

Literary Features of Apocalyptic Writing

1. Circle the chapters in Revelation that your group has been assigned:

4–5

6–7

12–13

16–17

20–21

2. Read through the following list of common literary features of apocalyptic writing. Then examine your assigned chapters in the Book of Revelation, seeking instances of that feature in those chapters. Note these instances (chapter and verse, with a brief description) in the space allotted in the right-hand column. You will not find every feature in your chapters; simply find as many as you can.

Literary Feature	Examples in the Book of Revelation
angels or heavenly messengers: Beings who impart information or visions from God to the writer	
crisis imagery: Images or visions of widespread chaos and cataclysmic destruction	
end times: The end of the persecution that the intended audience is presently enduring; sometimes misinterpreted as referring to the end of the world	
good vs. evil: A cosmic battle in which good will ultimately triumph	
judgment: The reward of the just and the punishment or demise of the unjust	
Old Testament references: Not necessarily direct quotes but rather literary allusions or references evocative of the Old Testament (<i>Note:</i> This literary feature does not apply to the Book of Daniel, an apocalyptic text that itself appears in the Old Testament.)	



<p>renewal of Heaven or earth: The creation of a new world order, in which good triumphs over evil</p>	
<p>sealed book: Secret knowledge is placed in a sealed book that can be opened only during the end times.</p>	
<p>suffering: Descriptions of suffering that the target audience is currently enduring, such as famine, war, conquest, plagues, natural disasters, and death</p>	
<p>symbolism: Words, colors, and numbers used to suggest a deeper meaning</p>	
<p>visions: Granted by God to the person receiving secret knowledge; often contain symbolic or allegorical elements</p>	

