

The  
**Revelation**  
of Jesus Christ





JESUS CHRIST  
Right Hand of the Father  
Heaven



Servants of the Living Christ  
c/o John the Apostle  
Earth

# Introduction

- **The Revelation of Jesus Christ** – Christ Revealing future events to the Apostle John
- **Authorship and Occasion:** Written by John
- **Time:** Around 95 A.D.
- **Banishment of John to the Island of Patmos**
- **Written to the Seven Churches referring to the Universal church**
- **The Revelation of Christ – Requires Supernatural understanding (1 Cor 2:14)**
  - It came from God to Christ, from Christ to the angel, from the angel to John, and from John to the Church

# Introduction

## ○ **Apocalyptic Character**

- Revelation: Greek word, “apokalypsis” (meaning uncovering); unfolding the future
- *A discovery of what was concealed or hidden*
- *Revelation is of things which must shortly come to pass*
- Revelation is the unveiling of God to men in order to make them see; inspiration is the leading of God within men
- Revelation reveals how Jesus Christ himself will overcome, receive glory and become King



# What Does Revelation “Apocalypse” Mean?

- It literally means an unveiling or uncovering;
- Revelation is written in an apocalyptic literature style – this style uses symbolic or allegorical language to convey a message about the imminent End times.
- From Strong’s Concordance it is defined as **laying bare, making naked; 2) a disclosure of truth, instruction {a) concerning things before unknown; b) used of events by which things or states or persons hitherto withdrawn from view are made visible to all}; 3) manifestation, appearance).**
- Other apocalyptic writings in Bible include:
  - Daniel (7-12)
  - Isaiah (24-27 and 33)
  - Jeremiah (33:14-26)
  - Ezekiel (38-39)
  - Joel (3:9-17)
  - Zechariah (12-14)

# The World is Caught up in the End of the World

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# Yet Many are not Prepared for the Coming of the Lord

## ○ **Pre-Occupied with Worldly Cares and Carnal Activities**

- Matthew 24:38: "For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark,
- And they knew not (vs. 39) – Biblical ignorance and illiteracy will not excuse you from the judgment to come

## ○ **Spiritual Deception (2 Peter 2:1-3)**

- Those who claim they know the date and time



# Why Study Revelation?

## ○ **It's in the Bible**

- The book of Revelation is part of the Word of God. Thus, it is profitable and beneficial for every believer. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

## ○ **We are Blessed to Read it** (*Revelation 1:1-3*)

- It's the only book of the Bible that promises us a blessing just for reading it! As we do, we are assured that in Christ, we are more than conquerors.

## ○ **It is the Revelation of Jesus Christ**

- The book of Revelation reveals Jesus Christ in all His glory

## ○ **To understand God's prophetic plan for mankind**

- Revelation reveals the next events on God's prophetic timetable



# Our Response to Revelation

## ○ Stay Alert:

- Mark 13:32,33: However, no one knows the day or hour when these things will happen, not even the angels in heaven or the Son himself. Only the Father knows. <sup>33</sup>And since you don't know when that time will come, be on guard! Stay alert!"

## ○ Stay Prepared

- Live like you expect Him to come today (Matthew 25:1-13)

## ○ Warn Others –

- Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we **persuade men**, (2 Cor 5:11)

# Approaches to Revelation

- **The Nonliteral or allegorical approach** – A good story
  - An allegory is an extended metaphor or figurative portion of literature where the literal words have secondary meaning.
  - *The book does not deal with any specific historical situation. Instead, it is simply enforcing the principle that good will ultimately triumph over evil.*
- **Preterist Approach** - Revelation is a record of the early church with Judaism and paganism.
  - *Preter*, which means “past
  - Believe that most of the prophecies of Revelation were fulfilled in the destruction of Jerusalem but that chapters 20-22 point to future events such as a future resurrection of believers and return of Christ to the earth.
  - *The book refers to events that were fulfilled in the first century A.D., or shortly thereafter. It was written primarily to encourage the original readers. Its value for today would therefore be didactic (teaching the value of faithfulness to God).*



# Approaches to Revelation

- **Futuristic Approach** – Apart from the first few chapters, the book depicts events which immediately precede the second coming of Christ. Therefore most of the book has yet to be fulfilled (or is being fulfilled now), and its value is primarily for Christians who will be living at the time Jesus returns.
- **PREFERRED METHOD OF INTERPRETATION:** I believe a proper interpretation of the book incorporates some of all these views.

# Key Events

- The Rapture of the Church
- Re-Gathering of the Jews
- The Rise of the Anti-Christ, False Prophet, and the Super Church
- The Great Tribulation
- New World Government
- Battle of Armageddon
- Second Coming of Christ
- White Throne Judgment





# Problems with the Study of Revelation

## ○ Difficult to Read

- Part of the challenge in understanding the book is that it is written in a style not familiar to modern man. It is an example of what is called "**apocalyptic literature**" which was quite popular from 200 B.C.

## ○ Too much Symbolism

- We are also far removed from the historical and cultural context of the times which would make the symbolism easier to understand.

## ○ Identification with the "Characters of the Story"

## ○ Our approach to study the events

## ○ It causes more to fear than to have faith

# Four Ages Outlined in Revelation

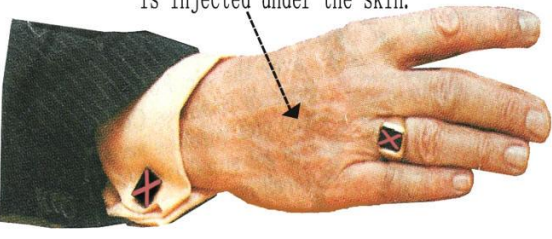
- The Church Age: Chapter 1-3
- The Tribulation Age: Chapters 4-19
- The Kingdom Age: 1000 years
- The Eternal Age: Chapter 21 – 22  
(Endless)



# We are in the Last Days



The miniaturized radio frequency bar code strip is injected under the skin.

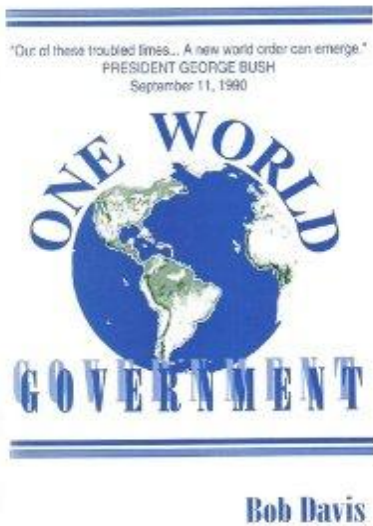


Mark of the Beast

## New World Order



One Money System



One World Government



Catastrophic Disasters



Super Church

# Revelation, Chapter 1, Authorship



- John was one of the 12 disciples that Jesus personally selected to train, empower and entrust with spreading the Gospel
- During the reign of Roman emperor Domitian after having spent time imprisoned in Rome, John was sentenced to be boiled in oil at the Coliseum
- John was then banished by the Roman authorities to the Greek island of Patmos, where some believe that he wrote the Book of Revelation, and where it is said he was later freed.
- John was carried beyond normal sense into a state where God could reveal supernaturally the contents of this book. (Revelation 1:10)



# Summary View of Revelation, Chapter One

- **The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified [it] by his angel unto his servant John**
- Revelation is more about Christ than just end time prophecy. So with this in mind, the definition of the word "Revelation" comes from the Greek word, Apokalupsis, which means to "reveal" or "unveil" that which is hidden

**Revelation 1:2 Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw.**

- To "bare record" indicates that John actually saw these things.
  - This is what separates John's writings and the Gospels from other religious writings because John, Peter, Matthew, Luke, Mark were eyewitnesses of Jesus Christ. John proclaims in his books that he is an eye witness testifying of all he saw and heard.

# Summary

**Revelation 1:3 Blessed [is] he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time [is] at hand.**

- The first of a sevenfold blessing is pronounced in Rev. 1 v.3 and expanded in the remainder of the book. As a child of God, each of these blessings are ours to claim:
- A blessing is pronounced upon those who read, hear, and keep those things written in the Book of Revelation. This is how we remain vigilant and watchful as the Lord's Day approaches.
  - Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.
- The early church read the entire book of Revelation every time they met. This is the only book in the Bible that promises a blessing to those who read it, and those who listen to it being read. The preacher and the congregation that heed the teachings taught here will be blessed.

# Seven Churches, Seven Spirits

**1:4 John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace [be] unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne;**

- **John became the apostolic leader of the church at Ephesus**
  - **Following the death of Paul and the destruction of Jerusalem by Rome (A.D. 70)**
  - **The Ephesian church had established a number of daughter churches throughout the province of Asia (western Asia Minor or what is now modern-day Turkey), and John exercised pastoral and apostolic care of them**



# He's Coming Again

**1:7 Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they [also] which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.**

- This truth is the great hope and expectation of all true believers today and it is the theme of Revelation.
  - The death and resurrection of Christ and the promise of His second coming are the foundation of our hope.
  - They were a great source of strength to the Early Church and are even more so to us today as we move into the final days of time before Christ's return.
- This verse reveals how Jesus will return. He will come in the same manner in which He ascended into Heaven:

# We Will Reign With Him

**1:6 And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him [be] glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.**

- The most important statement in V-6 is that Jesus is called God. The statement "God and his Father" leaves no doubt that Jesus was, is, and always will be God.
  - Notice, too, that it is nothing we do that makes us kings and priests. Jesus made us kings and priests.
- We will sit on thrones in heaven with Jesus. There is no greater glory due anyone, but Jesus who did all the work.
- We see that Jesus is supreme in dominion in Philippians 2:9 -11 "Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:"

# Seven Churches, Seven Spirits

- The number seven means spiritually complete and can be thought to be symbolic of all churches for all time. These seven churches were probably literal churches of that day as well as giving us a view of the churches of our day in general. These seven Spirits take in all the Spirits of God.
- There are actually many more than seven Spirits. This seven is a symbolic number meaning all. "Spirits" is capitalized so this is the Holy Spirit in all His workings. When it speaks of these Spirits ever before the throne, we see Teacher, Guide, Helper, Provider, just a few of the works of the Holy Spirit. John explains in this who Jesus is.
- Revelation 1:16 And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp two-edged sword: and his countenance [was] as the sun shineth in his strength.
  - This sword represents the power and authority of Christ's words by which the world will be judged (Rev. 19 v.15) and those aligned with Satan and the Antichrist will be defeated.



# Seven Churches



# God Forevermore

- **Revelation 1:18 I [am] he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.**
- When Jesus said "I am He that liveth", it is life forevermore. Jesus Christ, as the absolute living one, He has life in Himself, He is life, He is our source of life, and He has control of everything, in heaven, earth, and hell.
- When He arose, He did away with death. Death was the last enemy to be done away with. The devil cannot put anyone in hell. Jesus is the only one who can do that. Jesus has the key. No one can enter, or exit, without Him.
- The death and resurrection of Christ and the promise of His second coming are the foundation of our hope.

# Revealing Christ

- **The attributes and glory of Christ is revealed in Chapter One so that we may know the God that we serve and His Son who brought salvation to this world**
  - Jesus Christ is the faithful witness in that He has finished His work of revealing the Father (John 17); the first begotten of the dead in that He is the first fruits of the first resurrection (Rev. 20:6 ) rising again to give eternal life to all who believe.
  - "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty." - There was no beginning and there is no ending with God. "Almighty" indicates the power of the Godhead as being unlimited and omnipotent, omnipresent, omniscient.



# Second Coming of Christ - Signs for Keeping Watch

We could just shrug our shoulders and casually wait for the Second Coming of Christ. However, Jesus wants us to **"keep watch."** A great way to keep watch is to know what the Bible reveals about upcoming events and compare those to what we see happening today. There are nearly 100 biblical passages discussing the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. The key events can be summarized with the acrostic: **S - E - C - O - N - D.**

**S...Sudden.** No one knows the day of Christ's return, but it will come sudden and as a thief in the night. " Matthew 24:27 says, "For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man."

**E...Essential.** One of the foundations of the Christian faith is Jesus' second coming. It is spoken of by Jesus and many others in the Bible. Jesus will physically come again for all His believers and for His final judgment. Unfortunately, some Christian cults teach that Christ "secretly" returned already. As you read what the Bible says about the Second Coming of Jesus, it will be obvious that it hasn't happened yet.

**C...Christ's Final Judgment.** The Bible declares that Jesus will be the final judge of the world (John 5:22, Acts 10:42 and 2Timothy 4:1). Some of the additional verses describing the second coming, resurrection of the dead, millennium, and final judgment are located in Acts 17:31, 1Thessalonians 4:13-5:11 and Hebrews 10:27.

**O...Obvious.** There are over 6 billion people on the planet. God only knows what percentage are truly Christians, but let's use a conservative number like 10%. If this is true, over 600,000,000 people will vanish from the earth simultaneously according to Matthew 24:40. There will be no mistaking when Christ comes back for His Church!

**N...No One Knows When.** In Matthew 24:36, Jesus said only God the Father knows when. God is outside time. God already knows every prediction regarding Jesus' return that has ever been or will ever be made. Since Jesus said that no one knows about that day but the Father, NO ONE KNOWS!

## **Second Coming of Christ - The "D" is for "Doubters"**

As we get closer and closer to the Second Coming of Christ, there will be increasing and widespread doubt about whether Jesus even existed. People will also start wondering if God really exists and believers will leave the Christian faith (2 Thessalonians 2:1-4, 1 Timothy 4:1-2, and 2 Peter 2:1-3). Do you think we're already seeing these signs?