

Everyone's APOCALYPSE

A Reflection and Prayer Guide

SECOND, REVISED EDITION



Donal A. McIlraith, SSC



**SAINT PAUL
SEMINARY PRESS**

SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA • 2024

Cover image: The Lamb and His Espoused Wife on Mt. Zion, Beatus Apocalypse,
as below

Cover design: Judy Gilats

© 2024 Fr. Donal A. McIlraith

Saint Paul Seminary Press is a registered trademark of The Saint Paul Seminary.
All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations are from the Revised Standard Version Bible, © 1946, 1952,
and 1971 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America.
Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

The illustrations are from the *Beatus of Liebana Commentary on the Apocalypse*, Códice
de Fernando I y Dña. Sancha, Biblioteca Nacional de España, Madrid (VITR/14/2).
Used with permission.

The first edition was published in 1995 by the Pacific Regional Seminary in Suva, Fiji,
under ISBN: 978-982-342-001-1

Nihil obstat

Reverend Tupouniua Tutoe, STD

Imprimatur

Most Reverend Peter Loy Chong, STD

Archdiocese of Suva

May 1, 2024

Published 2024 by

Saint Paul Seminary Press

2260 Summit Ave., Saint Paul, Minnesota 55105

Library of Congress Control Number: 2024941255

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2024941255>

ISBN: 978-1-953936-11-0 (paperback)

ISBN: 978-1-953936-61-5 (ebook)

spspress.com

CONTENTS

Dedication *iii*

Preface to the Second, Revised Edition *ix*

Introduction

- The Apocalypse: A Book about Jesus and his Bride 3
The Marriage of the Lamb: The Final Symbol of the Apocalypse 7
Prologue (1:1-3) 11

Apocalypse Part One Jesus and the Churches

- Chapter One:* The Opening Vision of Christ (1:4-20) 15
Chapter Two: The Messages to the Seven Churches (2:1-3:22) 26

Apocalypse Part Two The Marriage of the Lamb

- Chapter Three:* Throne and Lamb (4:1-5:14) 61
Chapter Four: The Seals (6:1-7:17) 72
Chapter Five: The Seventh Seal. The Seven Trumpets (8:1-11:14) 86
Chapter Six: The Seventh Trumpet. The Three Signs (11:15-16:16) 109
Chapter Seven: The Seventh Bowl.
Harlot Babylon—the Lamb—New Jerusalem Bride (16:17-22:21) 145
Epilogue: The Closing Liturgy (22:6-21) 187

Appendices and Bibliography

- Appendix A.* Apocalypse and Prophecy 193
Appendix B. Old Testament References in the Apocalypse 197
Appendix C. Interpreting the Apocalypse.
The Wife's Own Hermeneutic 203
Appendix D. Ways of Interpreting the Apocalypse 205
Appendix E. Letters and Numbers: Gematria/Isopsephy 209
Appendix F. Detailed Outline of the Book of Revelation 211
Bibliography 215

- Index of Subjects 219
Index of Scripture References 233