

THE **BOOK**
OF
ReVELaTION

THE APOCALYPSE
FOR KIDS!

as **REvEALed** TO

RABBI
Zeus



DÜRER
ILLUSTRATIONS



BY BOB
PROPHETTE

**THE BOOK OF REVELATION AS
REVEALED TO RABBI ZEUS BY
BOB PROPHETTE**

-RABBI ZEUS-

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For Izzie

Is there evil?

Is there good?

Or does it depend on where you're stood?

If good or bad there is neither

Then what belongs to Caesar

Has no meaning

And what belongs to God

Cannot be understood.

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REVEALED TO RABBI ZEUS



INTRODUCTION

Congratulations !

Today is your day
You'll see great things !
You are off on your way !

Sometimes we'll go this way
Sometimes we'll go that
Sometimes we'll stop, for a while
Take a rest and have a chat.

I am Rabbi Zeus

Half Pagan, half Jew
Like all Christians
From my point of view.

Once I met a man
He said he was a prophet
And before I said
“ No way, come off it ”
He told me a story
Of a guy called John
I'll tell it to you
It won't take long.

Now I'm not religious
Not at all you see
I doubt all that I hear
Whatever it be.

For if history shows one thing
It's how wrong we can be:

**We can be wrong about this
We can be wrong about that
We can put our trust in many things
Even a cat in a hat.**

So, come along with me
And meet a man called John
He believed lots of strange things
Never doubting he was wrong.

John wrote something important in a book
It's called REVELATION and we should take a look
A summary of what he said isn't easy to state
But it's an answer to the question about struggle and fate...

How much longer must we wait?

If you stick to your principles
And live a good life
Do little harm or wrong
Avoid conflict and strife
Surely something good will come?
If not now, then soon?

But just how long?

At every twist and turn
In the places that we go
All we seem to earn
Is more suffering and woe.

So how much longer must we wait?

John thought he had the answer
And the answer is this...

***“A little bit longer
But, it will be bliss.”***

Maybe he's right, maybe he's not
Maybe what he says isn't worth a lot.

But maybe
We should listen...

So,

Let's

Start...



Our Hero - John the Seer

MEET JOHN...

John, you see,
is legendary.

He took a bath in oil
That was hot, hot, hot
But did John mind?
No! He did not.

Now maybe you're curious
As to why he took a bath?
He made a King furious
And the bath is his wrath.

The King thought *he* was top-dog
But John didn't agree
He worshiped someone higher
Someone no one could see.

His King was [God]

But it's important to make one thing clear
When I say [God], you can [insert HIGHER principle here]
I can't tell you what to put
That comes from you
It's just something you believe in
Something that's inside you.

If you are OK with that,
Then let's continue.

The King looks at John
The dog looks at you
But John's looking elsewhere
A man in a stew.

18 pairs of eyes look about
Only John and the dog look without.

Doesn't it feel strange as the lookers, look-on?
The on-lookers looks are all about John
Lolly gagers, everyone
A lolly gagging
Dilly-dallying
Throng.

The merchants and priests
The soldiers too
They are discussing John's plight
But what do they do?
Those gagging lollies, while John's in a stew.

They can't understand and so they just look

***“Why is a John in hot oil not
Something that cooks?”***

The King looks confused
His minister too
The soldier's bemused
What a hull-a-bullo!

This John won't die
He won't even cook
He just looks at the sky
With a faraway look.

“Send him away, that's enough boiling Johns for one day.”

Then...

*“Send him to Patmos
The Island of sharp rocks
He can stay there not cooking
With holes in his socks.”*

AND...

Do you see that dog
At the foot of the King?
What's he thinking
With his thinking thing?

*“How stupid are men that torture each other?
Why not be nice like brother to brother
If they're not nice then surely they'll pay
If not this one, then surely someday.
Woof.”*

So, the dog seems quite wise
And knows John's upward look
Is to something more powerful
So, let's take a look.

Let's follow John to Patmos,
The Island of sharp rocks
Here John got thinking
And his thinker got hot
In came a vision

Hop,

Hop,

Hop...



1 *Seven candles burning not so brightly*

JOHN'S FIRST VISION

John's vision started
Where clouds had parted

They reveal...
(Drum peel...)

His King!

Sitting a'top a double rainbow ring
Can you imagine such a thing?

He sits, not on a throne
Or anything made of stone
And we can instantly see
How much more glorious is he.

Now this is a real emperor
Not some earthly inferior.

In his right hand, seven stars
With a book and sword
You can see why John likes him
Why he calls him his Lord.

And this is his answer to the question from John
The one about suffering and for just how long?

An answer in pictures
And the answer is this...

***“A little bit longer
But, it will be bliss.”***

With eyebrows like flames
His head like a light
Around him are candles
On bases ornate
One candle standing
For one troubled place...

Ephesus and Smyrna
Pergamon, Thyatira,
Sardis
Philadelphia
And Laodicea.

Each place had a church
A candle as well
A congregation
And their own angel.

God now asks John
If he'll be a postman
And deliver seven letters
To the seven congregations
In the seven churches
In the seven places
Under the seven angel's graces.

If he wouldn't mind.

So...

The churches are candles
Lighting the way
But they don't always do they?
That's what John's told to say.

A candle makes light
At times, not so bright
It can lessen the night
You can just keep your sight.

But how wonderful it would be
If a lot more you could see
If the candles burned brighter
More like stars in the sky
How good would that be
Then how far could you see?

Because churches, well
You know what I mean
Sometimes the church light
Is hard to be seen.

John's vision is just that
A message to the churches
What's wrong and what's right
And how they can shine

Ever so bright
To light up your days
As well as the night
Wouldn't that be a sight!

Now with head-pictures,
Like the one we just had
It can be quite hard
It can make you quite mad
To know what's been said
By a picture in the head
So, let's try a conversation instead.

John: Hello, is that the Complaints Department?

God: Yes, what can I do for you?

John: I ordered 'Everlasting Bliss' but it hasn't arrived.

God: Yes. There is a good reason for that. You're not ready. Did you read the Terms and Conditions?

John: I did yes.

God: You did? What about everybody else?

John: Erm.

God: Let me see...

No. Eh. That's not quite right. Lots of people still haven't understood. They are making up their own rules, worshiping money, being apathetic, too many compromises, not helping each other. It's still a mess.

John: But don't the Terms and Conditions say you will send 'Everlasting Bliss' to the ones who are ready and stop their suffering?

God: Yes. But I'm not talking about everybody. Not even the people going to churches are ready. Have you seen what it's like in Pergamon and Thyatira? Look, here is what you do. Send them some letters. Tell them to buck up their ideas, or else!

John: But they've been told.

God: Have you tried pictures? I'll send you some Visions, you write them down. Send them to the churches and we'll see.

John: OK, thanks.

God: No problem. 'Infinite Mercy', that's my motto. We'll start with a book.

That's what John's first vision is...

So that's what we'll do,
That's how we'll go on
We'll look at John's visions
Pictures for heads
And to help understand them
Use conversations instead.

Ready for this book?



2 *Secrets from a book locked ever so tightly*

JOHN'S SECOND VISION

John's second vision
Again, up in the sky
We see John listen
To a beardy guy.

He tells John about the book
He gives our John a searching look
It's not a book but a scroll
Which is a book in a roll.

But who can open it up?

A cry goes up, one 'n' all

***“ Who is worthy to open it up
Break the seals and take a look? ”***

A book with a lock?
No not quite
You're in for a shock
You're in for a fright
It's a book all right
But with seven locks
All set very tight.

So, who can open it up?

Not a man with a hammer
Not a wizard with a spell
Not someone who is tiny
Or someone who is tall
Not a strong man
Or a long man
No one with a key
It's such a mysterious book you see.

The book contains a mysterious plan
And can only be opened by a... lamb.

A lamb?
Yes, a lamb
Can a lamb?
Yes, a lamb can
Un-can the plan.

Canned lamb?
I do not like canned lamb
But I do like a lamb that can un-can a plan.

Can a man unlock a book
So a man can take a look?

Not a man but a lamb
Can unlock and take a look.

Not a locksmith on a bike
Or his roller-coasting wife
Not a fireman or a soldier
Not a climber on a boulder
Not an angel
Not the devil
Not a demon
No not several.

Only a lamb can open this plan!

But enough of canned lambs
And mysterious plans
There is so much more to see.

Of Elders we have four and twenty
That seems like more than plenty
They each have a crown
That they've set down
To worship for long
The Mighty One.

And around the lamb, God and his book
Fly four weird creatures with very strange features...

The features the creatures have one and all
Is wings full of eyes, yes, eye-balls
But all of the creatures
Don't have all of the features
No, not at all.

One creature has the face of a man
The other the feature of a lion
Another is like an ox (the third)
And the last, (you may guess) is a bird.

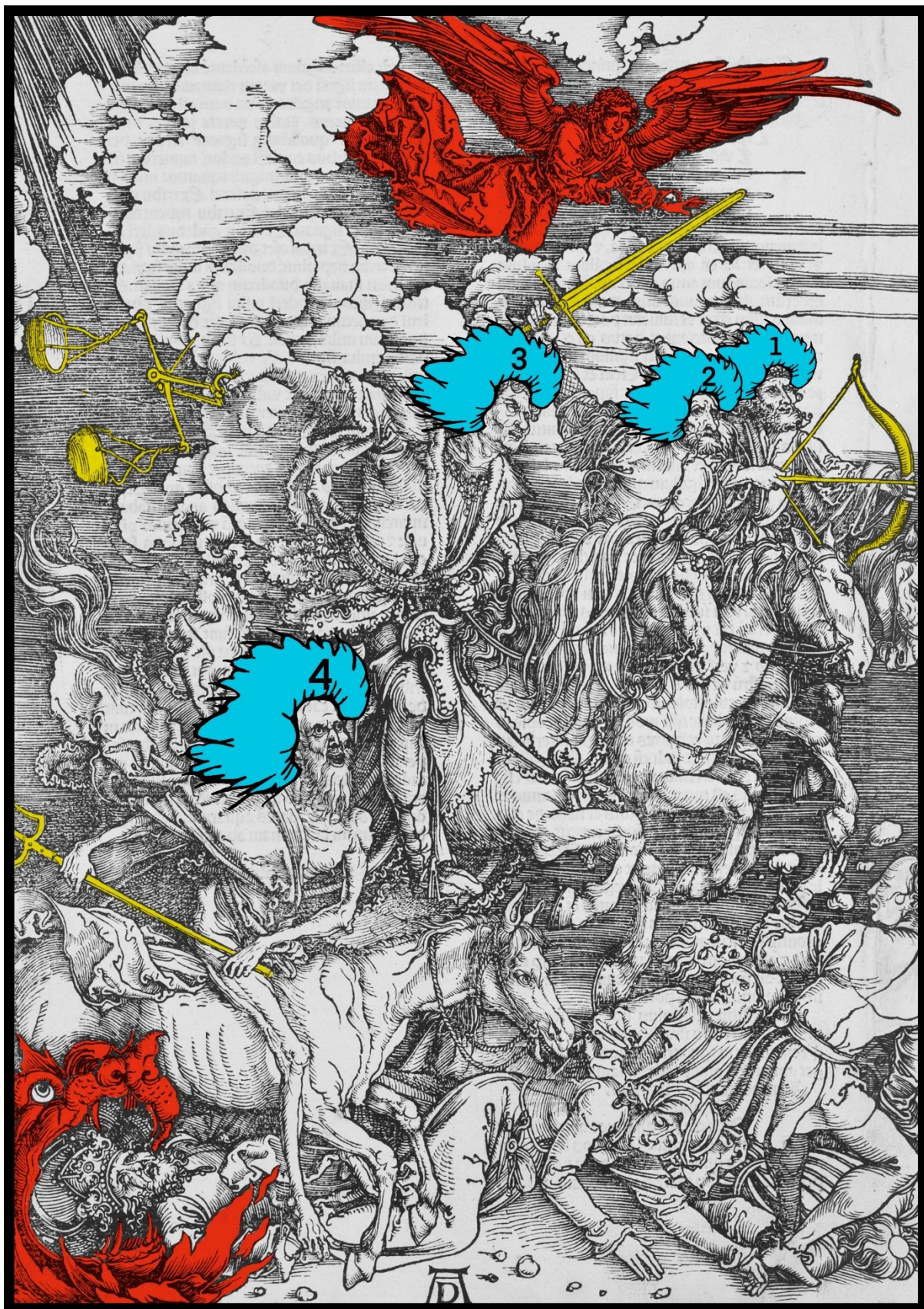
The creatures have so many features
Each feature distinguishes the creature
But they all, everyone, are here to worship
The Mighty One.

But what does it mean?
What have we seen?

Let's hear some words
Between God and John
See if it's easier
To understand this one.

- John:** *So, you want me to describe a picture of you on your throne?*
God: *Yes. Make sure you show both Heaven and Earth, with fiery clouds between us. I'm sitting on a throne. With seven torches above my head. Each torch represents part of my spirit – my qualities. On my lap I've got a scroll that contains my 'Mysterious Plan'.*
- John:** *Just you, the torches and the scroll?*
God: *Yes. But there's a lamb.*
John: *A lamb?*
God: *Yes. With seven horns and seven eyes.*
John: *All sevens. I get it. The horns are powerful. The eyes give him sight. That it?*
God: *Yes. And around us 'Circles of Adoration'.*
John: *Circles of Adoration? Erm...*
God: *Yes. To show how I should be worshiped. My awesomeness. The first circle is four creatures representing life. Make them represent animals – wild animals and domesticated animals, walking and flying. And make one of them like a man. Give them all wings and say they have eyes on the wings.*
- John:** *OK.*
God: *Then in the next circle 24 old Kings, Elders. And the Kings are all giving me their crowns, as earthly kings should do. This is important. It's a message to the Emperor that was torturing you and to all the people who think he's great. So, they can see how great I am.*
- John:** *And the Earth bit? Shall I show how it's all messed up? People suffering?*
God: *No. Show it how it looks. Normal. Make it look nice, like I intended it. The suffering is coming, don't you worry.*
- John:** *OK. On it. And the next vision?*
God: *That's about what happens when the lamb opens the first four seals of the scroll.*

Ready for the next vision?



3 *Horses four with chaos riding on them*

JOHN'S THIRD VISION

I bet you weren't expecting a horse race!
But that's what we've got in first place.

As the book's first four seals go snap
Twelve hooves go clippety clap.

Now this is John's vision
But remember that
You bring your own meaning
From where you are sat
You can listen to others
But the meaning is yours
It's better that way
As it means it endures.

Let me introduce...

The Apocalypse Horsemen !

One way of thinking
Is that this is God's wrath
For those who do wrong
The inevitable path.

But it's simpler you see
The book just shows us
All that chaos can be.

Now, when I say chaos
I do not mean a mess
Like books on the floor
Or upturn-ed chess
No, I mean that thing
They call randomness
The opposite thing
To fairness.

That those who do good
Don't always rise to the top
And those who are bad
Seem to have such a lot.

And so it will go, as horsemen appear
From out of the book and drawing so near
Let's take them in turn
And see what's to fear.

The first is a king,
And what do they do?

Conquest and Power

They hold over you
Demanding allegiance
And tributes so fine
Let them, and you can
Survive for a time.

But what gives them the right
To act like your gods?
It all happened before you
They're just lucky sods.

If you are like John
Then this is at odds
With what you believe
What's important to you
So, you cannot be quiet
But what will you do?
Are you going to riot?
Well maybe you should
Why don't you try it?
Maybe that is good.

But hang on there Whoa !!

What about the horse two?
What is in store now
Is he coming for you?

He is Violence

He works for the King
Look! The terrible
Sword that he swings!
Refuse to be subject
And he follows behind
With his murdering sword
It boggles the mind.

And what if you avoid this chappy
Does it mean you can be happy?
Like a man who loves toucans
Who just got a three-can
To lay a big egg
Full of baby some more-cans.

Not according to John
And the vision is his
More chaos to come
And the chaos is this:
People who own things
And prices they set.

They're hoarding their goods
They're measuring out stuff
To ensure you pay more
Than those things they are worth
Especially things you can't go without
While the things you don't need
Lie all round about.

Horseman number three, all markets and scales
Sometimes they work well, but often they fail.

When some have a lot
And others much less
It's enough to make you
A little depressed.

The markets to blame
With the third horse it came
And it's such a shame
Does it have a name?

It's Greed

Simple and plain.

And into the world
Comes trotting along
'Cause we can't decide
To all get along
And share out fairly
All that we have got
Which is really, really
Really quite a lot.

Piles and piles of stuff
Much more than enough.

Power, Violence and Greed

Three terrible things
On three terrible steeds.

But what's this last one
Now galloping along
Drawing one last breath?

None other than Death.

Sweeping all
Out of the way
Escapes no one
Their final day.

Not a king with his power
Or the violence sower
Or the greedy trader
Or the candle stick maker
The tinker, tailor, soldier, sailor
The rich man, the poor man, the beggar
Good grief
Death always come and takes like a thief.

The ultimate chaos
That lives on the earth
Taking what's grown here
And making it dirt.

And who goes first?

Well fancy that
It's a bishop in a fancy bishop hat
Well, how about that?

Then comes a housewife
A plump man next
A peasant or two
Then all of the rest.

But what does it mean
Is this really God's plan?
That whatever you do
You're going to be damned?

Oppression, violence, famine and death
Inescapable like the fate of Macbeth?

Not necessarily...
Look some more
And maybe we'll see
If that's what the plan says
For you and for me.

Can you see before we go
There's a character more
Soaring above
This mayhem and woe.

Who is he?

What's his place in our little story?
While everything below's so very gory
Not a terrible wraith
Riding above

But an angel called Faith

Soars like a dove.

John's vision three
Is reminding us here
Setting the scene
Of the things we fear.

All about us
All of the time.

So, what do we do
What do we choose?
We might know what's right
But do we know what we lose?

One last thing...

Many people think the horsemen come from the book
But here's one thing I think they've overlooked:

They've been here all the time
Death, Greed, Violence and Power
The whole deadly, misery shower
The book just reminds us
Give those things names
It's the backdrop to the vision
The setting for our game.

But let's do our thing, let's go listen in.
God and John's heavenly conversation.

*John: Four terrible horsemen. This is what's coming for the people who don't listen?
The smiting?*

God: No. that comes later. This is what's happening to you, right now.

John: OK.

*God: It should be a very, familiar story John. Ever since I had to throw man out of the
Garden of Eden you have had to face this situation.*

John: Marauding horses?

*God: No. They are just symbols for what it's like to live outside of Paradise. Men
thinking they are great. That's the first horse. An earthly king who is powerful
and stronger than other men. When men fight each other, there is always a
winner. He can make himself look like a god. But they lack one thing.*

John: What is that?

*God: Staying power. Everlastingness. They only appear great for a time and then they
are gone. Not like me. I am the beginning and the end, remember.*

John: OK, a powerful king. And the other horses? Horse two?

*God: Remember what happened to you? What happened when you resisted
the Emperor?*

John: He tried to fry me. Then his soldiers took me here against my will.

*God: That's it. Riding right next to the King, is a soldier, he's Violence. Men willing to
hurt other men, usually for money, because of their greed.*

Can you guess what the next horse is?

John: Greed?

God: Yup. Worship of money.

John: And the last horse?

God: Death. You have to show death, because that's what came with your expulsion from Paradise. I did warn you.

John: I get it. People fear all of these things. These are the things that have power over them. They think these things are powerful and fear them. I get it. Anything else?

God: The most important thing. Above these terrible riders, soaring in the sky, the Angel of Faith.

John: Nice!

God: Thought you would like it. The next vision is what happens if they don't hold onto faith. It's about to get messy.

Are you

Ready for

Messy?