christmas series and I'm really excited about it. I would say that most people are not that familiar with the book of Revelation—it seems hard to understand and so far out in imagination land...that maybe you aren't sure what to do with it. I get it.

现在是圣诞季了，让我们打开圣经看《启示录》吧。我打赌你没料到我会这么说。这可能是你听过的最不寻常的圣诞系列节目了。但我向你保证，这是一个圣诞系列，我真的很兴奋。我想说的是，大多数人对《启示录》并不熟悉——它似乎很难理解，而且在想象的世界里太远了……也许你不知道该拿它怎么办。我明白的。

When I was in high school in the mid-90's, the left behind book series hit the book store shelves and became extremely popular. The plot of the book series runs through the end times narrative we find in the book of Revelation. I remember kids in our youth group becoming obsessed with end times. And personally, I began thinking more and more about the rapture... which is the belief that Jesus will come a second time... returning in the clouds and believers will rise to meet him while God unleashes hell on earth.

Because of this, if I couldn't find my parents in the house, I'd run through the house in a panic... certain I'd find my families clothes in a pile on the floor...because the rapture had happened and God forgot me. In the "Left Behind" movie that's what happened.

90年代中期，当我还在上高中的时候，《被遗忘的人》系列图书在书店上架，并变得非常受欢迎。这个系列的故事情节贯穿我们在《启示录》中看到的最后时代的叙述。我记得我们青年团的孩子们对结束时间非常着迷。就我个人而言，我开始越来越多地想到被提……也就是相信耶稣会第二次降临……在云端里回来，信徒们将会升起来见祂，而上帝将释放人间的地狱。

因此，如果我在屋里找不到我的父母，我就会慌慌张张地在屋子里跑来跑去，肯定会在地板上发现家人的衣服堆成一堆，因为狂喜发生了，上帝把我忘了。在电影《留守》中，这就是发生的事情。

Well today...The topic of the second coming of Jesus remains the focus of many people and ministries around the world. And while we may not be obsessed with it at our church, we may have the tendency to fall into the opposite category... Rarely thinking about the second coming of Christ. But get this: the second coming of Christ is the most talked about doctrine in the Bible. The Bible talks about the first coming of Christ 129 times. Yet it talks about the second coming... 329 times and we rarely mention it. For every 1 prophecy in the Bible concerning Christ's first advent, there are 8 that talk about his second. And by the way, the **advent** of something **means** that it's finally here.

今天，耶稣再来的话题仍然是世界上许多人和事工关注的焦点。虽然我们在教会中可能不会对它着迷，但我们可能倾向于落入相反类别.....很少考虑基督的第二次降临。但你要知道:基督的第二次降临是圣经中谈论最多的教义。圣经中有129次提到基督的第一次降临。然而，书中谈到第二次降临...329次，我们却很少提及。圣经中每1个预言是关于基督的第一次降临，就有8个预言是关于基督的第二次降临。顺便说一句，某物的出现意味着它终于出现了。

So to really understand his first advent (or arrival) you need to see it through lens of his second advent, which is what the book of Revelation is about. The bad news is that we don't have time for a full series through Revelation—that's on my future sermon wish-list—but I wanted to take the next 4 weeks as we head into Christmas to look at glimpses of Jesus seen in the book of Revelation in this series called, Simply Christmas. Well let's dive right in and Check out the first verse...

所以要真正理解他的第一次降临(或到来)，你需要从他第二次降临的角度来看待，这就是《启示录》的内容。坏消息是我们没有时间通过启示录进行完整的系列讨论（我的布道愿望清单上已经列出了这一点），但是我想在接下来的四个星期里进入圣诞节，看看耶稣在圣诞节中所见的一瞥。这个系列的《启示录》叫做简单的圣诞节。好吧，让我们深入一下，看看第一节经文...

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 by sending his angel to his servant John, Revelation 1:1

耶稣基督的启示，就是 神赐给他，叫他将必要快成的事指示他的众仆人。他就差遣使者晓谕他的仆人约翰。启示录1:1

“Revelation” means “unveiling.” The revelation of Jesus Christ....The *question* is this: is Jesus the one doing the unveiling, or is it Jesus himself who is being unveiled? Is it the revelation of Jesus, or a revelation by Jesus (of something else)? And the answer is...

yes. In fact, scholars say [the way it is written in Greek is ambiguous](#), because what follows is both a revelation of Jesus and also a revelation from Jesus about the things that must soon take place. The main point of Revelation is not to give you a specific timeline of events...the point is to pull back the curtain of history so you can see the powers at work behind the politics on earth.

“启示”的意思是“揭幕”。“耶稣基督的启示.....问题是:是耶稣揭开了面纱，还是耶稣自己揭开了面纱?是耶稣的启示，还是启示来自耶稣(其他的启示)?答案是...是的。事实上，学者们说，希腊文的书写方式是模棱两可的，因为接下来的，既是耶稣的启示，也是耶稣对即将发生的事情的启示.《启示录》的重点不是给你一个具体的事件时间表，而是拉开历史的帷幕，让你看到地球上政治背后的力量。

People read the book of Revelation—with all the dragons and beasts and imagine it as this imaginary fantasy-world. But what it's doing is looking at world through spiritual eyes to show you the powers at work behind what we see. It's actually the most accurate depiction of the world you'll ever see. It's the unveiling. The unmasking of what is really going on— the unveiling of both the powers at work in the world and Jesus's power above them all. Think of the book of Revelation as Jesus getting unveiled for who he truly is. And as we look around the world today...The ones who seem to have power actually have none; the one who seems to have none is shown to have it all.

人们读了《启示录》中所有的龙和野兽，把它想象成这个虚构的幻想世界。但它所做的是通过属灵的眼睛看世界，向你展示我们所看到的背后的力量。这实际上是你所见过的对世界最精确的描绘。揭幕。揭开正在发生的事情的真相——揭开在世界上工作的力量和耶稣在这一切之上的能力。你可以把《启示录》看成是耶稣揭开他真实面目的过程。当我们看看今天的世界.....那些看起来有权力的人实际上没有权力;似乎什么都不懂的人，实际上却拥有一切。

You see, the church at this point in history is not doing very well—especially John, the author of Revelation. All of the Apostles have been martyred, except for John, and he's exiled on the island of Patmos, the Roman equivalent of Alcatraz. Nero had made Christians the scapegoat for a number of Rome's disasters and used that as a pretext for hunting them down and killing them. And one of his successors, Domitian, was preparing to increase the persecution, unless Christians agreed to worship Caesar as Lord, which of course they couldn't and wouldn't do.

你看，教会在历史上这个时候做得不是很好，尤其是《启示录》的作者约翰。除了约翰，所有的使徒都殉道了，他被流放到拔摩岛，相当于罗马的恶魔岛。尼禄把基督徒当作罗马许多灾难的替罪羊，并以此为借口追捕和杀害基督徒。他的继任者之一，多米蒂

安，准备加大迫害力度，除非基督徒同意将凯撒奉为上帝，当然他们不能也不会这样做。

So from Patmos, Jesus appears to John and gives him a revelation of who he is and what he is doing in all of this. Now, today in America we are not facing the same kinds of persecution. It's not illegal where we live to follow Jesus. but regardless, we wrestle with many of the same questions. Many of you are facing overwhelming circumstances. You can see storm beginning to swell in your life. Maybe it's through an illness. Walking through divorce. An addiction you can't shake. A problem with your kids. Or maybe it's just a storm of anxiety or depression that hovers over your life!

所以从拔摩岛，耶稣向约翰显现，启示他祂是谁，祂在这一切中做了什么。今天，在美国，我们不再面临同样的迫害。在我们居住的地方，跟随耶稣并不违法。但无论如何，我们都在努力解决许多相同的问题。你们很多人都面临着巨大的压力。你可以看到生活中的风暴开始膨胀。也许是生病了。经历离婚。一种你无法摆脱的瘾。你的孩子有问题。或者这只是一场笼罩在你生活中的焦虑或抑郁风暴！

And now, along comes Christmas, which is supposedly all about happiness and good cheer. But truth be told you can't stand this time of year, because it just reminds you of the empty place at your table... or the broken relationship that was supposed to last forever that didn't.

Maybe you are watching today ready to give up. You're not even sure why you are still watching. You certainly didn't come in looking for hope. You are long past that. John wrote this book for you. In verse 9 he says,

现在，圣诞节来临了，这应该是所有关于幸福和快乐。但说实话，你无法忍受每年的这个时候，因为它只会让你想起餐桌上的空座位.....或者是本应天长地久的感情却没有天长地久。

也许你正在看着今天准备放弃。你甚至不知道为什么还在看。你当然不是来找希望的。你早就过了那个年龄了。约翰为你写了这本书。在第9节他说，

9 I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. 10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet 11 saying, "Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea." 12 Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, 13 and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest.

9我约翰就是你们的弟兄，和你们在耶稣的患难、国度、忍耐里一同有分，为神的道，并为给耶稣作的见证，曾在那名叫拔摩的海岛上。

10 当主日，我被圣灵感动，听见在我后面有大声音如吹号，说：

11 “你所看见的，当写在书上，达与以弗所、士每拿、别迦摩、推雅推喇、撒狄、非拉铁非、老底嘉那七个教会。” 12 我转过身来，要看是谁发声与我说话。既转过来，就看见七个金灯台。13 灯台中间有一位好像人子，身穿长衣，直垂到脚，胸间束着金带。

These are images that point to Jesus being the high priest, 这些形象表明耶稣是大祭司，

14 The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, 15 his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters. 16 In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength.

14 他的头与发皆白，如白羊毛、如雪，眼目如同火焰，

15 脚好像在炉中锻炼光明的铜，声音如同众水的声音。

16 他右手拿着七星，从他口中出来一把两刃的利剑，面貌如同烈日放光。 These are all symbols of ultimate power and control. White hair in those days symbolized wisdom; so saying he had brilliant white hair, like snow, means he's wiser than the wise; Having eyes of fire means his insight penetrates more deeply than the sharpest laser. Having a face brighter than the brightest sun; a voice is louder than the loudest ocean (which isn't just talking about volume, but also the fullness and immensity) meaning this is someone with power beyond what John can even imagine. His words are like a sword, which means they possess the ability to pierce, to separate into part, and to destroy. The seven stars he holds, we see in chapter 2, represent the churches, which, shows you that in the midst of all the turmoil, Jesus securely holds the church in his hands.

这些都是终极权力和控制的象征。在那个年代，白发象征着智慧;所以说他有一头雪白的头发，意思是他比聪明的人更聪明。他有一双火眼金睛的眼睛，这意味着他的洞察力比最锐利的激光穿透得更深。有一张比最明亮的太阳还要明亮的脸;一个声音比最大的海洋还要响亮(这不仅仅指音量，还指的是无限和充实)，意思是这个人的力量超过了约翰的想象。他的言语就像一把剑，这意味着它具有刺穿、分裂和毁灭的能力。我们在第二章看到，他所持的七星代表了教会，这告诉你，在所有的混乱中，耶稣安全地将教会握在他的手中。

17 When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead...

17 我一看见，就仆倒在他脚前，像死了一样.....

Now, keep in mind, this is the first time John has seen Jesus since the ascension, and Jesus and John had been the best of friends on earth. In fact, in his Gospel, John refers to himself as “the one that Jesus loved.” John was like, “Jesus likes you, too...

but I'm his favorite." In actuality—saying 'the one Jesus that loves' is John's personal amazement that Jesus kept on loving him until the end despite how badly John had failed Jesus. The tense of the verb really implies, '*the one that Jesus kept on loving*'. It's not expressing favoritism so much as John's amazement at Jesus's grace in his life.

现在，请记住，这是约翰自升天以来第一次见到耶稣，耶稣和约翰曾经是世上最好的朋友。事实上，在他的福音中，约翰称自己是“耶稣所爱的人”。约翰说：“耶稣也喜欢你……”但我是他的最爱。事实上，说“耶稣所爱的人”是约翰个人的惊奇，因为尽管约翰辜负了耶稣，但耶稣仍然爱他到最后。动词的时态实际上暗示着“耶稣一直爱的那个人”。这并不像约翰对耶稣在他生命中的恩典所感到的惊讶那样偏爱耶稣。

At the last supper, John says he reclined his head and leaned it back on Jesus' chest (John 13:23). I've got some guy friends that I feel pretty close to, but none that feel close enough that they would lean their head back on my chest during dinner. But do you know who would do that? My son. This is how John felt about Jesus. Suffice it to say, John and Jesus were close. And this is the first time they are seeing each other in almost 60 years. So, what does this reunion entail? Well...He falls at Jesus' feet as *though he were dead*. And that's not intended to be a figure of speech. He literally thought he was going to die.

在最后的晚餐，约翰说他把他的头靠在耶稣的胸前(约翰福音13:23)。我有一些男性朋友，我觉得他们很亲近，但没有人会在吃饭时把头靠在我的胸前。但你知道谁会这么做吗？我的儿子。这就是约翰对耶稣的感受。可以这样说，约翰和耶稣很亲密。这是他们近60年来第一次见面。那么，这次团聚意味着什么呢？他倒在耶稣脚前，好像死了一样。这并不是是一种比喻。他真的以为自己要死了。

I remember as a kid, the picture of Jesus hanging on the wall of my Sunday school room. You might have seen the same one. It looked like an Olan Mills portrait. He had perfect skin. Full lips. Beautiful, braided Brooke-Shields hair. He had this expression... (like he'd just seen a bird fly by).

But my image of Jesus was this jobless guy with tears in his eyes who talked a lot about his feelings. I'm not sure where I get that image... Jesus was a carpenter... which means he would have been tuff and buff.

But that's not what we see here in Revelation. He's got wild hair, and a crazy look in his eye... even if you take it at face value, he's the kind of guy you'd never want to run into in a back alley—but when you understand all the symbolism you realize it's pointing to someone so powerful John feels like he is going to die.

我记得当我还是个孩子的时候，主日学校的墙上就挂着耶稣的画像。你可能见过同一个。它看起来像一幅奥兰·米尔斯的画像。他有完美的皮肤。丰满的嘴唇。漂亮的，编织成胸针状的头发。他的表情是这样的……(就像他刚刚看到一只鸟飞过一样)。

但我对耶稣的印象是，他是一个双眸含着泪的无业游子，总是大谈自己的感受。我不知道从哪儿弄来的这张照片…耶稣是个木匠…这意味着他应该是软塌塌的。

但这不是我们在《启示录》中看到的。他的头发很乱，眼神很疯狂……即使你从表面上看，他是那种你绝对不想在小巷里碰到的人——但当你理解了所有的象征意义，你就会意识到它指向的是一个如此强大的人，约翰觉得自己快死了。

Now, is this a different Jesus than the one John had known? No, it's just that when he was here, and even now, this part of him is veiled, invisible to the naked eye. Truth be told, Jesus has always had this power, but throughout his ministry on earth it had been veiled.

So why is Jesus appearing this way now to John? Why not appear as John knew him on earth? Because Jesus's plan right now is not to deliver his church from persecution and pain. He's not showing up with news, "Hey, don't worry. It gets better." It's *not* going to get better, at least in the near future. So, instead, he shows John his power, his majesty and his love so that John can have hope in the midst of these things.

You see, in times of intense persecution, you don't need a sentimental Jesus who simply makes you feel warm at night—a Jesus who is one part genie, one part therapist, one part life-coach and the rest a warm-blanket; you need to see a Jesus sovereign over all the other powers at work in the world. Watch what happens next:

现在，这个耶稣和约翰以前认识的耶稣不一样了吗？不，只是当他在这里的时候，甚至现在，他的这一部分都被遮掩了，肉眼是看不见的。说实话，耶稣一直有这个能力，但在他在地上的传道中，这个能力被遮掩了。

为什么耶稣现在向约翰这样显现？为什么不以约翰在世上认识他的身份出现呢？因为耶稣现在的计划不是让他的教会摆脱迫害和痛苦。他不会带着消息来，“嘿，别担心。它变得更好。”“情况不会好转，至少在不久的将来不会好转。”

所以他向约翰显明他的能力，威严，和爱，使约翰在这些事上有指望。

你看，在遭受强烈迫害的时候，你不需要一个多愁善感的耶稣，他只会让你在夜里感到温暖——他一半是妖怪，一半是治疗师，一半是生活教练，其余的都是温暖的毯子；你需要看到耶稣统治世界上所有其他的力量。看看接下来会发生什么：

17 ...But he laid his right hand on me, saying, "Fear not, I am the first and the last,

17他用右手按着我：“不要惧怕！我是首先的，我是末后的，

First and last. Meaning that Jesus is God. And Because Jesus is God, it means he was there at the beginning; and because he's God he'll be there at the end. And if he was there at the beginning and he'll be there at the end, we can be sure he's in control in the middle as well. Jesus continues...

第一个和最后一个。意思是耶稣就是神。因为耶稣是上帝，这意味着他一开始就在那里；因为他是上帝，他最终会在那里。如果他一开始就在那里，最后他也会在那里，我们可以肯定他在中间也会控制。耶稣继续.....

18 and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.

18 又是那存活的；我曾死过，现在又活了，直活到永永远远，并且拿着死亡和阴间的钥匙。

He's got the Keys...The powers of the world, even death and hell, they look powerful, but I have the keys. They don't go anywhere without me. They are just *my* servants now, serving *my* purposes. And that means, John, that the power of the Empire—the power of Nero and Domitian—is just an illusion.

他有钥匙...世界的力量，甚至死亡和地狱，他们看起来很强大，但我有钥匙。没有我他们哪儿也去不了。他们现在只是我的仆人，为我的目的服务。这意味着，约翰，帝国的力量，尼禄和多米提安的力量，只是一种幻觉。

Psalm 76:10 says "Surely the wrath of man shall praise you; the remnant of wrath you will put on like a belt..

诗 76:10 人的忿怒要成全你的荣美；人的余怒，你要禁止。

Proverbs 21:1, The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the Lord; he turns it wherever he will.

箴言 21:1 王的心在耶和华手中，好像陇沟的水随意流转。

Listen: If God controls even the anger of sinful men the hearts of pagan kings, he's surely got everything else under control as well.

听着，如果上帝能控制罪人的愤怒和异教国王的心，那么他肯定也能控制其他一切。

Ephesians 1:11 Paul says that **In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will,**

以弗所书1:11保罗说我们也在他里面得了基业（注：“得”或作“成”），这原是那位随己意行做万事的，照着他旨意所预定的，

Two words: Purpose/all things. There is not one stray molecule, not one stray cancer cell, not one stray spouse. Or here's another one:

两个词:目的/一切。没有一个游离分子，没有一个游离癌细胞，没有一个游离配偶。还有另一个例子:

Matthew 10:29-30 29 Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. 30 But even the hairs of your head are all numbered.

马太福音10:29-30 29 两个麻雀不是卖一分银子吗？若是你们的父不许，一个也不能掉在地上。30 就是你们的头发也都被数过了。

It's hard to get more micro than that—Birds in the sky and hairs on your head! Nothing happens apart from the will of the Father. I do want to be careful here. I'm not saying that God is the one making all these things happen to you. We live in a fallen world, and the result is a lot of people do a lot of terrible things to each other. But I am saying that Jesus promises that none of those things are outside his control and he promises to use every single one as a part of his perfect purposes in your life.

Like John, we may feel like we are on the verge of tribulation. And the purposes God is pursuing may remain a mystery to us until eternity. But the resurrection of Jesus and this vision of Jesus, assure us there is a purpose that Jesus is pursuing and he will not fail to fulfill it.

很难找到比这更微小的东西了——天上的鸟和头上的头发!没有父的旨意，就没有事发生。这里我要小心。我并不是说上帝让这些事情发生在你身上。我们生活在一个堕落的世界，结果是很多人对彼此做了很多可怕的事情。但我是说，耶稣应许这些事都不脱离他的控制，他应许把每一件事都作为他在你生命中完美目的的一部分。

像约翰一样，我们可能会觉得我们正处在苦难的边缘。神所追求的目的对我们来说可能是一个谜，直到永恒。但耶稣的复活和耶稣的异象使我们确信，耶稣追求的是一个目标，他不会失败的。

That's the vision God gives us in the midst of tribulation. You see, the world we live in now is characterized by Jesus's first coming. Jesus was born poor, meek and mild, in a manger. He lived every one of his days under the authority of Rome. He was born into a system of severe oppression and his family had to flee from their home as refugees.

And that's still the era of history that we are in. Which means that, like Jesus, we'll find

ourselves sometimes in hardship. Victims of injustice. Suffering unnecessarily. Subject to the powers of Rome. And following Jesus doesn't mean escaping all that.

So, Jesus pulls back the veil and gives us a glimpse of who he is: because he died for us and overcame death, and because he is the one standing at the end, and because he has the keys, I know that in this middle part... he is faithfully working out his purposes..

这是上帝在患难中给我们的异象。你看，我们现在所生活的世界以耶稣的先到为特征。耶稣在马槽里出生，贫穷、温顺、温和。他一生都生活在罗马的统治之下。他出生在一个压迫严重的制度下，他的家人不得不作为难民逃离家园。

这仍然是我们所处的历史时代。这意味着，像耶稣一样，我们有时会发现自己陷入困境。不公平的受害者。不必要的痛苦。受制于罗马的权力。跟随耶稣并不意味着要逃避这些。

耶稣拉回的面纱,让我们看到他是谁:因为他为我们死,战胜了死亡,因为他是站在最后,因为他有钥匙,我知道在这中间部分...他忠实地锻炼目的..

John says, look: "The powers on earth can do all they want; but they are not the ones writing the script. And Jesus says, "Look at me. I am more powerful than you could ever imagine." Look at me: I died for you... in your worst moment I showed my love for you. Look at me: I have the keys of death and hell." John, you may not understand why you are suffering, or what it means. But you can know what it can't mean... I can't mean that I have forgotten you or lost control of your situation. So Take that off the table.

约翰说：“看，世界上的强权可以为所欲为;但他们不是写剧本的人。耶稣说，看着我。我比你想象的更强大。”

看看我:我为你而死.....在你最糟糕的时候，我表达了对你的爱。看看我:我有死亡和地狱的钥匙。“约翰，你可能不明白你为什么受苦，或者这意味着什么。但你知道它不代表什么...我并不是说我已经忘记你或者对你的处境失去了控制。所以别再提这个了。

John, look at me: I used my greatest power to save you, and now I am using that same power to perfect my purposes in you. So, what are you afraid of? Do you really think Caesar is winning? (The only legacy he's going to leave is a cheap "hot and ready" pizza place).

John, look at me: I have the keys to death and hell. To you today: Do you think I can't control the coronavirus? *I have the keys to that...* Do you think I don't know you need a

job? I've got the Keys... Do you think I don't know you're worried about your marriage? I've got the Keys...

约翰，你看看我:我曾用我最大的能力拯救你，现在我也要同样的能力在你里面成全我的旨意。那么，你怕什么呢?你真的认为凯撒会赢吗?(他留下的唯一遗产是一家廉价的“热腾腾的”披萨店)。

约翰，看看我:我有通往死亡和地狱的钥匙。今天对于您:您认为我不能控制冠状病毒吗?我有钥匙...你以为我不知道你需要一份工作吗?我去拿钥匙了.....你以为我不知道你在担心你的婚姻吗?我有钥匙...

John, LOOK AT ME! Look at my power! Look at my control! Look at my love! *Why do you doubt?* Let me tell you what I most love about John: John is the Apostle who most talked about the love of God. Paul may have been the church's greatest theologian, but no Bible writer comes close to John in their description of the beauty of the love of God.

For example... 1 John 4:8 **Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.**

约翰，看着我!看看我的力量!看看我的控制能力!看 在我的爱!你为什么怀疑?让我告诉你我最喜欢约翰的什么:约翰是最常谈论上帝之爱的使徒。保罗也许是教会中最伟大的神学家，但在对神之爱之美的描述上，没有哪个圣经作者能与约翰相提并论。

例如，约翰一书4:8**没有爱心的，就不认识神，因为神就是爱。**

How could he say that? Patmos certainly didn't feel like love. Rome didn't feel like love. Yesterday didn't feel like love. Today didn't feel like love. Tomorrow doesn't look like love. It's because he'd seen Jesus! 1 John 1:1-4: we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, ... 2 the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, ... 3 that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. 4 And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

他怎么能这么说呢?拔摩岛当然不喜欢爱。罗马感觉不像爱。昨天的感觉不像爱。今天感觉不像是爱。明天不像爱。因为他见过耶稣!约翰一书1:1-4：**论到从起初原有的生命之道，就是我们所听见、所看见、亲眼看过、亲手摸过的。2（这生命已经显现出来，我们也看见过，现在又作见证，将原与父同在，且显现与我们那永远的生命传给你们。）3我们将所看见、所听见的传给你们，使你们与我们相交。我们乃是与父并他儿子耶稣基督相交的。**

4 我们将这些话写给你们，使你们（注：有古卷作“我们”）的喜乐充足。

Then “I’ve seen his power.” Through the Resurrection and right here in Rev 1. I know it doesn’t feel like it now, but trust me, he is love! And this is love. Here’s what I know: Some of you need to see Jesus this way this Christmas. Some of you really want to hear me say, “God is going to end all your problems.” But that is not necessarily true. At least in the short run. The time of tribulation may last a little while longer. (It won’t be forever, but it may be a for a little while longer. You may think you want a belief that promises if you’re a good person, then God will remove all the problems of your life. But here’s the thing: You’ll never come to know Jesus that way. The only way to come to know Jesus...is to go through the pains and struggles of life. And I know some of you don’t want to hear that. You are sitting there saying, “I don’t receive that. I stand against that in the name of Jesus.” And I know I could grow a bigger church if I would promise you that all your struggles will go away if you follow Jesus.

然后“我看到了他的力量。通过复活，就在启示录1中。我知道现在感觉不是这样，但是相信我，他就是爱!这就是爱。以下是我所知道的:今年圣诞节，你们中的一些人需要以这种方式来看待耶稣。有些人真的很想听我说:“神会解决你所有的问题。”但这并不一定是真的。至少在短期内是这样。苦难的时间可能还会持续一段时间。不会是永远，但可能会持续一段时间。你可能认为你想要一个信仰，这个信仰承诺，如果你是一个好人，神就会消除你生活中所有的问题。但问题是:这样你永远不会认识耶稣。认识耶稣的唯一途径就是经历生命中的痛苦和挣扎。我知道你们有些人不想听到这些。你坐在那里说:“我不接受。”我以耶稣的名义反对这种做法。“我知道我可以建立一个更大的教会，如果我向你保证，如果你跟随耶稣，你所有的挣扎都会消失。

Listen...Oak trees in storm-rich areas are the strongest, because winds force the roots to go deeper. You don’t get stronger sitting on a beach, you get stronger going through the storm. I acknowledge that these problems are real and they could take you out. The coronavirus is real can take you out. Divorce can take you out. A spouse abandoning you can take you out. Addiction can take you out. Abuse is real. Losing a child is real and can take you out. I’m just here tell you that Jesus is real, too, and he’s bigger than that problem.

Christian Counselor Larry Crabb said, “On the island of Patmos, Jesus did not give John relief from dire circumstances, Instead he gave him an unforgettable vision fo the Son of God.

听着，在暴风雨多发地区的橡树是最强壮的，因为风会迫使橡树的根扎得更深。坐在沙滩上你不会变得更强壮，你会在暴风雨中变得更强壮。我承认这些问题是真实存在的，它们可能会让你出局。冠状病毒是真的可以把你带走。离婚会带你出去。抛弃你的配偶会让你出局。上瘾会让你出局。虐待是真实的。失去孩子是真实的，会让你伤心。我只是想告诉你，耶稣也是真实存在的，他比这个问题更重要。

基督徒顾问拉里·克拉布说：“在拔摩岛上，耶稣没有让约翰从困境中解脱出来，相反，他给了他一个难忘的关于神儿子的异象。”

I'm not trying to put a little one-size-fits-all Band-Aid on your problem. I realize that some problems like this are complex and require professional help... But, It's time for some of you to stop shouting at your tribulation and start gazing at your Savior. And to see that there is no power on earth, not even the power present in your problems that compares to his.

The key to victory in tribulation is WORSHIP. Listen, this isn't a cliché—this will save your life: Worship is not just the songs we sing before and after the sermon; worship is a weapon you carry with you at all times that pierces through the clouds of darkness and despair and draws you into the light.

That's what Revelation 1 is: It's a vision designed to move John to worship. Worship says, "I *feel* like this... but you have revealed yourself as this. These problems are big. But you are bigger. They hurt, but you are better. This is what many of you need. You need to choose to worship in the midst of his tribulation.

我并不是想给你的问题贴上一个一刀切（一招灵）的创可贴。我意识到有些问题很复杂，需要专业的帮助。但是，现在是时候让你们中的一些人停止对你们的苦难喊叫，开始注视你们的救世主了。要明白世上没有一种力量，甚至在你们的问题中也没有一种能与神相比的力量。

在患难中得胜的关键是敬拜。听着，这不是陈词滥调——这将拯救你的生命：敬拜不仅仅是我们在讲道前后所唱的歌；敬拜是你在任何时候都带在身边的武器，它能穿透黑暗和绝望的乌云，把你带入光明之中。

这就是启示录1：这是一个异象，目的是要感动约翰敬拜。敬拜说：“我感觉像这样……但你却这样显示你自己。这些问题都很严重。但你更大。他们很痛，但你更好。这是你们很多人需要的。你需要在他的患难中选择敬拜。”