

Chinese Traditional Character

默示錄

前言

現在我們要閱讀的是新約和整部聖經的最後一部書——默示錄。這本書的名字已經告訴了我們它的內容：就是要把隱藏的事“啓示”、“表現”出來。

在這部書中我們發現兩種不同的寫作方法，第一種是先知式的手法，就像依撒依亞先知書、厄則刻爾、匝加裏亞和其他的先知書的風格一樣。另一種則是啓示性的手法，就像在達尼爾先知書中所用的手法一樣。

在先知性的預言部分，默示錄的作者向亞細亞七個教會（厄弗所、斯米納、培爾加摩、提雅提辣、撒爾德、非拉德非雅和勞狄刻雅）提出了一系列的建議，我們可以把這些視為對普世教會的警告。書中對七個教會所取得的成就表示讚賞，同時提醒他們為自己生活中的過失而懺悔改過。

在啓示部分，作者告訴我們有關世界末日的徵兆（默示錄中著名的七個封印和四個騎士），之後，書中向我們展示了“天主的國和他的權能”獲得了勝利，最終將出現一個“新天新地。”

這本書的主角是死而復活的默西亞，他接受了象徵性的名號“羔羊”，正如洗者若翰形容在看到耶穌經過時所形容的那樣：“看，天主的羔羊，除免世罪者。”

這本玄妙有力、高深莫測、充滿象徵意義的默示錄使許多讀者愛不釋手。然而不幸的是，很多人不知道如何去閱讀和理解這本書，因而誤解書中意思，得出片面和不合邏輯的結論。

一直以來，人們普遍認為這部書的作者是聖若望宗徒，就是若望福音的作者。因為在書中一開始就提到了若望的名字。然而現代學者很少有人接

English

REVELATION

Introduction

We find ourselves in front of the last book of the New Testament and indeed of the whole Bible. Its name is already telling us about its content: “revelation”, “manifestation” of what is hidden.

Two styles are found in the composition of this book: on the one hand, the prophetic style, as found in the prophets Isaiah, Ezekiel, Zachariah; and on the other, the apocalyptic style as it clearly appears in the book of Daniel and the apocrypha.

In the prophetic part a series of advises are gathered, addressed to the seven Churches of Asia (Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea); we could take these as warnings to the universal Church. It praises some of its achievements while at the same time calling attention to some aspects of its life that have to be amended and changed.

The apocalyptic part tells us about the signs at the end of the world (the famous seven seals and the four horsemen of Revelation); later on it presents the great confrontation where “the power and the kingdom of our God” is victorious, concluding with the great final manifestation of “the new heavens and the new earth.”

The main character and central figure of this book is the sacrificed and risen Messiah, receiving the emblematic title of “Lamb” as John the Baptist applied it to Jesus describing him as “the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.”

This powerful, enigmatic and symbolic book has fascinated readers and artists. Unfortunately many did not know how to read and interpret the book, therefore misunderstanding its content and reaching partial and illegitimate interpretations and conclusions.

Formerly it was thought that the author was the apostle John, the writer of the gospel. There are a series of coincidences: the name appearing at the beginning of the book, the mentioning of the island of Patmos seemed to

受這種說法。因為研究發現，書中描繪的有關教會所遭遇的迫害和困難發生在西元八十一至九十六年之間的迪奧尼削大迫害時期。

向七個教會發言

1 4 若望寫信給亞細亞的七個教會：願那位今在、昔在、且繼續永在者和由他寶座前的七神⁵以及那位忠誠的見證者，即最先從死者中復活，且為世上萬王之王的耶穌基督賜給你們恩寵和平安。

6 他愛了我們，他的血把我們從我們的罪中解救出來；他使我們成為一個王國，成為他的父、天主司祭的民族。願光榮權能世世代代永歸於他！阿們！

7 看！他乘雲彩而來，衆目都將仰望他，連那些刺他的人也看到他；世上萬民要因他而哀慟。必然會這樣！阿們。

10 在一個主日，我被聖神感動，聽見在我身後有號角似的聲音說：¹¹“把你所見的寫下來，再傳給厄弗所、斯米納、培爾加摩、提雅提辣、撒爾德、非拉德非雅和勞狄刻雅七個教會。”

厄弗所教會

2 1 你致書給厄弗所教會的天使：手中拿著七顆星，且在七座金燈臺間行走的那位說：

2 我知道你的作為、辛勞和堅忍。你不能容忍作惡的人；你曾考驗那些自認為宗徒而實非宗徒的人，看出他們是假冒的。³你極有勇氣，為我的名歷經苦難，從不退縮。

4 然而，我要責備你一件事：就是你已失去了你當初的愛心。⁵想想看，你是從哪里墜落的，要悔改呀！要行你起初所行的事。你若不悔改，我就會來把你的燈臺從原處拿走。⁶不過，你痛恨尼苛勞黨人的作為是對的，那也是我所憎惡的。⁷有耳的，應來聽聽聖神對各教會說的話：得勝者，我將賜他得享天主樂園裏生命樹的果子。

confirm it. Very few today accept this identification. It seems, nevertheless, that the description of difficulties and persecutions mentioned in the book refer to the persecution of Diomitian in the years 81–96 of our era.

Message to the seven Churches

1 ⁴From John to the seven Churches of Asia: receive grace and peace from him who is, who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits of God which are before his throne, ⁵and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and has washed away our sins with his own blood, ⁶making us a kingdom and priests for God his Father, to him be the glory and power for ever and ever. Amen.

⁷See he comes with the clouds and everyone will see him, even those who pierced him; on his account all the nations of the earth will beat his breast. Yes. It will be so.

¹⁰On the Lord's day, the Spirit took possession of me and I heard a voice behind me which sounded like a trumpet, ¹¹“Write down all that you see, in a book, and send it to the seven Churches of Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea.”

Church of Ephesus

2 ¹Write this to the angel of the Church in Ephesus, “Thus says the one who holds the seven stars in his right hand and who walks among the seven golden lamp stands:

²I know your works, your difficulties and your patient suffering. I know you cannot tolerate evildoers but have tested those who call themselves apostles and have proved them to be liars. ³You have persevered and have suffered for my name without losing heart.

⁴Nevertheless, I have this complaint against you: you have lost your first love. ⁵Remember from where you have fallen and repent, and do what you used to do before. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place; this I will do, unless you repent.

斯米納教會

8 你致書給斯米爾納教會的天使：這是身為“元始和終結”，曾死而復生的那位說的：

9 我知道你受的折磨和窮困（其實你很富足），我也知道你受的那些自稱為猶太人的譏諷，其實他們不是猶太人，而是撒殫的會眾。10 對將承受的苦難，不要害怕。魔鬼為了試探你們，會使你們當中數人坐牢，你們會受十天的折磨。你應忠誠至死，我會賜給你生命的榮冠。

11 有耳的，應來聽聽聖神向各教會說的話：得勝者必不經歷第二次的死亡。

培爾加摩教會

12 你致書給培爾加摩教會天使：那位具有雙鋒利劍者說：

13 “我知道你住的地方，那裏正是撒殫稱王之處。當我忠實的見證人安提帕在你們中間，在撒殫盤踞的地方遇害時，你並沒有背棄我的名，也沒有否認我的信仰。

14 然而，我對你仍略有微詞：在你那裏，有些人聽從巴郎的教訓，巴郎教唆巴拉克王使以色列百姓行淫，吃祭獻偶像的牲肉來犯罪。15 你那裏也有人隨從尼苛勞黨的教義，行同樣的壞事。

16 你懺悔吧！不然，我馬上來找你了。用我口裏的利劍，擊倒這些人。

17 有耳的，應來聽聽聖神跟各教會說的話：要賜給他一塊白石，石上刻有新的名號，唯領受的人認識這名號。

提雅提辣教會

18 你致書給提雅提辣教會天使：那目光如炬，雙腳如經過燃亮銅般的天主子說：19 我知道你的作為，你的愛德，信德，服務和堅忍；也知道你近來的努力比先前多。

Church of Smyrna

8 Write this to the angel of the Church in Smyrna, ‘Thus says the First and the Last, he who was dead and returned to life:

9 I know your trials and your poverty: you are rich indeed. I know how you are slandered by those who pretend to be Jews but are not, for they are, in fact, the synagogue of Satan. 10 Do not be afraid of what will happen to you. The devil will throw some of you into prison to test you and there will be ten days of trials. Remain faithful even to death and I will give you the crown of life.

11 Let anyone who has ears listens to what the Spirit says to the Churches: The victor has nothing to fear from the second death.’

Church of Pergamum

12 Write this to the angel of the Church in Pergamum, ‘Thus says the one who has the sharp, double-edged sword:

13 I know where you live, where Satan’s throne is, but you cling firmly to my name; you have not renounced me, not even in the days when Antipas, my faithful witness, was killed in your place, where Satan lives.

14 Nevertheless, I have a few complaints against you: Some among you hold the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak how to make the Israelites stumble by eating food sacrificed to idols and committing adultery. 15 Also, among you some follow the teaching of the Nicolaitans. 16 Therefore, repent; if not, I will come to you soon to attack these people with the sword of my mouth.

17 Let anyone who has ears listens to what the Spirit says to the Churches: To the victor I will give the hidden manna. And I will also give a white stone with a new name written on it which no one knows except the one who receives it.’

Church of Thyatira

18 Write this to the angel of the Church in Thyatira, ‘Thus says the Son of God whose eyes are like flames of fire and whose feet are like burnished bronze. 19 I know your works: your love, faith, service, patient endurance

20 但我要指責你容忍了依則貝耳。這個婦女自稱是先知，她教唆我的僕人偏離了正道，引誘他們行邪淫，並吃獻給偶像的祭肉。

21 我曾給她悔改的時間，但她不肯改過她的行爲。22 看！我要使她臥病在床；那與她行邪淫的人，若不悔改自己的行爲，我也要將他們置於大難之中。23 我要置他們的兒女於死地，這樣，各教會就會明白：我洞察人心肺腑，並按個人的行爲給予應有的報應。

24 至於其餘的提雅提辣人，就是沒有隨從那種教訓，不認識他們所說的“撒殫奧義”的人，我對你們說：我將不會再打擊你們了。25 但你們應該好好保持已有的，直到我再來。

26 堅守我的誠命到底的得勝者，我要賜給他統治萬民的權柄，27 使他能用鐵棒管轄他們，像粉碎陶器般地毀滅他們；28 正如我從我父領受的權能一樣。我還要給他那顆晨星。

29 有耳的，應來聽聽聖神向各教會說的話！

撒爾德教會

3 1 你致書給撒爾德教會的天使：
持有天主七神和七星的那位說：

2 我知道你的作爲：人以爲你活著，其實你是死了。醒悟吧！並挽回已瀕臨死亡的殘餘生機。因爲我還有見到你的行爲在我天主面前達到完美的境地。3 回想你當初領受和聽到的；要遵行，並要悔改。你若不醒悟，因你不知我何時來。我會像竊賊般來臨。

4 但在撒爾德還有若干人沒有玷污他們的衣裳以前，這些人將穿上白衣，伴我同行，因爲他們堪受此榮。5 得勝者必穿上此白衣，我決不會從生命冊上抹去他的名字。我一定在我父和他衆天使面前承認他的名字。

6 願有耳的，來聽聽聖神向各教會說的話！

and your later works, greater than the first.

20 Nevertheless, I have a complaint against you: you tolerate your Jezebel, this woman who calls herself a prophetess and is deceiving my servants; she teaches them prostitution and the eating of food sacrificed to idols.

26 To the victor who keeps to my ways to the end, I will give power over the nations, 27 to rule them with an iron rod and shatter them like earthen pots; he will be like me, who received this power from my Father. 28 Moreover, I will give him the Morning Star.

29 Let anyone who has ears listen to what the Spirit says to the Churches.'

Church of Sardis

3 1 Write this to the angel of the Church in Sardis, 'Thus says he who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars:

I know your worth: you think you live but you are dead. 2 Wake up and strengthen that which is not already dead. For I have found your works to be imperfect in the sight of my God. 3 Remember what you were taught; keep it and change your ways. If you do not repent I will come upon you like a thief at an hour you least expect.

4 Yet, there are some left in Sardis who have not soiled their robes; these will come with me, dressed in white, since they deserve it. 5 The victor will be dressed in white and I will never erase his name from the book of life; instead, I will acknowledge it before my Father and his angels.

6 Let anyone who has ears listen to what the Spirit says to the Churches.'

非拉德非雅教會

7 你致書給非拉德非雅教會的天使：那聖潔、真實、握有達味鑰匙，開了無人能關，關了無人能開的那位說：

8 我知道你的作為。看！我剛在你面前敞開了一扇再也無人能關得了的門。你能力雖小，但你遵守我的話，沒有背棄我的名。9 我要交給你幾個自稱猶太人而實非猶太人的人，他們是騙子，是撒旦的信徒。我要使他們來你這裏，跪在你腳前，為叫他們看到我愛你。

10 你遵守我的訓導以保持堅忍。因而在全世界和普天下的人接受考驗的時刻，我必保全你。11 我很快就來了，你要秉持住你已有的，免得讓人奪走你的榮冠。

12 勝利的人，我要使他成為我天主聖殿的柱子，頂立不動。我要在他身上刻上我天主之名，從天上我天主那裏降下的我天主之城，即新耶路撒冷的名號，以及我的新名。13 有耳的，應來聽聽聖神向各教會說的話！

勞狄刻雅教會

14 你致書給勞狄刻雅教會天使：那位“阿們”，忠信實在的見證者，天主造世的初始，說：

15 我知道你的作為，你不冷又不熱。我倒希望你或冷或熱！16 而你像溫水，不冷也不熱，我必要把你從口中吐出。17 你自言道：“我很富裕，富足得什麼也不缺。”你居然看不出你是多麼可悲。你雙目失明，赤身裸體，一貧如洗，真值得可憐。

18 我建議你向我買煉好的金子，為使你富足；再去買白衣穿上，免得赤身裸體使你蒙羞；買藥水滴在你的眼裏，好使你看得清楚。19 對我疼愛的人，加以責備管教，所以你要發奮努力，徹底悔改。

20 看！我正站在門外敲門；凡聽到我聲，給我開門的，我進他家去，和他共進晚餐，他和我共席。21 凡得勝者，我要賜他和我同坐在我的寶座上，正如我得勝了，和我父一起坐在他的寶座上一樣。

22 願有耳的，應來聽聽聖神向各教會說的話！

Church of Philadelphia

7 Write this to the angel of the Church in Philadelphia, ‘Thus says he who is holy and true, who holds the key of David; if he opens, nobody shuts and if he shuts nobody opens.

8 I know your worth; I have opened a door before you, which nobody can close, because you have kept my Word and not renounced me, in spite of your lack of power. 9 I am giving you some of the synagogue of Satan who calls themselves Jews but they are only liars. I will make them fall at your feet and recognize that I have loved you.

10 Because you have kept my words with patient endurance, I, for my part, will keep you safe in the hour of trial that is coming upon the whole world, to test the people of the earth. 11 I am coming soon; hold fast to what you have, lest anyone take your crown.

12 I will make the victor into a column in the sanctuary of my God where he will stay forever. I will write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down from my God in heaven, and my own new name. 13 Let anyone who has ears listen to what the Spirit says to the Churches.’

Church of Laodicea

14 Write this to the angel of the Church in Laodicea, ‘Thus says the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God’s creation:

15 I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were cold or hot! 16 You are lukewarm, neither hot nor cold so I will spit you out of my mouth. 17 You think you are rich and have piled up so much that you need nothing, but you do not realize that you are wretched and to be pitied, poor, blind and naked.

18 I advise you to buy from me gold that has been tested by fire, so that you may be rich and white clothes to wear so that your nakedness may not shame you, and ointment for your eyes that you may see. 19 I reprimand and correct all those I love. Be earnest and change your ways.

20 Look, I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my call and open the door, I will come in to you and have supper with you and you with me. 21 I will let the victor sit with me on my throne just as I was victorious and took my place with my Father on his throne.

22 Let anyone who has ears listen to what the Spirit says to the Churches.’

天上的戰爭

12⁷ 天上發生一場鬥爭，彌額爾和他的天使向巨龍挑戰，巨龍和它的使者起來應戰，⁸ 結果巨龍被擊敗，從此失去了在天上的地位。⁹ 巨龍被摔了下去。這就是遠古那條名叫魔鬼或撒殫的蛇，是它欺騙了整個大地的。所以它被摔到地上，它的使者也一起給摔了下來。

10 這時候，我聽見天上有洪亮的聲音宣告：

“看！我們天主的救恩、

威能和王權、

及他默西亞的權柄開始了。

因為那日夜不停地在我們天主面前控告我們弟兄的，

現在都要被摔下去。

11 他們借羔羊之血，和他們所見證的真道戰勝了那條龍。甚至他們願意犧牲自己的生命。

12 諸天和住在其中的居民，

你們歡欣鼓舞吧！

但是大地和海洋，你們有禍了！

因為魔鬼降到你們那裏去，

他的怒氣很盛，因為他知道自己時間有限。”

新天新地

21¹ 我看見了嶄新的天和嶄新的地，因為以往的天和地都已消失，海洋也不見了。

2 我看見聖城新耶路撒冷從天上，由天主那兒降下，好像為迎候新郎而裝扮自己的新娘。³ 我聽見從寶座傳來的宏亮聲音說：“這就是天主在人間的帳幕；他要在人間有一個住所，與人同住，他們要成為他的子民，而他，要親自作‘與他們同在’的天主。

4 他要為他們拭去所有的眼淚；今後不再有死亡，也不再有任何哀悼、痛苦和呼號，因為以往的事都已過去了。”⁵ 坐於寶座的那位說：“看！我使一切更新了。”又說：“你要記下來，因為這些話都是真實又可信的。”

War in heaven

12⁷ War broke out in heaven with Michael and his angels battling with the dragon. The dragon fought back with his angels,⁸ but they were defeated and lost their place in heaven.⁹ The great dragon, the ancient serpent known as the devil or Satan, seducer of the whole world, was thrown out. He was hurled down to earth, together with his angels.

10 Then I heard a loud voice from heaven:

Now has salvation come,

with the power and the kingdom of our God,

and the rule of his anointed.

For our brothers' accuser has been cast out,

who accused them night and day, before God.

11 *They conquered him by the blood of the Lamb*

and by the word of their testimony,

for they gave up their lives going to death.

12 *Rejoice, therefore, O you heavens*

and you who dwell in them;

but woe to you, earth and sea,

for the devil has come to you in anger

knowing that he has but a little time.

New heaven and new earth

21¹ Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The first heaven and the first earth had passed away and no longer was there any sea.

² I saw the new Jerusalem, the holy city coming down from God, out of heaven, adorned as a bride prepared for her husband.³ A loud voice came from the throne, “Here is the dwelling of God among mortals: *He will pitch his tent among them and they will be his people; he will be God-with-them.*

⁴ He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There shall be no more death or mourning, crying out or pain, for the world that was has passed away.⁵ The One seated on the throne said, ‘See, I make all things new.’

And then he said to me, “Write these words because they are sure and

6 他又對我說：“完成了！我是‘阿耳法’和‘敖默加’元始和終結。
7 我要將生命的水白白地賜給口渴的人喝。勝利的人可享受這些福份；我要做他的天主，他要成為我的兒子。

8 不過，那些懦弱、不忠、卑鄙、殺人、淫蕩、行邪術，拜偶像、以及所有撒謊的人，他們的地方就是那燃著硫磺的火池。這是第二次的死亡。”

22 6 天使又對我說：“這些話都是真實又可信的。賞賜先知神恩的上主天主派了他的使者，把必會很快發生的事指示給眾僕人。”

7 “是的，我很快要來了！凡遵守這書卷上預言的人都有福了！”

主耶穌，請降來

8 我若望聽見、也看見了這一切。聽完這些後，我俯伏在指示我這一切的天使腳前，要朝拜他；9 他卻對我說：“萬不可這樣，我和你，你的弟兄，眾先知，以及所有遵守本書預言的人同為僕人。你只該朝拜天主。”

10 然後他又說：“不用把這書上的預言密封了，因為時候臨近了。11 讓不義的繼續不義，污穢的仍舊污穢，行義的仍然行義，聖潔的繼續聖潔吧。

12 我很快就來了！我帶來賞報，按各人的行為還報各人。13 我是‘阿耳法’和‘敖默加’，最初和最末，元始和終結。

14 洗淨衣服的人有福了！他們有權獲享生命樹的果子，並能由大門進入城裏。15 但是狗畜、行巫術、犯邪淫、殺人、拜偶像的和一切喜愛撒謊和虛妄的人全都被留在城外。

16 我，耶穌派遣我的使者來給你們在關於教會的這些事上作見證。我出於達味家族，是他的苗裔，我是那顆明亮的晨星。”

20 為一切作見證的那位說：“的確，我很快要來了！”阿門。主耶穌，來吧！

21 願主耶穌的恩寵與你們眾人同在！阿門。

true.”

⁶And he said to me: It is already done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I myself will give the thirsty to drink without cost from the fountain of living water. ⁷Thus the winner will be rewarded: *For him I shall be God and he will be my son.*

⁸As for cowards, traitors, depraved, murderers, adulterers, sorcerers, and idolaters—all those who live in falsehood, their place is the lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.’

22 ⁶Then the angel said to me, ‘These words are sure and true; the Lord God who inspires the prophets has sent his angel to show his servants what must happen soon.’

⁷‘I am coming soon! Happy are those who keep the prophetic words of this book.’

Come, Lord Jesus

⁸I, John, saw and heard all this. When I had seen and heard them I fell at the feet of the angel who had shown me everything, to worship him. ⁹But he said; ‘No, I am a fellow servant like you and your brothers, the prophets, and those who heed the words of this book. It is God you must worship.’

¹⁰He then said to me: ‘Do not keep secret the prophetic words of this book because the time is near. ¹¹‘Let the sinner continue to sin and the defiled remain in his defilement; let the righteous continue to do what is right and he who is holy grow holier.’

¹²‘I am coming soon, bringing with me the salary I will pay to each one according to his deeds. ¹³I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.’

¹⁴Happy are those who wash their robes for they will have free access to the tree of Life and enter the city through the gates. ¹⁵Outside are the dogs, sorcerers, the immoral, murderers, idolaters and all who take pleasure in falsehood!

¹⁶‘I, Jesus, sent my angel to make known to you these revelations concerning the Churches. I am the Shoot and Offspring of David, the radiant Morning Star.’

²⁰He who has declared all this says: ‘Yes, I am coming soon.’
Amen! Come, Lord Jesus.

²¹May the grace of the Lord Jesus be with you all.