

Revelation

Lesson 01: Introduction

(A Book-by-Book Overview of God's Picture Book)

The Title

The Revelation (or Apocalypse) of Jesus Christ
Revelation/Apocalypse –Uncovering

The Author

The author is the Apostle John.
Outlived the other apostles.
Exiled to Patmos
Biblical Evidence that John wrote Revelation.
Revelation 1:1, 4, 9
Non-biblical sources point to John being the author.
Ancient tradition
Extra-biblical writers confirm that John was exiled to Patmos. (Clement of Alexandria, Eusebius)



The Nature of the Message of the Book

The message is of Jesus and from Jesus.
The reader must be able to appreciate figurative language.

Interpreting the Message of the Book

Four methods to interpret Revelation
The Preteristic Method: Revelation is about the past.

The Historical Method: Revelation traces history from the Roman Empire to the second coming of Christ.

The Futuristic Method: Revelation refers that which will transpire just before the second coming of Christ.

The Prophetic-Symbolic Method: Revelation applies to John's time and all periods until the second coming of Christ.

The Practical Nature the Book

The book of Revelation was given...

- To encourage John as he suffered on the Island of Patmos.
- To give congregations of that day courage and assurance to withstand their persecution.
- To encourage Christians living in all ages to stand strong in the face of persecution.
- To challenge all believers of all times to live as overcomers.

An Overview for Understanding Revelation

Revelation 1:1-3

Instead of seeing the book as a calculator for the end of time, it is better to view Revelation as a comfort for the present time. (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)

As long as the righteous servants of Christ experience suffering, there is reason for reading this book.

Major theme: God is with His people, and sin will be punished.

Revelation tells us both sides of the story with God verses the Opposer.

Repetition is an important element.

- Series of sevens: Letters, Trumpets, Seals, Bowls, Blessings

- Time terms

- Place terms (Sodom, Egypt, Babylon)

The presence of God and His people is an important element.

- God's Temple and the 144,000 (Revelation 7:14-17)

The book of Revelation offers the reader a clear understanding of God's place amid conflict.