



The Book of Revelation: Week 1

What Is The Book of Revelation?

Media & Notes at:

www.htchurch.com/revelation

Video also available at:

www.htchurch.tv

Introduction and Benediction: Revelation 1:1-3

1 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, 2 who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw. 3 Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.

1. What is the Book of Revelation?

1.1. The Revelation of Jesus Christ

The Revelation of Jesus Christ... (Rev. 1:1)

First, this book is a revelation or an unveiling (*apocalypsis*.)

An apocalypse means an unveiling or an uncovering of something that has been hidden. This means that God is unveiling for you in this book things which you would have no way of knowing unless He showed them to you.

1. We're going to see that God knows the future.
2. We're going to see that God controls the future.
3. We're going to see reality differently.
4. We're going to see that God knows His Church.
5. We're going to see Jesus Christ in His glory, and you're going to see new facets of Him which maybe you've never seen before.

Second, He's telling us is that it's the revelation of Jesus Christ.

1. This is not the Book of Revelations... with an "s."
2. This is not the revelation of Antichrist.
3. This is the Revelation of Jesus Christ.
 - a. In Revelation we see Jesus as the Head of His Church.
 - b. We see Him as the Judge of the World.
 - c. We see Him as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.
 - d. We see Him as the Bridegroom whom the Church must learn to long for and cry out to God saying, "Come, Lord Jesus."

1.2 A Book Given by God.

...which God gave Him [Jesus] to show His servants—things which must shortly take place. (Rev. 1:1)

Why is Revelation unique?

1. A special book from the Father to the servants of Jesus.
2. The last book of the Bible in its placement.
3. The last book of the Bible that was actually written, around the year 96 A.D.

2. More Background About Revelation and Unique Features

And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John, who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw. Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near. (Rev. 1:1b-3)

2.1 An example of apocalyptic literature.

Apocalyptic literature is a type of literature that relies heavily on imagery, visions, and symbolism in order to prophesy to us and to teach us spiritual truths.

2.2 A unique prophetic revelation.

The entire book is a prophetic revelation that comes through an angel.

2.3. More of Jesus' own voice.

More of Jesus speaking directly in His own voice than anywhere else outside of the Gospels. In Chapter 2 and Chapter 3 of the Book there are over 50 verses straight from the lips of the Risen Christ to His people, and we need to take heed to His words.

2.4. A book for unbelievers.

Much of the material in Revelation is designed to be of use to people who find themselves alive in the last days.

2.5. A book with a blessing and a curse attached to it.

Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near. (Rev. 1:3)

18 For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; 19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book. (Rev. 22:18-19)

3. Who wrote the book?

Church tradition tells us that the Apostle John was the author of Revelation, and John of course is also named in the book as the author. John was the last Apostle to die as far as we know. He was persecuted by the Romans and had exiled on the Isle of Patmos.

We suspect that Revelation was written around 96 A.D. According to Irenaeus, Revelation, "was seen not long ago, but almost in our own generation, at the end of the reign of Domitian."

Homework: Read Revelation 1!

Trip to Patmos is Optional



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