

### 3 Keys to Interpreting Visions

1. **The Vision experience is to be taken seriously.**
2. **You can't describe that which is indescribable.**
3. **Recognize the transforming power of a vision on both the seer and the readers.**
  - a. **Robert Mulholland**, *“To attempt to understand the vision within the parameters of the normal world is either to tame and domesticate the vision as an instrument of the status quo or to dismiss it as abnormal.”*
  - b. **Amos Wilder**, *“To submit the prophets and the evangelist to the constraints of our critical methods is like trying to put lightning into a matchbox...the rights of the Spirit and the imagination are equally frustrated when we try to turn such books as Daniel and Revelation into blue prints.”*

### The World of the Text

1. **Revelation is classified as Apocalyptic Literature**
2. **Purpose is not just to tell future, but to get you to see things differently.**
  - a. **Eugene Boring**, *“Response to Revelation is an expression of faith in the faithfulness of God in a situation which gives no indication of it in this world; it is faith's “nevertheless” when “therefore” makes no sense.”*
3. **Also Revelation is a Pastoral Letter**

### Interpreting Revelation

1. **We Can Disagree on How we Interpret this Book!**
  - a. **Justin Martyr** in Dialogue with Trypho, *“I am not so miserable a fellow, Trypho, as to say one thing and think another. I admitted to your formerly, that I and many others are of this opinion (Premillennialism) and believe that such will take place, as you assuredly are aware; but on the other hand, I signified to you that many who belong to the pure and pious faith and are true Christians, think otherwise.”*
  - b. **Chuck Lee**: *“A people brought together by a fact of the past, in order to be in fellowship in the present, should not divide themselves over a question of the future.”*

