

A BIBLE STUDY SERIES ON REVELATION

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Presented on Central LIVE BIBLE STUDY

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NOTES FROM A STUDY ON THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

- **Revelation** means to “**unveil**” or “**uncover**” that which is previously hidden. The Book of the **Revelation of Jesus Christ** is an apocalyptic prophecy with an epistolary (in the form of a letter) introduction addressed to **seven churches** in the Roman province of Asia.
- The book of Revelation is also known as the Apocalypse. The Greek word is *APOKALUPSIS*... “**The Apocalypse**” which means the complete final destruction of the world, also meaning an event involving destruction or damage on a catastrophic level.
- Biblically, and for our purposes here the “**Apocalypse**” means the revealing of divine mysteries. In this Apocalyptic message John is instructed to write down what is revealed to him (what he sees in his vision) and send that message to **seven churches** in Asia Minor. (**Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea**)
- The **Style** of the book “Revelation”: **Apocalyptic**
 - **Apocalyptic writings**: include dreams and visions of end-time conflicts between good and evil supernatural forces.
 - There are other examples to learn about Apocalyptic writings:
 - **Isaiah chapters 24 thru 27** commonly known as “**Isaiah’s Apocalypse**” is a collection of prophecies relating to death, judgement, and the final disposition of the souls of all mankind (**eschatology**). However, Isaiah’s

writings lack the symbolic figures seen in the book of Revelation or in the writings of Daniel.

- **Ezekiel chapters 38 thru 39** known as “**Ezekiel War**” these chapters describe how God will make his presence known through earthquakes, by torrential rains, hailstones and by raining down fire and sulphur. Through these things God will also destroy Gog and Magog (which represent mixed clans of God’s enemies).
 - **Daniel chapters 7 thru 12** we read of Daniel’s “Vision to encourage the Jews”.
 - **Zechariah chapters 9 thru 14** “Establishes the authority and rulership of Yahweh (*Yahweh is the name of the national god of the kingdoms of Israel and Judah... He is God*) throughout the world.”
- Passages within the book of Revelation, names itself a book of “**Prophecy**”. Note Revelation 1:3; 22:7,10, 18, 19:
 - **Rev. 1:3** *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.*
 - **Rev.22:7** *“Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed is he who keeps **the words of the prophecy** of this book.”*
 - **Rev. 22:10** *“And he said to me, “Do not seal **the words of the prophecy** of this book, for the time is at hand.”*
 - **Rev. 22:18-19 [THE WARNING] 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.*
 - **Fear Factors:** Fuelled by a fascination with the **end of the world**, “apocalyptic” books like Revelation and other similar books and movies continue to fuel what seems to be an

insatiable appetite for end time matters. However, the average person has much to learn about the Book of Revelation in particular. Many altogether avoid Revelation because it can be **confusing** and for some too alarming.

- Someone said there are “as many riddles as there are words” in Revelation. It is packed with complex imagery and vivid depictions of unimaginable violence.
- Revelation outlines God’s plans for the second coming of Christ and for Satan’s ultimate punishment in the Lake of Fire.

Backdrop

- **The Island of Patmos.** The Roman’s used this 13 square mile island “Patmos” which is located off the coast of Asia Minor near modern day Turkey, in the Aegean Sea, as a **penal colony** (*place of punishment or prison*).
- The Roman Emperor Domitian exiled John to Patmos, where experts say Domitian gave orders for John to be boiled in oil, but John miraculously by God’s intervention somehow survived.
- On Patmos the Revelation came to John in a vision. Many believe it is the vehicle of “**vision**” which accounts for the abundant use of imagery and the difficulty many have when seeking to interpret John’s vision.
- Revelation is the only book in the New Testament that uses the word “**Alleluia,**” indicating praise to God, and it appears four times all in **Chapter 19**.
- Revelation tells us the forces of evil will gather in the Valley of Megiddo which is in Israel before the apocalyptic **Battle of Armageddon** (is the prophesied location of a gathering of armies for a battle during the end times, which is variously interpreted as either a literal or a symbolic location). It is believed the destruction of human lives will be so great that the blood of the evil army will flow as high as horses’ bridles.

- Revelation gives us an indicator of Jesus' power over evil, when we read that Jesus will use just one (1) Angel to bind Satan and throw him into a bottomless pit for 1,000 years. **(20:1-2)**
- Revelation reminds us that there will be no temples or churches in the "New Heaven" God creates **(21:22)**, because those things at one point were man's place of fellowship with God. Such places will no longer be needed because man will be able to fellowship directly with God.
- The "**tree of life**" (22:2) in the New Heaven is believed to be a restored version of the tree of life in the Garden of Eden (Gen. 2:9).
- Revelation **(22) KEY EVENTS, (26) INDIVIDUALS, (12) KEY LOCATIONS * (see reference paper.)**
- **Revelation** can be difficult to understand and can generate more questions than answers, to not delve into this book is to miss the most powerful and important revelation of all: Jesus Himself.

A SERMONIC POINT: "BLESSED BY THE BOOK"

Rev. 1:3 *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.*

We are blessed by the...

1. **Reading** of the Book
2. **Hearing** from the Book
3. **Keeping (Obedience)** to the Book

Sources:

- Holy Bible NKJV
- "The Book of Revelation: Unlocking the Future" by Edward Hindson
- "What You Need to Know About the Book of Revelation" by Harold Willmington (2007); Wilmington School of the Bible at Scholars Crossing. Liberty University