



The Lamb Wins!





'A highly imaginative look into the only book in the Holy Bible with a blessing attached to anyone who even reads it! Richard's descriptions give a view on Revelation that can only be likened to a biblical projection on the screen of your mind.'

John R Green, Broadcasting Manager, UCB TV





The Lamb Wins!

**A guided tour through the
Book of Revelation**

Richard Bewes

CHRISTIAN FOCUS





The dot texture on the cover is Revelation 5:6 set in basic Braille.

Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing in the centre of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into the earth (Rev. 5:6 NIV).

In the same way that Braille is completely incoherent to everyone but those who are taught to read and understand it, Revelation is completely incoherent to everyone but those who the Holy Spirit has enlightened to understand it.

This book is dedicated to our next-door neighbour and
inspiring colleague and friend over many years,
John Stott.

By the same author:

Speaking in Public – Effectively

Words that Cirled the World

Talking about Prayer

The Top 100 Questions

The Stone that became Mountain

Beginning the Christian Life

150 Pocket Thoughts



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FOREWORD

Richard Bewes and I sat down for breakfast. We were attending a Congress in Lausanne, Switzerland. Before we could tackle the croissants and jam, the high-powered delegate at the same table asked whether we took a particular view (which he named) of scripture. We hesitated – the answer was neither yes nor no – but our polite answering was not good enough! With a scowl, the man moved to another table! So often, when we come to the Book of Revelation, we meet branded, over-confident and over-detailed views that make *us* want to get up and move to another book! Not so in this ‘guided tour’ by Richard Bewes.

Later that morning, we boarded a trolley-bus, carrying a portable tape recorder, and there on the bus recorded a radio interview with a saintly overseas bishop, who had dared his life in the translation of the scriptures and had lived the gospel in the tough frontiers of evangelism. Not for him the branded views – but an overflowing love for his Lord, for the gospel and for the scriptures. We felt more at home on the trolley-bus than at the breakfast table.

We are on the trolley-bus in this book. It is concerned with the living church on the streets of Bermondsey, Bangkok or Baltimore – with the Church in action and not cooped up in a theological retreat house. If the Bible is the book for today’s Church (and it is), then the Book of Revelation should be a book for today’s Church (and it is). My very dear friend, Richard Bewes, sweeps us through it with a touch that makes





8

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even the back streets seem important and yet keeps the strategic parts in perspective. So get aboard – and see Revelation as you've never seen it before!

Michael Baughen





INTRODUCTION

'If only I knew what to do with Revelation!' So declared Karl Barth, perhaps the greatest theologian of the twentieth century. No wonder you and I may feel a little timid about plunging into this last – and somewhat bewildering – book in the Bible.

But let us try! Granted there have been some controversial interpretations of this fascinating prophecy, we need not feel browbeaten into making heavy weather of it. It is the message of Christ to every generation of his followers.

The Lamb Wins. The simple three-line slogan was all that featured on the sign erected by the small Methodist church in Prague. It was November 27th, 1989 – the day that Communist domination came to an end in Czechoslovakia. Until then the harassed Christian community had been permitted no publicity at all; even the displayed title *Church* was forbidden on the outside of the building. Now the message was movingly evident to the passers-by: 'The Lamb Wins.' It was not that victory had *at last* arrived. The theology of the little poster was exactly right. Christ is *always* the winner. He was winning, even when the church seemed to lie crushed under the apparatus of totalitarian rule. Now at least it could be proclaimed!

I love the book of Revelation. I first attempted sharing my discoveries from it at two conferences arranged in East Africa some years ago. Now I hope that these pages will encourage Christian friends to explore the Revelation at whatever level seems desirable.





This is not a commentary, and it has not been written primarily for the theologian – though I shall be glad if fellow-preachers find anything useful here by way of outline or illustration. You may wish to use this book as bedtime reading, or as something to take away on holiday. There is another use, however.

There are thousands upon thousands of small Bible study groups coming into being all over the world. Perhaps you are a member of one; you may even lead one. A church or student body could well decide to hold a series of six studies at the group level, and tackle Revelation. If so, you may find that the six-part arrangement of this book will assist you. Suggested questions are given, every three chapters, to stimulate group discussion.

And may God inspire and equip us as we hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church of Jesus Christ.

RICHARD BEWES

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