

## **Abstract**

The aim of this thesis is to describe which figurative means of description are used in the New Testament book of Revelation. This thesis explores their origin and function within the visions of this book, but also the associations these devices evoke in the minds of readers. It focuses mainly on the categories of metaphor, simile and symbol. Symbols are analysed on the basis of their understanding by Paul Tillich and Paul Ricoeur. Chapters 4 and 5 of the Revelation of John are discussed in detail, the contents of which are the vision of the throne of God and the reception of the sealed scroll by the Lamb. In these chapters we can find figurative descriptions in many different forms – from the more understandable to the less understandable, from static images to events. The second passage discussed is Rev. 9:1–11, which is part of the cycle of the seven trumpets. In it, comparisons are primarily analysed. Attention is given to references to the Old Testament and to other Jewish texts, as well as to John's contemporary context within Greco-Roman culture. The aim is to find out what leads readers over the centuries to be interested in understanding this book, and what enables it to be reinterpreted again and again.