

INTRODUCTION TO Revelation

READ ALONG

- 08/18-21 Revelation 1-10
- 08/24-28 Revelation 11-22

WHERE IS IT IN THE BIBLE?

- 60. 1 PETER
- 61. 2 PETER
- 62. 1 JOHN
- 63. 2 JOHN
- 64. 3 JOHN
- 58. JUDE
- 59. **REVELATION**

FOUR MAJOR APPROACHES TO INTERPRETING REVELATION:

1. **Historicism** – Revelation is a chronological record of successive historical events from the New Testament church until the return of Christ who will create a new heaven and new earth (the events of chapters 4-20 are mostly in the past for us). *Normally hold to *Postmillennialism* – Jesus will return after the 1000 years in which the dragon is bound and the Gospel triumphs – we may be in the 1000 years now or it may be in the future still (Rev 20:1-6).
2. **Futurism** – Revelation reflects real historical events that are mostly in the future for us (especially chapters 4-20). This will include a seven-year tribulation period (chapters 6-19) and then a millennium (20:1-6) in which Christ will rule on earth prior to the inauguration of the new heaven and new earth (chapters 20-22). *Normally hold to *Premillennialism* – Jesus will return before or after the tribulation period, but before the millennium (Rev 20:1-6).
3. **Preterism** – Revelation is primarily about things that happened in the distant past, in the early years of the church.
4. **Idealism/Spiritualism** – Mostly agrees with the historicist view [that Revelation is about the conflict between Christ (and His church) and Satan (and the forces of evil) from the time of the early church until the return of Christ], but believe Revelation is primarily symbolic and can be applied both to events that happened in the immediate present/future for original readers and symbolically reflect events through the return of Christ. *Normally hold to *Amillennialism* – Christ will return after the “millennium,” but generally holds that Revelation speaks in symbolism, so not a literal 1000 years. One key distinctive of this view is that the death and resurrection of Jesus was the binding of Satan.

KEY THEMES:

- Jesus is present in His Church (the churches) through the Holy Spirit (He knows the trials, triumphs, and failures) - 1:12-3:22
- World history (all of it!) is firmly under the control of Jesus, the Lamb of God - 5:1-8:1
- Satan attacks the Church through persecution, false teaching, and affluence and sensual pleasure - 2:1-3:22; 13:1-18; 17:1-18:24
- Jesus will ultimately defeat all His enemies, and all that is tainted by sin and suffering that is not redeemed by the Lamb will be destroyed and all things will be made new. The culmination of this new creation will be the Church presented to Jesus Christ as a bride - 19:11-21; 20:7-22:5

BASIC STRUCTURE

22 CHAPTERS



BOOK BASICS



DATE
~ 90 AD



TYPE
Epistle
Prophecy
Apocalyptic



AUTHOR
Apostle
John

John writes a letter addressed to the seven churches that are in Asia (Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea) to strengthen them in the face of suffering by assuring them of the sovereignty of God, encouraging them to endure, and admonishing them to obey.

KEY VERSE

- **Revelation 22:7** “Look, I am coming soon! Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.”