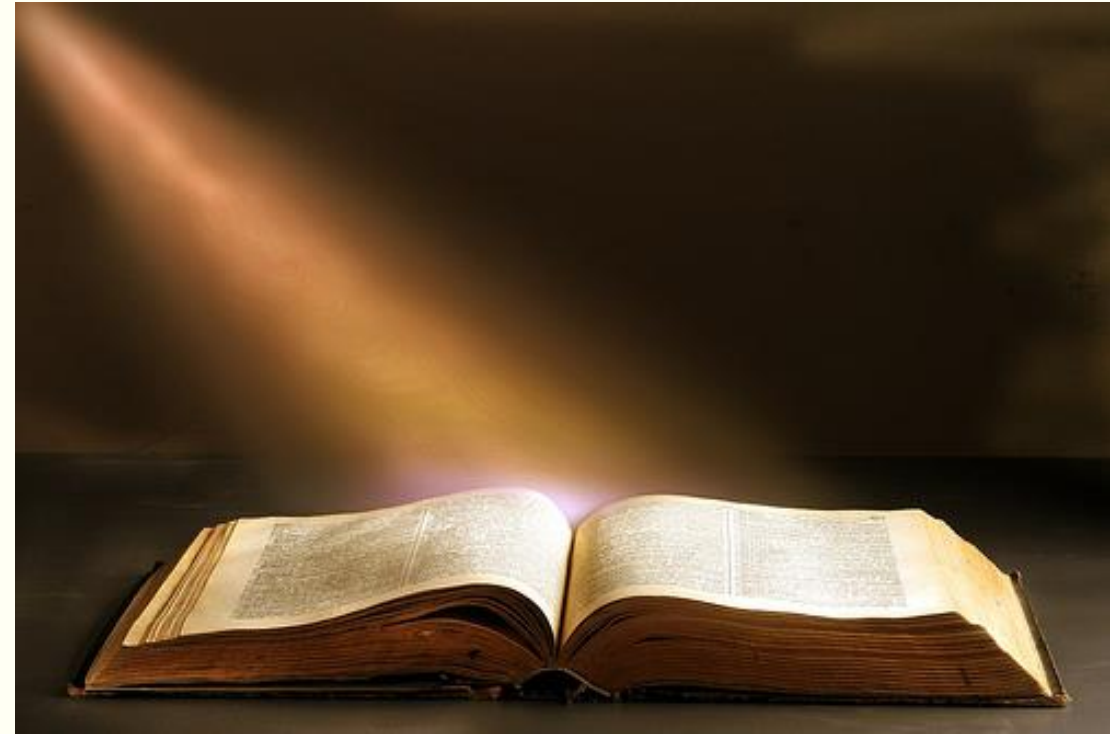




Exploring the Book of Revelation: Verse by Verse

Introduction



Introduction to the Book of Revelation

- Early manuscript titled: “ The Apocalypse of John”
- Later manuscripts changed it to reflect the first verse, “The Revelation of Jesus Christ”
- Jesus is the Central Figure of the book
- It is a revelation both from and about Jesus
- Greek word – apocalypse – translated “revelation” meaning “unveiling”
- Strongly associated with the book of Daniel for its similarity in literary genre
- Though the exact “John” is not specified, there are many parallels of language with the Gospel of John (Word of God, Lamb, “those that pierced Him”, tabernacle, etc.)



Approaches used to study the book of Revelation

- **Preterism**
 - With a focus on the past
 - Limited approach – there are future events beyond John's day
- **Futurism**
 - With a focus on the future
 - Limited approach – there are events that precede end times
- **Idealism**
 - With a focus on the ideas in the book
 - Limited approach – can ignore global, historical and political
- **Historicism**
 - With a focus on the flow of history
 - Views Revelation as a full range of Christian history and prophetic outline from John's day until the 2nd coming
 - Balanced approach (Rev 1:19)



Introduction to the Book of Revelation

- Imperial Rome tries to stamp out Christianity
- Heavy persecution falls on the early church. Hardship and pressure from refusal to comply with popular demands for emperor worship
- All the Apostles have been put to death except John
- Critical time as the struggling churches were in spiritual decline and apostasy
- John's leadership, influence and encouragement is desperately needed and yet taken away
- Appears the enemies of the church will be victorious
- God places John where He could give him visions of the future to bring hope, guidance and encouragement to the church
- Instructed to write on a scroll and send as a pastoral letter to the churches in Asia



John's banishment – Island of Patmos

- John departed Palestine before the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD
- Settled in Ephesus
- Rugged island (10 x 6 miles). Part of the Aegean Sea
- Off the coast of modern-day Turkey
- Desolate, barren, rocky, treeless
- Roman banished exiles to hard labor in the quarries
- Written during Roman Emperor Domitian (81 – 96 AD)
- Christians regarded as criminals
- Apostle John (100 years old) in exile for 18 months on Patmos in 95 AD
- He returned to Ephesus under Nerva in 96 AD
- Fourth Gospel (Book of John) written after Revelation



Introduction to the Book of Revelation

- Cities where these churches were located form a rough circle with about 50-mile radius across Western Turkey
- Listed in Revelation in clockwise order beginning with Ephesus in the southwest
- Revelation is a book of divine origin
- Symbolic language - symbols chosen by God
- Not abstract language but **pictorial**
- Received from God to John through visions
- Filled with incidents, thoughts, language, allusions, phrases, names from the Old Testament (278 out of 404 verses)
- Apocalyptic language to express God's control of the future and the affairs of our world, the broad sweep of history and the end of the great universal conflict between God and Satan



Is Revelation a closed (sealed) book?

Book of Daniel

- Visions given to Daniel
- Apocalyptic and symbolic
- “But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and **seal the book** until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase.” (Dan 12:4)
- “And he said, “Go your way, Daniel, for the words are **closed up and sealed** till the time of the end.” (Dan 12:9)

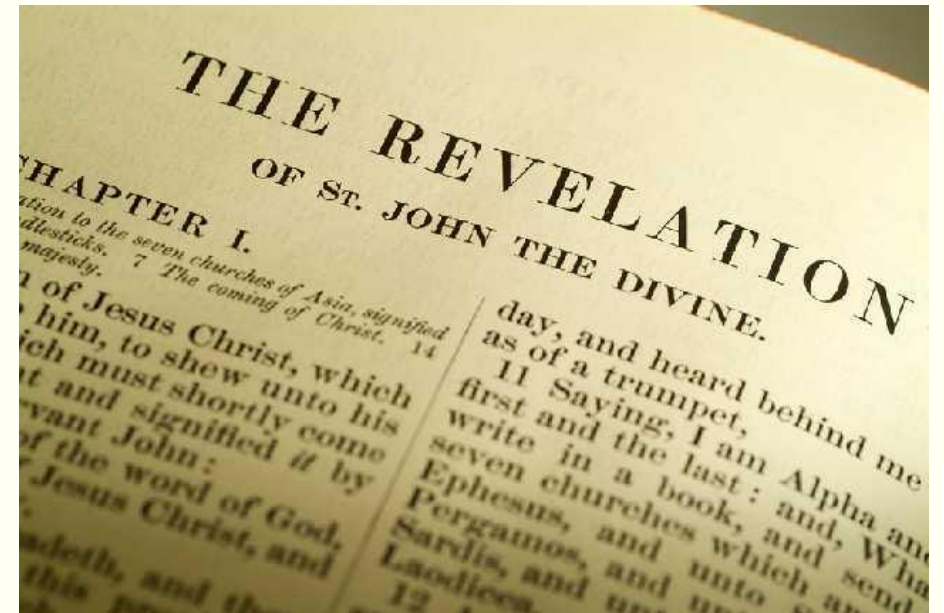
Book of Revelation

- Visions given to John
- Apocalyptic and symbolic
- “The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to **show His servants**—things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John.” (Rev 1:1)
- “And he said to me, “**Do not seal** the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand.” (Rev 22:10)

Bible Commentary, Vol 7, page 953

“The whole Bible is a revelation; for all revelation to men comes through Christ, and all centers in Him. God has spoken unto us by His Son, whose we are by creation and by redemption. Christ came to John exiled on the Isle of Patmos to give him the truth for these last days, to show him that which must shortly come to pass.

Jesus Christ is the great trustee of divine revelation. It is through Him that we have a knowledge of what we are to look for in the closing scenes of this earth’s history. God gave this revelation to Christ, and Christ communicated the same to John.”

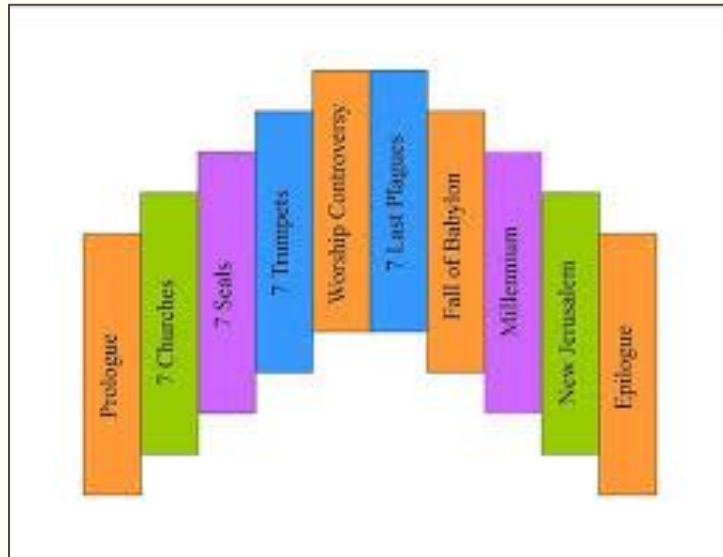




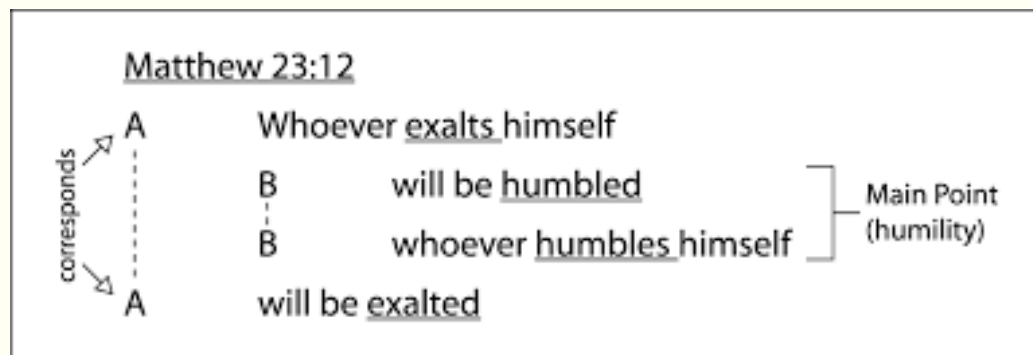
HERMENEUTICS: “To interpret”
EXEGESIS: “To draw out”

We need to study what the text meant for the time it was written AND what it means for us today

Chiastic Structure of Revelation



- Much of Revelation is symbolic interpretations
 - The form used in writing Revelation is called Chiasm
- A-B-C-B-A order**
- Derived from Greek cross-shaped letter X
 - Inverted parallelism - parallel sections are tied together
 - First half (Rev Chapters 1-11): Historical
 - Second half (Rev Chapters 14-22): Eschatological



**Eschatology refers to
theology concerned with the
final events in the history of
the world**

Chiastic Structure of Revelation

- Prologue (Rev 1:1-8)
 - Promises to the overcomer (Rev 1:9 – Rev 3:22)
 - God's work for humanity's salvation (Rev 4 – Rev 8:1)
 - God's wrath mixed with mercy (Rev 8:2 – Rev 9:21)
 - Commissioning John to prophesy (Rev 10 – Rev 11:18)
 - Great controversy between Christ and Satan (Rev 11:19 – Rev 13:18)
 - Church proclaims the end-time gospel (Rev 14:1-20)
 - God's final wrath unmixed with mercy (Rev 15 – Rev 18:24)
 - God's work for humanity's salvation completed (Rev 19 – Rev 21:4)
 - Fulfillment of the promises to the overcomer (Rev 21:5 – Rev 22:5)
- Epilogue (Rev 22:6-21)

Sanctuary typology tapestry - backdrop to Revelation



Prologue: Rev 1: 1-8	
Introductory Sanctuary Scene	Sevens
Lampstands (Rev 1:9-20)	7 Churches (Rev 2-3)
Throne in Heaven: Inauguration of Heavenly Sanctuary (Rev 4-5)	7 Seals (Rev 6:1-8:1)
Altar of Incense: Intercession in Heavenly Sanctuary (Rev 8:2-6)	7 Trumpets (Rev 8:7-11:8)
Ark of Covenant: Judgment in Heavenly Sanctuary (Rev 11:19)	7 Cosmic conflict scenes (Rev 12:1-15:4)
Heavenly Sanctuary closes (Rev 15:5-8)	7 Plagues
Doxology in Heaven (Rev 19:1-10)	7 Cosmic conflict concluding scenes (Rev 19:11-20:15)
Tabernacle of God with men (Rev 21:1-8)	7 Wonders of the New Jerusalem
Epilogue: Rev 22: 6-21	

Feasts typology tapestry - backdrop to Revelation

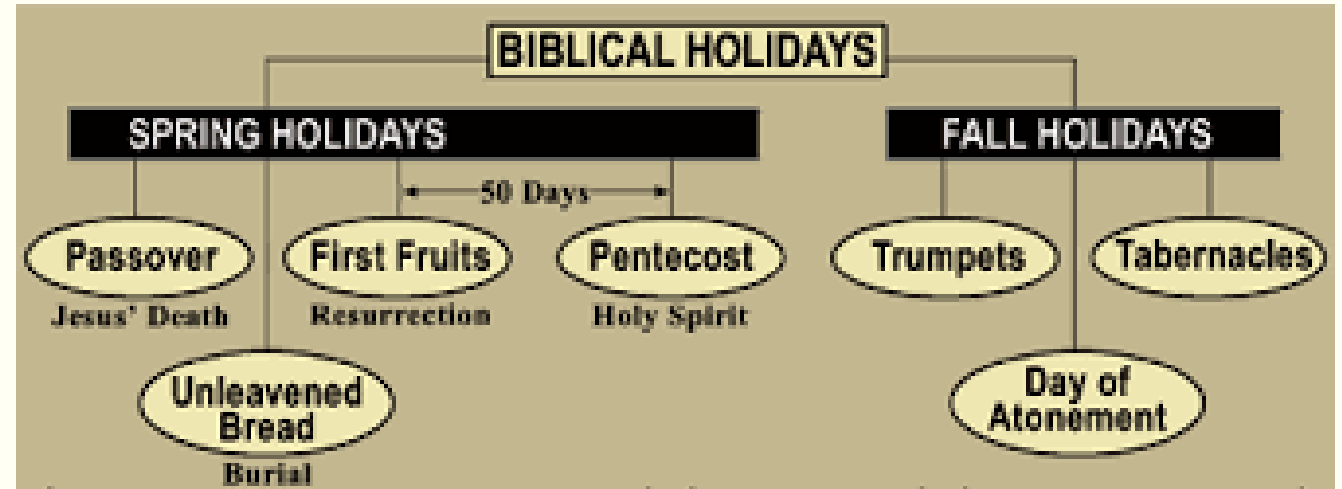
- Holy Place

- First three scenes

- ❖ Passover
- ❖ Pentecost
- ❖ Feasts of Trumpets

- Most Holy Place

- 4th and 5th scenes
- Yom Kippur
- Feast of Tabernacles





REPEAT AND EXPAND

Daniel

Dan 2: Metal man

Dan 7: Four sea beasts

Dan 8: Ram & Goat

Revelation

7 churches - Rev 1-3

7 seals - Rev 6-8

7 trumpets - Rev 8-11

Covers the same time period but each preceding scenario expands with more details

Sources

- Andrews Study Bible: 70 Bible commentators (NKJV)
- Revelation of Jesus Christ – Commentary on the Book of Revelation, **Ranko Stefanovic** (Second Edition)
- An Enduring Vision – Revelation Revealed, **Austin Cooke** (Revised Edition)
- Bible Commentary, Vol 7, **Ellen G White**
- Revelation Pure and Simple, **Kenneth Cox**
- Daniel and the Revelation, **Uriah Smith**
- Hope for the Future - Revelation for Today, **Gene A. Hall**

