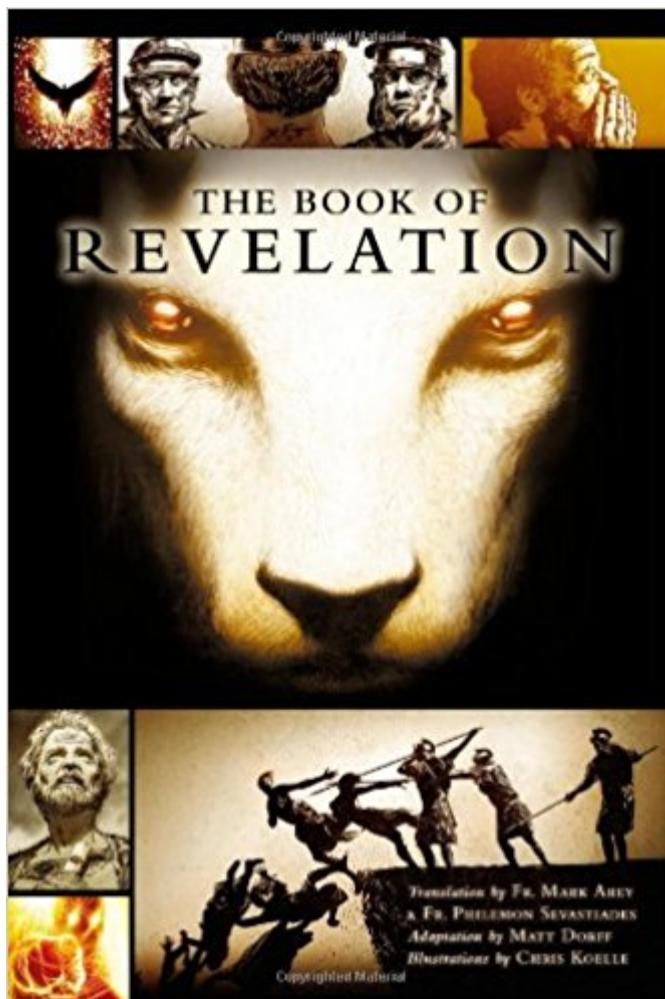


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Book Of Revelation, Paperback



Synopsis

THE CLIMACTIC BATTLE BETWEEN GOOD AND EVILThe final book of the Bible has challenged, inspired, and astonished readers for nearly 2000 years. The book of Revelation may be the most analyzed text in all of Scripture. And yet it remains the most mysterious. Now comes a graphic novel version of this amazing book, including all 404 verses of this scriptural masterpiece. Stand in the Apostle John's sandals and watch the New Testament's climactic war between good and evil unfold in dramatic and dazzling imagery. See the Lamb, the Seven-Headed Dragon, and the Beast as never before. Take a thrilling ride through ancient prophecy. Discover anew the story of the ultimate fulfillment of John's faith as the final battle is fought between God and Satan...Including a translation by Fr. Mark Arey and Fr. Philemon Sevastiades, an adaptation by Matt Dorff, and illustrations by renowned artist Chris Koelle, The Book of Revelation is an emotionally stirring and thought-provoking way to experience this timeless narrative.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This dramatically colored and concrete visual presentation of the final book of the canonical New Testament is accompanied by text that has been translated from the original Greek. Little interpretation is offered; the images illustrate the visual descriptions the colorful text itself is famous for offering. Pages have a black background, usually with three to five panels that are highlighted in red, yellow, or dramatic shading. The garb appears to be dated from the first century, as do any living accoutrements like pottery, bricked passageways, and so on. More than a graphic novel that

integrates words and pictures in a narrative sequence, this is nearly an illustrated text that presents a straightforward representation of what the words indicate in discrete images. Still, the full traumatic and ecstatic content of the original text is highlighted by the striking, colorful imagery. For collections where there's interest in both graphic texts and religious interpretation. --Francisca Goldsmith

"Visual tour de force...vivid depiction that strikes the perfect, tasteful tone...a page turner...spectacular art."-Publishers Weekly (11-26-12) "No adaptation that I know has captured the scope, the terror, or the glory of the Apocalypse more completely than "The Book of Revelation," a graphic novel adapted by Matt Dorff and illustrated by Chris Koelle."-Breakpoint.org "To Bible fans I say read it for the beautiful translation of Scripture and stay for the stunning art. To graphic novel fans I say open it for mind blowing visuals and let the poetry sweep you away."-Therefore I Geek PICK OF THE MONTH The book of Revelation***** (5 stars)"...the illustrations are extremely detailed, intense and at times very brave. It's refreshing to see an artist depict the devil and the darker elements of Revelation in their full horrific and grotesque nature...a fair few of the pieces of art are not for the faint-hearted...Chris Koelle is an exceptional artist and as Christian comic books go, this is a bold step forward in the right direction. When reading this, you actually forget that you know this story and that it is scripture."-Youthwork Magazine (U.K.) "The translators have attained here a readability that invites comparison with literary levels of the finest literature. At the same time, they have employed contemporary idioms so that the text bears a fresh and, at times, stunning 'newness.' The Book of Revelation is exciting again."-Randall Balmer (from his Preface for the text translation edition of "Apocalypse: The Book of Revelation") "The only less-than-literal license taken by the creative team is the frequent view of John reacting to what he must witness, both its glory and its horror. As the closest thing readers have to a relatable common man, even one as extraordinary as the biblical revelator, John provides a vital touchstone for a visceral experience of Revelation's prophecy. What the adaptation sacrifices in interpretive nuance or comic book purity, it makes up for in raw impact. For the first time in centuries, audiences can feel the awesomeness of John's vision of a world to end and one to come."-A. David Lewis "Dorff and Koelle have produced one of the first solid Bible-based graphic novels that can stand on its own two feet and command the respect of fans of the medium. What's always been a visual story has finally been done right."-The Phantom Tollbooth

The Book of Revelation I have read the last chapter of the Bible several times, a few of those times

was late at night unto the early morning. I have read it from the beginning to the end and what I imagined in my mind is exactly what was put forth in this graphic novel, what a great depiction of the text it was. While immersed in this novel and "great soon to be reality" I felt like I was the eyes of John and as always... I could not put this chapter of the Bible down. The images were dark and very graphic and just as they should be for one of the greatest stories ever told. I enjoyed all of the images in this novel but one of my favorites would have to be on page 169 where one of the seven Angels took John in the spirit to a soaring steep mountain and showed him the Holy City, Jerusalem, descending from God out of heaven, embodying the glory of God. What a magnificent site it was. I would also agree 100% with Matt's Dorff's interview comment with Zondervan publishing "When readers see that last panel with John's final "Amen" I think they'll experience a sense of emotional fullness. For all the action and intensity and horror it contains, The Book of Revelation is in the end a profoundly emotional story." I say amen to that! The translation of the Bible in this novel was smooth and very easy to read and understand. The illustrations and adaption that was put fourth I believe was magnificent! I would highly recommend buying this book and sharing it with as many people as you can! To read Matt's interview, or get more insight on the creation of this book check out the facebook page for the book [...]

Of all the Christian texts that could be presented in graphic novel form, the book of Revelation is perhaps most suited (and most obvious—why hasn't someone done this already?) to the genre. It is, after all, the product of John's vision from God. In this graphic novel, the fusion of text and image very well may take us closer to John's own experience than plain text is able, for while the text alone is certainly sufficient, this replication of John's vision receiving the message in visible form returns the text to its initial mode of communication. And the result is undeniably riveting. Through Chris Koelle's luminously compelling illustrations, The Book of Revelation allows us to see what John might have seen, as the words he used to record his vision become in turn image-producers. We are spectators, not only viewing John's vision, but also watching him as his sight is mesmerized by this message from God. And, Koelle's decision to depict the future through the lens of the past—primarily through clothing styles—adds yet another intriguing layer to his re-creation of John's visionary experience. But the value of this graphic novel extends beyond mere appropriate fitting of one genre (graphic novel) to another (visionary prophecy). The book is more than just an illustrated text: it's a graphic representation of text, and as such, Koelle's

artwork helps to unlock not just the textual meaning of this important biblical book, but also its relevance, its significance, and its function. So often we think of John’s Revelation as a book of prophecy, foretelling God’s judgment on the earth. And it is that. But it wasn’t until I read this graphic novel that I realized the true theme of this book. Revelation (like all of the other books of the Bible, so it shouldn’t have been a surprise, really) is more than an account of the end times on the earth. Its primary concern, to which the apocalypse is merely an accent, is the glory and worship of God. Reading the biblical text, I did miss this fundamental focus multiple times. But reading the text accompanied by Koelle’s images, suddenly I saw literally that the scenes of God’s receiving praise in heaven bookend the account of the earth’s judgment, harmonizing the entire prophetic book with the rest of the Scripture and all that exists, really in its ultimate purpose: the worship of God. Perhaps eventually I would have grown in my understanding of the book as I read the plain text. But the combination of image and text helped me grasp the significance of John’s Revelation as I never had before. Of course, as a graphic novel, The Book of Revelation invites evaluation based on at least two criteria: its worth as a book, and its worth as collection of images that captivate, communicate, and compel. Koelle’s illustrations excel as all three. In his artwork, the otherworldly is rendered in fluid, detailed images that are engagingly realistic and result from painstaking attention to the text, for Koelle doesn’t bend the text to justify his images, but instead creates images that express the text in its most literal form. And it is perhaps this obeisance to the literal that lends Koelle’s artwork its almost surreal quality: visionary prophecies of heavenly creatures, beastly monsters, and terrible destruction can inhabit only the fringes of our perceptions of what is “real.” Yet somehow Koelle strikes the perfect balance, grounding his depictions of John’s shocking text in a visual tapestry that finds its origins in human experience. It seems that interest in the Apocalypse is commonplace in human existence at least of these last two millennia. But perhaps John’s message is most relevant now, when violence already fills the globe, nations strive with each other, and the fascination with “religion” has possibly never been stronger. Whether you’re curious about Revelation’s content or you desire a new perspective in your quest to systematize your understanding of this biblical book with the rest of God’s revelation, this text is one you shouldn’t ignore.

I like that the book helped me think about Revelation and such topics at a slower pace, causing me to see it with new eyes. I saw some things I never really paid attention to previously. However, it does somewhat bug me that the art takes a preterist interpretation, depicting the prophecies about the Antichrist as visions about events that were fulfilled in Roman times. Clearly, Jesus Christ has not returned to reign as the King of the world in a peacible kingdom, and certainly not so in Roman times, yet the whole point of the long story arc of Revelation is the return of Jesus Christ to fulfill the rest of the prophecies about the Messiah and his reign on earth. The preterist interpretation is seriously errant, as far as I have come to conclude, and it bugs me that this comic sets the stage for the reader to see the text that way. Over-all, I think it's great for thinking about apocalypse and for seeing it through another person's eyes, but it can color and taint a person's interpretation; there's no way to depict such apocalyptic literature in illustration without some sort of interpretation working its way in.

I have read other reviews for this book prior to buying it myself which complained that it's adaptation did not make the text easier to understand. I am not sure Revelation will ever be completely easy to understand. I've found it hard to read it in its entirety in any translation of the Bible. Being a comic book fan as well as minister in training seemed to make this book a dream come true. Granted this adaptation now adds pictures to the once confusing images your mind was stretched to make; where mental exhaustion once slowed or ceased your reading, these pictures keep you reading as well as may provide some continuity that's hard to visualize or detect in text format. If you're looking for a breakdown and deep explanation of Revelation, I suggest a good studied commentary or study-Bible (ESV Study Bible). But if you want to dive into Revelation with a thorough uninterrupted flow, this book may be a good place to start.

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