

(Revelation) - God Restoring Paradise



- In what ways would you say our world is broken?

The book of Revelation is one of the most fascinating books in the Bible. For some people, it is one of the most puzzling books. People are confused because of the symbolism—the seal, bowl, and trumpet judgments, beasts with ten horns, and seven heads, the woman riding the beast, etc. Some people say, “Revelation is too hard to understand. It is confusing. Avoid it.” Yet, the book **promises a special blessing** to those who read it and obey it (1:3; 22:7). **“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.”** Rev. 1:3 NLT. **“Look, I am coming soon! Blessed are those who obey the words of prophecy written in this book.”** Rev. 22:7 NLT.

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.

Central Lesson:

Have hope, endure patiently, remain faithful—Jesus Christ is COMING BACK to judge evil, reclaim the world, and RESTORE paradise.

Theme: God Restoring Paradise.

The early Christians were suffering at the hand of the Roman Empire for their identification with Jesus (2:3, 9-10, 13). Scholars believe the book was written during the end of Emperor Domitian’s (do-mi-sh-en) reign (A.D. 81-96). Also, John was banished to the Island of Patmos by the Romans to isolate him and stop the spread of the Gospel. John identifies himself in 1:9 as *“I, John, am your brother and your partner in suffering...I was exiled to the island of Patmos for preaching the word of God and for my testimony about Jesus”*

John was given this revelation from Jesus to give hope & encouragement to God’s suffering people. He wanted them to be **patient** and **endure** the hardship of this broken world (1:9; 13:10; 14:12). He wanted them to **obey** God and be **faithful** to Christ (1:3; 2:10, 25; 3:3; 14:12; 22:7). He wanted them to have the **expectancy** that **Jesus is coming again** (1:4, 7-8; 2:25; 3:3; 4:8; 16:15; 22:20). When Jesus arrives, the curse of sin will be removed (22:3) and the paradise of the Garden of Eden before the fall would be restored (11:15-18; 21:1-7; 22:1-5).

Interpretation: Is the Book of Revelation Describing Future Events?

The book of Revelation is interpreted in several ways:

1. The **preterist** (pret-er-ist) approach (Latin *praeter* “past”) interprets Revelation as a description of 1st-century events 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 we take in 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.** It describes the events of a literal seven-year tribulation (chapters 6-19), the literal second coming of Jesus Christ to the earth (chapter 19), a literal 1,000 year Millennium, a literal final judgment (chapter 20), and the literal eternal state when God makes a new heaven & new earth (chapter 21-22). Only this view **fits with the book’s claim to be prophecy describing future events** (1:1, 3-4, 7-8, 19; 2:25; 3:3; 4:8; 16:15; 22:6-7, 12, 20). Only this view interprets the book consistently by the literal, grammatical, historical method of interpretation, just as we interpret the rest of the Bible.

Author: The author of the book is **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.

Date: Revelation was written around A.D. **95** from the Island of Patmos.

Key Verses: Revelation **1:19.** It is the basis for **the structure** of the book—*past, present, and future.*

“Write down what you have seen [Past]—both the things that are now happening [Present] and the things that will happen [Future].” NLT.

Also, Revelation 21:3-5. *“3 I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, ‘Look, God’s home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. 4 He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever.’ 5 And the one sitting on the throne said, ‘Look, I am making everything new!’ 5 And then he said to me, ‘Write this down, for what I tell you is trustworthy and true.’”*

Key Chapters: Revelation **21-22.** Paradise is restored, a new heaven and earth are created.

Key Word: **COME** used 44 times in the NLT version of Revelation. 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).

Outline: John MacArthur offers one of the best outlines based on Rev. 1:19.

- I. **The Things Which You Have Seen (Chapter 1).**
- II. **The Things Which Are (Chapters 2-3)** (The Seven Churches)
- III. **The Things Which Will Take Place after This (Chapters 4-22).**

Worship in Heaven (Chapters 4-5). The Great Tribulation (Chapters 6-18). The Return of the King (Chapter 19). The Millennium (Chapter 20:1-10). The Great White Throne Judgment (Chapter 20:11-15). The Eternal State (Chapters 21-22).

Central Lesson:

Have hope, endure patiently, remain faithful—Jesus Christ is coming back to judge evil, reclaim the world, and restore paradise.

- Accept Christ as your Savior. ► As a Christian, dedicate your life to Christ.
- Invite someone to next Sunday’s study. ► Attend a small group. ► Read the Bible this week & journal meaningful verses. ► Pray for friends that need Jesus.