

Apocalypse

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Overview of Section

Four times the author identifies himself as John. Early tradition unanimously identified him as John. The Book of Revelation begins with John, the last surviving apostle and an old man, in exile on the island of Patmos southwest of Ephesus. He is writing specifically to 7 churches. Here are the churches and the message sent to them:

1. Ephesus – “You have left your first love” – (2:4)
2. Smyrna – “Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.” – (2:10)
3. Pergamos – “I have few things against you” – (2:14)
4. Thyatira – “Hold fast what you have until I come” – (2:25)
5. Sardis – “You have a name that you are alive, but you are dead” – (3:1)
6. Philadelphia – “I have set before you an open door” – (3:8)
7. Laodicea – “You are neither cold nor hot” (3:15)

Revelation

Theme: The End – The Revelation of Jesus Christ

- ❖ **Author & Date:** John (A.D. 94-96)
- ❖ **Author's reason for writing:** To reveal Jesus and His Glory and to tell of His glorious appearing at His second coming.
- ❖ **Literary Style:** Prophecy

- ❖ **Background and Setting:** Revelation begins with John in exile. He was banished there by the Romans for his faithful preaching of the gospel (1:9). While on the island of Patmos, John received a series of visions that laid out the future history of the world. John was arrested while in Ephesus. He was ministering there and to the surrounding cities. Seeking to strengthen those congregations, he could no longer minister to them in person and, following a divine command, John addressed Revelation to them. The churches had begun to feel the effects of persecution. There was already a man (likely a pastor) that was martyred and John was in exile. The persecution was thick, but Revelation sent a message of hope for the seven churches so dear to John. The overall message: God is sovereign over all the events of human history, and though evil often seems pervasive and wicked men all powerful, their ultimate doom is certain. Christ will come in glory to judge and rule.

Key People: John and Jesus

❖ Outline:

- I. A picture of the Exalted Christ (ch. 1)
- II. Seven messages to seven churches (2-3)
- III. The tribulation (4-18)
- IV. The Return of Christ (19)
- V. 1000 year earthly Kingdom (20)
- VI. The eternal state, Heaven or Hell (21-22)

Gospel Connection

- ❖ In the last Book of the Bible, Jesus triumphantly reveals Himself as the Almighty One (1:8); the Alpha and Omega (1:8; 21:6); the Beginning and the End. Other voices in the Book of Revelation proclaim Jesus Christ as the Lion of Judah (5:5); Heir to David's throne; the Lamb of God (5:6-22:3);

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the Word of God (19:13); King of kings and Lord of Lords (19:16).

Life Passages

- ❖ **Rev. 1:7** -
 - This verse talks about the coming of Christ. Does that bring you comfort? Or fear?
- ❖ **Rev. 1:12-18** -
 - Look at the reaction of John once he saw Christ, his friend and Savior. Find comfort in His glory. Do we find ourselves submitting the same way when in worship to Jesus?
- ❖ **Rev. 2:10** -
 - Does this mean that God has no control over suffering? What does it mean to have the crown of life?
- ❖ **Rev. 3:10** -
 - Does this mean that we are protected from the tribulation?
- ❖ **Rev. 3:16** -
 - What does this verse mean?
- ❖ **Rev. 3:20** -
 - What door is He at? The door of our heart?
- ❖ **Read Chapter 4...**
 - How can we worship God for creating us?
- ❖ **Read Chapter 5...**
 - How can we worship God for saving us?
- ❖ **Rev. 12:4** -
 - What does this say about Satan? How deceptive can he be?
- ❖ **Rev. 20:4** -
 - Does this refer to a literal 1000 year reign of Christ?
- ❖ **Rev. 22:18** -
 - What does this say about other religions and the danger they are in?