

Key: E

Genre: Blues

Harp Type: Diatonic

Skill: Beginner

John the Revelator

John the Revelator (in CROSSHARP)

Recorded and Performed by Blind Willie Johnson

Recorded in the Key of E Major Vocal Range: E4 to E5

Tabbed for a key of A Richter tuned diatonic played crosssharp.
(but will likely work with any key Richter tuned diatonic).

Tab notations:

none = blow – = draw __ = hold ~~ = gliss

-3_-4 = slur; slide smoothly from one note to the next

-4___ -4_ 4 -3 4 -4_ -4_ -3 4 -3 4 -4__

Well,_ who's that a-writ-in' (John the Rev-e-la-tor_)

-4_ 4 -3 4 -3_-2 -4_ -3 4 -3 -3 3___

Who's that a-writ-in'_ (John the Rev-e-la-tor_)



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-4_ 4 -3 4 -4_ -4_ -3 4 -3 -4 -4~~-2

Who's that a-writ-in' (John the Rev-e-la-tor___)

6 6 6_3 3 -3 -3_ 3_ -4 -4 -4

A book of_ the sev-en_ seals. Oh, tell me

-4_ 4 -3 4 -4_ -4_ -3 4 -3 4 -4__

what's John a-writ-in' ('Bout the Rev-e-la-tor_)

-4_ 4 -3 4 -4~~-2 -4_ -3 4 -3 -3 -2__

What's John a-writ-in'___ ('Bout the Rev-e-la-tor_)

-4_ 4 -3 4 -4 -4 -3 4 -3 -4 -4~~-2

What's John a-writ-in' ('Bout the Rev-e-la-tor___)

6 6 6_3 3 -3 -3 3_____

A book of_ the sev-en seals._

3 3 -3_4 -3_4 -3_-2__ 4 -3 4 -3 4 4_-3_-2__

Well, a-whoa-ooa_ Babe___ thou-sand cried, "A ho-ly,_____

4 -3 4 4-3 -2__ 4 -3 4_-3 3_____

moun-tain of bal-sam, Son of our_ God,_

-4 -4 -3 4-3 -2__ -4 -4 -3 -4_ 3

Daugh-ter of Zi-on,_ Ju-dah the li-on,



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6 6 6 6 -4 -3 4 -3 4 -3 -2 4 4 -3

the Re-deem-er said He brought us with the blood. A-tell me

-4_ 4 -3 4 -4_ -4_ -3 4 -3 4 -4__

who's that a-writ-in' (John the Rev-e-la-tor_)

-4_ 4 -3 4 -3_-2 -4_ -3 4 -3 -3 -2__

Who's that a-writ-in' (John the Rev-e-la-tor_)

-4_ 4 -3 4 -4_ -4_ -3 4 -3 -4 -4~~-2

Who's that a-writ-in' (John the Rev-e-la-tor___)

6 6 6_3 3 -3 -3_ 3_

A book of_ the sev-en seals.____

3 3 -4 4 -3 4 -4_ -4_ -3 4 -3 4 -4__

Well, a-what's John a-writ-in' ('Bout the Rev-e-la-tor_)

-4_ 4 -3 4 -4~~-2 -4_ -3 4 -3 -3 -2__

What's John a-writ-in'___ ('Bout the Rev-e-la-tor_)

-4_ 4 -3 4 -4 -4 -3 4 -3 -4 -4~~-2

What's John a-writ-in' ('Bout the Rev-e-la-tor___)

6 6 6_3 3 -3 -3 3_____

A book of_ the sev-en seals._



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3 4 -3_ 4 -3 4 4-3-2___ 4 -3 4 4_-3 -2___

Well, John the Rev-e-la-tor,___ straight ad-vo-ca__-tor, _

4 -3 4_-3 3_ -4 -4 -3 4-3 3___

catch 'em on__ the bat-tle of Zi_-on, __

-3 -4 -4 -4 -4 3 -4 -4 -4 -4_3 3 4 -3

Oh, tell them the sto-ry, right in the glo_-ry of God,

6_ -4 -3 -4 6 -4 -3___

Lord, to so love Him from high.

4 -3 -4_ 4 -3 4 -4_ -4_ -3 4 -3 4 -4___

Tell me who's that a-writ-in' (John the Rev-e-la-tor_)

-4_ 4 -3 4 -3_-2 -4_ -3 4 -3 -3 3___

Who's that a-writ-in' (John the Rev-e-la-tor)

-4_ 4 -3 4 -4_ -4_ -3 4 -3 -4 -4~~-2

Who's that a-writ-in' (John the Rev-e-la-tor___)

6 6 6_3 3 -3 -3_ 3_

A book of_ the sev-en seals. ___

3 3 -4 4 -3 4 -4_ -4_ -3 4 -3 4 -4___

Well, a-what's John a-writ-in' ('Bout the Rev-e-la-tor_)



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-4_ 4 -3 4 -4~~-2 -4_ -3 4 -3 -3 3__

What's John a-writ-in'___ ('Bout the Rev-e-la-tor)

-4_ 4 -3 4 -4 -4 -3 4 -3 -4 -4~~-2

What's John a-writ-in' ('Bout the Rev-e-la-tor___)

6 6 6_3 3 -3 -3 3_____

A book of_ the sev-en seals._

-3 4 4 -3 4 -3__ 4 4 -3 4_____

Well, Mos-es to Mos_-es, watching the flock,

4 -3 4 4 -3 4 -3 3

saw the bush, where they had to stop.

4 4 4 -3 4 4 -3 4

God told Moses, pull off his_ shoes,

4 4 -3 4 4 4 -3 3__

"Out of the flock, well you are Jews."

-4 -4 -4_ 4 -3 4 -4_ -4_ -3 4 -3 4 -4__

Tell me, who's that a-writ-in' (John the Rev-e-la-tor_)

-4_ 4 -3 4 -3_-2 -4_ -3 4 -3 -3 3__

Who's that a-writ-in'_(John the Rev-e-la-tor_)



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6 6 6_3 3 -3 -3_ 3_ -4 -4 -4

A book of_ the sev-en_ seals. Oh, tell me

-4 4 -3 4 -4_ -4_ -3 4 -3 4 -4__

what's John a-writ-in' ('Bout the Rev-e-la-tor_)

-4_ 4 -3 4 -4~~-2 -4_ -3 4 -3 -3 3__

What's John a-writ-in'___ ('Bout the Rev-e-la-tor_)

-4_ 4 -3 4 -4 -4 -3 4 -3 -4 -4~~-2

What's John a-writ-in' ('Bout the Rev-e-la-tor___)

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A book of_ the sev-en seals._

3 3 -3_4 -3_4 -3_3__ 4 -3 4 -3 4 4_-3_-2__

Well, a-whoa-ooa_ Babe__ thou-sand cried, "A ho-ly,_____

4 -3 4 4-3 3__ 4 -3 4_-3 3_____

moun-tain of bal-sam, Son of our_ God,_

-4 -4 -3 4-3 3__ -4 -4 -3 -4_ 3

Daugh-ter of Zi_-on, Ju-dah the li_-on,



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American gospel-blues musician Blind Willie Johnson recorded John the Revelator in 1930 as a vocal Duet with Willie B. Harris, who sang the response portion of the song. Considered one of the most influential and powerful songs in all of pre-World War II acoustic music, it has been hugely influential to subsequent blues performers. A variety of artists have recorded their renditions of the song, often with variations in the verses and music.

Lyrics



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