

Pulling Back the Curtain

Revelation 1:1–8 · Pastor Raul Granillo · May 10, 2026

TODAY'S TEXT

*“The **revelation** of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place... Blessed is the one who reads... and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near.”*

— Revelation 1:1, 3

BIG IDEA

Revelation is **not** a code to be cracked about the future — it is the revelation of **Jesus Christ**, written to first-century churches under Roman occupation, calling every generation to faithful witness against every system that demands the allegiance belonging only to God.

KEY WORD

Apokálypsis (ἀποκάλυψις) — literally, **“being made fully known.”** A revealing — the *opposite* of a hiding or a mystery.

SERMON OUTLINE — FOLLOW ALONG

- 1. There is only ONE Revelation — not “Revelations.”
- 2. The book tells you what it is in verse 1: a revelation OF Jesus Christ.
- 3. Apocalyptic literature works like a political cartoon — its symbols had meaning to its first audience.
- 4. When we lack information, we fill the gap with fear. Hollywood has profited from that fear.
- 5. Nothing in the Bible was written TO you — but every message in the Bible is FOR you.
- 6. Written inside the Roman Empire — a total culture of conquest, commerce, and the imperial cult.
- 7. The pressure on Christians was social and economic before it was violent.
- 8. John was not hiding the message — he was amplifying it: Rome looked invincible, but from heaven’s view it was a beast already doomed.
- 9. Grace and peace — that is what this book is meant to give the Church.
- 10. He IS coming. Every knee will bend. Every soul will face reality.

DEFINE THIS

Imperial Cult — a system where the government teaches people to *worship* the emperor (or rulers) as if they were divine, and mixes that worship into loyalty to the state.

WHICH ONE ARE YOU?

THE DECODER

Misses the message. Hunts for hidden codes, dates, conspiracies, and helicopters. Lives anxious, suspicious, afraid.

THE FAITHFUL READER

Hears, keeps, practices. Sees the world through the lens of the crucified Christ — the slaughtered Lamb. Lives in grace and peace.

QUOTE TO REMEMBER

“Revelation is not about the antichrist, but about the living Christ. It is not about a rapture out of this world, but about faithful discipleship in this world.”

— Michael Gorman

TAKE IT HOME — REFLECTION

- What systems in my daily life — economic, political, cultural — currently demand a kind of loyalty that belongs only to God?
- How am I currently navigating them?
- How should I be navigating them?

MY NOTES

NEXT WEEK · “A Pastor in the Empire’s Prison” — Revelation 1:9–20

MSNaz · Unveiling the Beast: Revelation for Our World Today