



REVELATION

INTRODUCTION

HELPFUL FACTS FOR APPROACHING REVELATION

- The title Revelation or Apocalypse comes from the letter's opening sentence in Greek: ἀποκάλυψις Ἰησοῦς Χριστός English: *Apokalupsis of Jesus Christ*.
- Apocalypse means the unveiling, revelation, or opening of something hidden. It shows us what is real even if that reality cannot be seen with human eyes.
- Written by the Apostle John about 96 AD from prison on the Greek island of Patmos
- John receives his vision from Jesus, about Jesus, meaning Jesus is the way God is revealing himself to us because Jesus is also God being revealed to us. This is crucial to understanding *Revelation*.
- The name Jesus means the Lord Saves. John begins and ends *Revelation* with Jesus.
- John writes *Revelation* to the seven churches in Asia Minor. The letter is rooted in history to a specific audience, but because it is a revelation from Jesus, it also has a wider application for the Church. It would be wrong to interpret *Revelation* as strictly prophetic, historical, or symbolic.
- **Revelation is primarily about God and worshipping Him.** John wants us to see God, through Jesus, and respond with worship as he does.
- John was worshipping when he received the visions from Jesus. Jesus calls the seven churches into proper worship, and at the end of the vision, John falls down in worship.
- In this revelation of Jesus, we see what God is up to in the world and what goes on in the world, past, present, and future, and what is urgent in the world.
- *Revelation* is not new information, it has nothing new way to say that hasn't already been said in Scripture. Nothing is added that isn't found in the other 65 books of the Bible.
- There are 404 verses in *Revelation* with 518 references to earlier scripture said in a new way.
- The number 7 appears 54 times in *Revelation*. This is God's perfect number of completion. In addition to the Prologue and Epilogue, *Revelation* can be divided into four segments of sevens: Seven Letters, Seven Seals, Seven Trumpets, and Seven Bowls.
- *Revelation* a letter drawing from biblical history, John's present situation, and future events.
- Apocalyptic-style literature was popular in John's day. It was a way of writing the truth without getting in trouble with those who would oppose the truth. The audience was expected to understand the symbolism.

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