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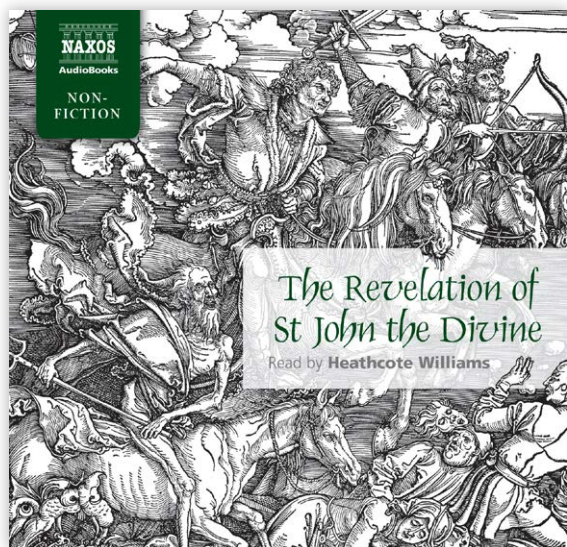
The Revelation of St John the Divine

Read by **Heathcote Williams**

The theme of *Revelation* is apocalypse: the end of the world and the coming of Christ in judgement. The date of the composition was probably some time in the nineties AD. One of the most controversial and quoted texts of the *New Testament*, *The Revelation of St John the Divine* has inspired and troubled artists, poets and seers through the ages.



As poet, playwright and actor, **Heathcote Williams** has made a significant contribution to many fields. He is best known for his extended poems on environmental subjects, *Whale Nation* (1988), *Falling for a Dolphin* (1988), *Sacred Elephant* (1989) and *Autogeddon* (1991). But his plays have also won acclaim, notably *AC/DC*, produced at London's Royal Court, and *Hancock's Last Half Hour*. As an actor he has been equally versatile – among his most memorable roles was Prospero in Derek Jarman's film of *The Tempest*.



1	The Revelation of St John the Divine	5:13
2	What John was Commanded to Write to the Seven Churches	9:39
3	John's Vision: The Book Sealed with Seven Seals	12:07
4	The Opening of the Seventh Seal	12:33
5	War in Heaven	7:11
6	The Hour of God's Judgement is Come	5:53
7	Babylon the Great is Fallen	8:42
8	King of Kings and Lord of Lords	4:20
9	The Book of Life	2:46
10	The New Jerusalem	10:45

The music on this recording is taken from the **NAXOS** catalogue

BRITTEN WAR REQUIEM
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Russell/Randle/Volle/
BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra/
Martyn Brabbins, Conductor

The author is not the John who wrote the Gospel. The theme of *Revelation* is apocalypse: the end of the world and the coming of Christ in judgment. The style and imagery have been unkindly described as 'deranged' (A.N. Wilson), and they are certainly unlike anything else in the *New Testament*. It should be remembered, however, that for the earliest Christians the Second Coming was expected at any time and in any case in the very near future. *Revelation* is the work of a prophet, and is a unique part of the *New Testament* canon. It bears vivid witness to this sense of an apocalyptic atmosphere and undoubtedly possesses a terrible beauty. The author is on the island of Patmos and addresses the seven churches of Asia Minor. The date of composition is likely to be some time in the nineties AD.

Notes by Perry Keenlyside

Total running time: 79:17 • 1 CD

This recording was taken from *The New Testament* (NA611312) read by Rev. Hugh Dickinson/Heathcote Williams/Dermot Kerrigan/Edward de Souza
Abridged by Perry Keenlyside.
Produced by Nicolas Soames.
Post production: Andy Karamallakis, Paul Libson Audio Services.
Engineer (speech): Alan Smyth, Bucks Audio Recordings.
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