

An Introduction to The Book of Revelation

Introduction:

The book of Revelation is, most likely, the single most spoken book of all time. Many have been puzzled by it. The content of this book is sensational, at least. There have been many authors, speakers, theologians and lay people who have, through the centuries, tried to understand this book and its contents. There are so many things contained in this book - so many different approaches that can be taken when studying it. One could view it for its **historical value**, while others could look at it for its **prophetic contents**. Others, yet, could look at it for its **picturesque descriptions**, and **literacy value**. For the sake of this lesson, we will look at this book for its practical value to the Christian - the way that this book could help the Christian in his everyday life. It is truly amazing how much knowing the end of a situation can help. Many say that hindsight is 20/20. The practical aspect of the book of Revelation is that God has allowed us to view through the **rearview mirror** the world and its conclusion. God used the apostle John to pen this book that, at first glance, seems to be a book of **judgment** and **pain**. John the Apostle (noted as the **loving apostle**), was used by God to pen God's final **love letter** to His people. God's desire in writing this book certainly must have been to give the Christians incentive to **reach the lost** for Him and to warn them of their impending doom. Perhaps it was also to give them the confidence that God is in charge. We truly are escaping a violent horrible existence by following God

I. The **vision of Jesus (Revelation 1)**

John was introduced and then he explained that God allowed him to see a vision. The vision that he saw was of Jesus. What a tremendous thing with which to begin! The Savior of all mankind, standing in majesty before John, with power and strength. What a view John had of Jesus and his royalty! Jesus was standing in the midst of seven gold candlesticks with seven stars in his hand. These are further revealed to represent the churches. What a beautiful picture of Jesus keeping watch over his churches.

II. The **church is addressed (Revelation 2-3)**

Jesus began to speak to the churches, and as He did, He addressed the various and sundry problems a church may have. Though He addressed seven churches, His warnings and praises can be applied to all churches everywhere. After addressing each church, he said that all should hear what the spirit stated to each church. May we always learn to listen to what He has for us. It is paramount!

III. The **Tribulation (Revelations 4-19)**

In this section of the book, the church was no longer mentioned. God had moved her out of the way. This is where **I Thessalonians 4:13-18** occurs and the church of Jesus will be raptured out of this world. The happenings described here about the Tribulation **do not** occur to the church - they are simply judgment poured out from the Almighty God onto mankind, lost without Christ. For the first **3 1/2 years** destruction and mayhem will fall. For the next **3 1/2 years**, called the Great Tribulation, violent and vicious attacks descend from Heaven onto the world, who has totally turned its back on God. Woe to those who do not get into the “select group” that will not have to experience that devastation!

IV. The millennium (Revelation 20)

Satan will next be bound in chains cast into the bottom pit for **1,000 years**. The Earth will revert back to the way God intended for her to be. There will be **no sin**. It will be a perfect world, like the garden of Eden from Genesis. God will allow His Son to reign supreme upon this old Earth! Satan will then be released after 1,000 years and again he will **torment the world** and will deceive the nations of the Earth. God will defeat the deceiver and will cast him into his cronies into the Lake of Fire forever. God will judge the people of earth who, because they never allowed their name to be written in the Book of Life, will be cast into the lake of fire.

V. Eternity (Revelations 21-22)

God will create a new heaven and a new earth. He described their glory and beauty and promised peace and tranquility. It will be a life without the horrible effects of sin!

Conclusion:

It is coming! The world will end, and those who refuse Jesus will end up in hell. We should glean from this book the realization that **Hell is real**, and all who reject Christ will spend their eternity there! Those who accept Christ will spend eternity in heaven, missing the judgment that will befall the Earth, as described in the book of Revelation.

Information about the Book of Revelation

Date Written: **Uncertain**; according to traditional opinion about **AD 96**.

The Place: Probably the Isle of **Patmos**, off of the western coast of Asia Minor, where John was banished because he bore record of the Word of God and of the testimony of Jesus Christ.”

Revelation 1:2

Purpose: To give Hope to Christians, especially those who suffer, by revealing Jesus Christ as the ultimate victorious King of Kings and Lord of Lords in **Revelation 19:16**. The book manifests its own **AUTHORITY** by declaring itself to be the revelation of Jesus Christ in **Revelations 1:1**.

To whom written: The seven churches of Asia Minor. **Ephesus**, **Smyrna**, **Pergamus**, **Thyatira**, **Sardis**, **Philadelphia**, and **Laodicea**.

Main Theme: Although this book has often been neglected because of its mysterious character, yet there are many viewpoints from which it may be profitably studied without any attempt at dogmatic or arbitrary interpretation. If the book is written in code, we make no claim of having discovered a key that will unlock all its mysteries. We simply suggest the following as a profitable subject to study and a suggested theme of the book: **The moral and spiritual conflict of the ages**.

Key Words: Revelation of Jesus Christ (**Revelation 1:1**)

1. **God** - “God” occurs **98** times in Revelation, and is found in every chapter of the book.
2. **Lamb** - occurs **28** times in Revelation, The most common name for Jesus in Revelation,
3. **Behold** - The particular term, “behold” or “look” is found almost **30** times.
4. **Throne** - The word “throne” is found 46 times in Revelation. The Lamb is on the throne His rightful place according to the book of Revelation.
5. **Overcome** - This word is found **17** times in Revelation. We are “more than conquerors” through Him who loved us (Rom. 8:37-39).
6. **Satan** (Dragon, Devil) - These expressions occur some **30** times in the book. We would never stand a chance against such a formidable foe were it not for the Lamb of God (Rev. 12:11).
7. **Nations** - This word is found **22** times in Revelation. The Lord’s people consist of folk from every tribe, tongue, people and nation (Rev. 5:8-14). The gospel is for all!

Key Verses:

Revelation 1:19 Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter;

Revelation 19:11-16

11 And **I** saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him *was* called **Faithful and True**, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

12 His eyes *were* as a flame of fire, and on **his head** *were* many crowns; and he had **a name** written, that no man knew, but he himself.

13 And he *was* **clothed** with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.

14 And the armies *which were* in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.

15 And out of his mouth goeth **a sharp sword**, that with it **he should smite the nations**: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

16 And he hath on *his* vesture and on his thigh a name written, **KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS**.

Prominent People:

- **The Lamb** of God
- **4** Living Creatures
- **24 Elders**
- **144,000 Jews**
- The **Two** Witnesses
- Satan
- Beast
- The **False** Prophet
- The Great **Harlot**
- Angels of Heaven
- Saints of Heaven
- John the **Apostle**