

## **“Introduction to Revelation”**

### **Selected Scriptures**

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1. Title: Revelation, from “*apocalupsis*,” to uncover (1:1)
2. Theme:
  - A) Jesus in glory
  - B) Fulfillment of prophecy
  - C) The culmination of history
  - D) Evil is punished—it is a book of wrath
  - E) God’s final victory is secured
3. Author: John the Apostle (1:1, 4, 9; 22:8)
4. Date: 94-96 AD, during the reign of Domitian
5. Setting: John is a prisoner on the island of Patmos in the Aegean Sea near Ephesus
6. Outline: Revelation 1:19
  - A) The things which you have seen (chapter 1)
  - B) The things which are (chapters 2-3)
  - C) The things which shall take place after “these things” (chapters 4-22)
7. Genre: Prophecy, NOT Apocalyptic (1:3; 22:18-19)
8. Hermenutics: Grammatical-historical, not allegorical; read it literally!
9. Various Views:
  - A) The *Preterist* view = it is all in the past
  - B) The *Historicist* view = it is a panorama of unfolding church history; subjective and marginalizes the original audience
  - C) The *Idealist* view = it is timeless and achronological; religious stories that teach spiritual truth applicable to any era; ignores the prophetic elements and sequential development
  - D) The *Hodge-Podge* view
  - E) The *Futurist* view (the correct view!) = it is to be read literally/normally, is prophecy, and is mostly still future (chapters 4-22)

10. Purpose:

- A) To encourage the seven churches of Asia Minor
- B) To motivate the church of all ages
- C) To show believers how the world ends
- D) To complete written revelation
- E) To bless all believers  
*"Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy and heed the things which are written in it"*

11. Myths about Revelation:

- A) It is too hard to understand
- B) It is impractical and irrelevant
- C) It can be interpreted in so many ways
- D) It is controversial

12. Perspicuity (the clarity of Scripture):

- A) God's Word can be readily understood and applied, by virtue of...
  - i) the manner in which it was communicated
  - ii) the help of the Holy Spirit
  - iii) the gift of teaching God gave the Church
- B) Satan was the first to ever undermine the doctrine of perspicuity: "did God really say...?" (Genesis 3:1)
- C) "know the truth" (John 8:32)
- D) Jesus called those who compromise perspicuity "fools" and "slow of heart to believe" (Luke 24:25)

13. Key thoughts:

- A) Revelation alludes to the Old Testament over 400 times
- B) John explains most of his symbols (1:20)
- C) "Church/churches" is mentioned 19 times in chapters 1-3 and not once in chapters 6-18 when the Great Tribulation is described
- D) Revelation is sequential and chronological
- E) The Rapture is not taught in Revelation
- F) God is punishing unbelievers during the Great Tribulation (3:10)