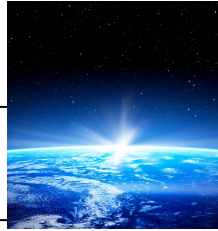


Welcome to Revelation (An Introduction)

“God blesses the one who reads the words of this prophecy to the church, and he blesses all who listen to its message and obey what it says, for the time is near.”
Revelation 1:3 NLT



The book of Revelation is one of the most fascinating books in the Bible, and for some, it is one of the most puzzling books. People are confused because of the symbolism, such as the seal, bowl, trumpet judgments, beasts with ten horns & seven heads, the woman riding the beast, etc. Yet, the book of Revelation **promises a special blessing** to those who read it, listen to its message, and obey it (See 1:3; 22:7). Furthermore, the book of Revelation is so special that God promises judgment to anyone who distorts or tampers with its message (See 22:18-19).

The name “Revelation” means, “**an uncovering, an unveiling, a disclosure.**” In short, the title Revelation means - *something made visible that was once hidden*. The book of Revelation is a disclosure of the future plan of God to **redeem the world, judge evil, reclaim the world, and restore paradise as it was in the Garden of Eden before the Fall.**

A Comparison of Genesis and Revelation

Genesis	Revelation
Paradise is closed (Gen. 3:23)	Paradise is opened (Rev. 21:25)
The curse of sin is imposed (Gen. 3:17)	The curse of sin is removed (Rev. 22:3)
Access to the tree of life is forbidden (Gen. 3:24)	Access to the tree of life is given (Rev. 22:14)
We see the beginning of sorrow & death (Gen. 3:16-19)	We see the end of sorrow & death (Rev. 21:4)
We see the interruption of God walking with man (Gen. 3:8-10)	We see the restoration of God walking with man (Rev. 21:4)

The Central Lesson: *Be encouraged, Jesus is coming back to fix this broken world and restore paradise.*

- **Revelation is a book written by the Apostle JOHN.** John was one of the 12 original disciples of Jesus. He was the brother of James and they had the nickname “**Sons of Thunder**” (Mark 3:17). His life apparently changed radically because he became the “**Apostle of Love.**” Also, he was known for being the closest to Jesus of all the disciples. He was called the disciple whom Jesus loved (John 21:20, 24). John authored five books in the New Testament—the Gospel of John, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd John, and the book of Revelation.

- **Revelation was written A.D. 95 from the Island of Patmos.**
- **Revelation is a book of PROPHECY** (1:3; 22:7, 10, 18-19).
- **Revelation is a CHRIST focused book** (1:1, 5-7, 12-18; 5:5-13; 6:1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 12; 7:10, 14, 17; 8:1; 11:15; 12:5, 10-11; etc.). The book shows Jesus reclaiming the world from sin and Satan and returning to establish His eternal kingdom (See 1:7; 22:3, 7).
- **Revelation is an ORGANIZED book** (1:19). The book gives us a divinely inspired outline of the book. It has three parts: The NLT translates: “*Write down what you have seen—both the things that are now happening and the things that will happen.*”

OUTLINE:

1. **Past:** “*what you have seen*” (chapter 1)
2. **Present:** “*things that are now*” (chapters 2-3)
3. **Future:** “*things that will happen*” (chapters 4-22)

- **Revelation is an “OPEN” book** (22:10). John was told not to seal the book because God’s people need the message in all ages to come.
- **Revelation is a book of SYMBOLS** (1:20; 4:5). Symbols are pictures that convey literal truth. For example, the picture of Christ in 1:12-16 is symbolic. It conveys spiritual truth about Jesus. Revelation is filled with symbolic pictures more than any other book in the Bible.
- **Revelation is a NUMERICAL book.** The number “7” is used throughout the book and symbolizes “**completion**” (See 1:4, 12, 16, 20; 5:1, 6; 8:2; 10:3; 11:13; 12:3; 15:1, 7; 17:3, 9-10). References to 3^{1/2} years in various forms (42 months, 1,260 days) and 3^{1/2} days appear several times (11:2-3, 9, 11; 12:6; 13:5). The number 12 appears often (12:1; 21:12, 14, 21; 22:2). Also, 144,000 is used (7:4; 14:1, 3).
- **Revelation is a book that claims to be about FUTURE events and must be interpreted as future** (1:1, 3-4, 7-8, 19; 2:25; 3:3; 4:8; 16:15; 22:6-7, 12, 20). Four ways people interpret the book of Revelation:
 - (1.) The **preterist** (pret-er-ist) approach (Latin *praeter* “past”) interprets Revelation as events of the 1st century in the Roman Empire.
 - (2.) The **historicist** (his-tor-i-cist) approach views Revelation as a **panoramic view of church history** from apostolic times to the present.
 - (3.) The **idealist** approach interprets Revelation as a **timeless depiction of the cosmic struggle between the forces of good and evil.**
 - (4.) The **futurist** view (the one for this study) insists that the events described in chapters 6-22 are **yet future** and that they **literally and symbolically describe actual people and events yet to appear.**
- **Revelation repeatedly mentions the word COME.** It is the keyword mentioned 44 times in the NLT. The word is used in three ways: **the coming of Jesus** (1:4, 7-8; 3:11; 4:8; 16:15; 22:7, 12, 20), **the invitation to John to see the details of the end times** (4:1; 6:1,3, 5, 7; 17:1; 21:9) and **an invitation for people to come to Christ** (22:17).

Conclusion: *Be encouraged, Jesus is coming back to fix this broken world and restore paradise.*

Action Steps: ► Receive Christ as your Savior. ► As a Christian, dedicate your life to Christ. ► Invite someone to next Sunday’s Bible study. ► Attend a small group. ► Pray for friends that need Jesus.