

Revelation

The Triumph of the Lamb

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Revelation: The Triumph of the Lamb Introduction

WHAT IS REVELATION

- + **Revelation is the last of the 66 books in the canon of scripture.**

Revelation is the last book that was written to be placed within the canon of scripture.

- + **Revelation is the culmination of the entire Bible**

Revelation brings the entire Bible into perspective

Revelation answers the unanswered questions from the Old Testament.

See Psalm 89*

Revelation Displays:

- The last mention of the early church in the scripture (Rev 1-3)
- Heaven as it currently is (Rev 4-5)
- God's beginning judgments and the Great Tribulation (6-18)
- The Final Battle (Rev 19)
- The Second Coming of Jesus Christ (Rev 19)
- The Millennial Reign of Christ (Rev 20)
- The New Heavens and New Earth (Rev 21-22)

WHO WROTE REVELATION

- + **John**

Revelation 1:9 I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation, kingdom, and endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos because of God's word and the testimony about Jesus.

Which John?

Dionysius, the early church father from the third century objected to traditional John the apostle authorship to Revelation. His argument was based on the grammar style difference in between Revelation and The Gospel of John along with 1-3 John the Epistles.

Most of the Christian Church credits John the disciple of Jesus as the author of the book of Revelation. While this cannot be proven, the evidence heavily favors Johanne authorship.¹

WHEN WAS REVELATION WRITTEN

+ Early Date

AD 69 is the date some see as the time of John's Revelation. The problem is that the only ones insisting this date are those whose entire interpretive system is built on an early date:

+ Late Date

AD 95 is the date that is most consistent with church history.

"The external evidence from church history points emphatically to the AD 95 date for the composition of Revelation. It has been the dominant view of the church for 1900 years."²

TO WHOM WAS REVELATION WRITTEN

+ Written to the early churches in Asia Minor

The First three chapters discuss the recipients of revelation in the early church.

+ Written for the church in every age

Just as all scripture, Revelation applies to our day just as it did the early church.

HOW TO STUDY REVELATION

+ Within the Context of the rest of the Bible

Of the 404 verses of Revelation, 278 of the verses give some reference or allusion to the Old Testament.³ Therefore, Revelation should be seen as the culmination of the scripture rather than a stand-alone book.

¹ John Walvoord: Revelation. Page 13

² John Walvoord: Revelation. Page 15

³ Eric Lyons: Apologetics Press. <https://www.apologeticspress.org/apcontent.aspx?category=11&article=886>

+ **Recognizing the differences in Apocalyptic Literature**

Apocalyptic literature is to be read differently than narrative or epistle. Prophecy should be interpreted with a literal meaning unless otherwise designated by the text.

+ **As the Word of God**

In a very vivid account, John receives the vision of Revelation from Jesus himself. Revelation makes it clear it is the Word of God.

Revelation 1:9-11 I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation, kingdom, and endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos because of God's word and the testimony about Jesus. ¹⁰ I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard a loud voice behind me like a trumpet ¹¹ saying, "Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea."

THE DIFFERENT INTERPRETATIONS OF REVELATION

+ **Preterist**

Preterism is interpretive framework which sees the events of Revelation finding fulfillment in the first century. Preterism is built on the idea that all prophecy be fulfilled by AD 70 at the destruction of the temple by the Roman forces. Preterism sees the book of Revelation as a fulfilled prophecy. Some Preterist even go as far to say that Jesus has already returned.

Problem: The overwhelming view of the church has been that John the Apostle wrote Revelation in AD 90s 20+ years after the destruction of the temple in AD 70. It is obvious the second coming did not take place in the first century.

"The Preterist approach interprets Revelation as a description of first-century events in the Roman Empire. This view conflicts with the book's own often-repeated claim to be prophecy (1:3; 22:7, 10, 18, 19) It is impossible to see all the events in Revelation as already fulfilled."⁴

+ **Historicist**

The Historicist interpretation understands the book of Revelation to be a panoramic view of church history. It does acknowledge the

⁴ John MacArthur, Revelation: The Christian's Ultimate Victory. Page 3

prophetic nature of revelation, but it does not see the book as a primarily future prophecy. Historicists see things ranging from the rise of the Roman Catholic Church, the birth of Islam, and the French Revolution.

Problem: Revelation was primarily written to give early believers hope rather than an outline of church history. The Historicist has produced at times bizarre and conflicting interpretations of the book.

+ Idealist

The Idealist interpretation sees Revelation as a spiritual look at good and evil. Idealists interpret Revelation as an allegory, seeing no historical or prophetic portions in the book. Nothing is to be taken literally.

Problem: Revelation claims to be prophecy not allegory.

Revelation 1:3 The one who reads this is blessed, and those who hear the words of this prophecy and keep what is written in it are blessed, because the time is near!

Revelation 22:7 "Look, I am coming quickly! The one who keeps the prophetic words of this book is blessed."

+ Futurist

The futurist interpretation sees the book of Revelation chapters 6-22 as a prophecy of the future. Just as God revealed the future to the ancient prophets of the Old Testament, Revelation is God revealing what will take place in the future during the last days just prior to the second coming of Jesus. The futurist approach is the only approach that can be fully reconciled with the rest of the scriptures.

WHY STUDY REVELATION

+ It gives hope

Revelation reminds readers through all the ages that the Devil will not win. The worldly kingdoms with all their power and might will be brought down through the power of the Lamb's return.

No matter how weak or hopeless the church may look, Revelation is a reminder to the church that God will complete what he started.

“John writes to believers who have lost their spiritual self-confidence. They’ve lost their confidence in God, their faith, and themselves. To restore their confidence, John doesn’t tell them what God has done in the past, as much as he describes what God will do in the future.”⁵

+ **It gives urgency**

Revelation 22:12-21 ¹²“Look! I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me to repay each person according to what he has done. ¹³I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. ¹⁴“Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and may enter the city by the gates. ¹⁵Outside are the dogs, the sorcerers, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices lying. ¹⁶“I, Jesus, have sent My angel to attest these things to you for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright Morning Star.” ¹⁷Both the Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” Anyone who hears should say, “Come!” And the one who is thirsty should come. Whoever desires should take the living water as a gift. ¹⁸I testify to everyone who hears the prophetic words of this book: If anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book. ¹⁹And if anyone takes away from the words of this prophetic book, God will take away his share of the tree of life and the holy city, written in this book. ²⁰He who testifies about these things says, “Yes, I am coming quickly.” Amen! Come, Lord Jesus! ²¹The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen.⁶

+ **It promises blessing**

Revelation is one of the few books in the Bible that promises blessing for the reader. The reader of revelation will be blessed.

Revelation 1:3 The one who reads this is blessed, and those who hear the words of this prophecy and keep what is written in it are blessed, because the time is near!

⁵ Mark Becton: A Confident Peace. Page 348

⁶ *The Holy Bible: Holman Christian standard version*. 2009 (Re 22:1–21). Nashville: Holman Bible Publishers.

Revelation Online is a breathtaking Massive Multiplayer Online Role Playing Game set in the lively, fantasy open world of Nuanor.Â Welcome. Welcome to the official Revelation Online Reddit. Please feel right at home and if you need anything, make sure to let us know! Rules.