

A dynamic splash of blue water with various shades of blue and white, creating a sense of movement and freshness. The splash is centered at the top of the page.

REVELATION

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Welcome to the Book of Revelation!

To begin your study of the book of Revelation, investigate the references listed within the overview chart below. Use these as guideposts to unlock the message of the book. We have chosen 19:16 as a key verse for Revelation because it reflects the focus on the Person of Christ over and above God's plan for the end of time. You may wish to note Christ's purpose for the message of the book which is stated plainly in 1:19: "Write the things which you have seen, the things which are, and the things which shall take place after these things."

Jesus wanted the Church to understand the present in light of the future, because the time is short (verse 1) and His Coming is near (verse 3). There is an urgency about the book which seeks to prepare the reader for the end of all things. This appears to be hanging right over our heads.

REVELATION Judge Revealed

| HIS AUTHORITY | HIS SUBJECTS | HIS POWER |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| 2:17, 18 | 3:19-22 | Mercy...5:1-8 Terror...16:17-21 Joy...22:1-5 |
| 1 | 2-3 | 4-22 |

He has a name written, "King of Kings, and Lord of Lords." 19:16

Open Your Heart as You Read!

The book of Revelation brings together everything that it means to be a Christian! It gives graphic detail about the end of what God began when He created the first Adam and what He accomplished through the second Adam, Jesus Christ. It views the Holy Judge upon His throne, righteous and just to judge the world, and merciful and faithful to provide eternal life for those who have chosen to rest in Him. The picture of our glorified Christ in chapter one accurately focuses our mind and our heart on heavenly realities! While there are questions concerning the chronology of the events that are revealed in this prophecy, there is no doubt as to the certainty of the events and outcomes themselves!

AUTHOR AND DATING

According to the book itself, the author's name was John. (1:4, 9; 22:8). He was an elder, an apostle, and a prophet. Now an old man, he was one of the earliest disciples of Jesus and had a unique relationship with the Lord along with Peter and James (Mark 5:37; 13:3). We are told from the book that John, the beloved apostle, was on the island called Patmos, 'For the Word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.' Tradition and the writings of Irenaeus indicate that he settled in Ephesus, where he was later arrested and banished under the Emperor Domitian to the island of Patmos to work in the mines.

A probable date for the book would be 95-96 AD.

OTHER BACKGROUND

It is ironic that Revelation (which literally means "disclosing" or "unveiling") is viewed by many Christians as the one indecipherable book of the New Testament. What makes Revelation particularly challenging for students of the Bible is the more than 300 symbols contained in its pages. Just as the deaf have a sign language in which each gesture is filled with meaning, so the writer John had a purpose and meaning behind each symbol he employed. The challenge is to interpret these symbols as John (and the Holy Spirit) intended! Thus, the need to heed the repeated admonition of Chapters One - Three: "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches".

This book is designed not to mystify, but to clarify.

At least four interpretations for Revelation have been suggested:

1. Symbolic: Sees the book as a series of pictures teaching spiritual truths with no historic or prophetic events in view.
2. Preterist or Past: Sees the events of the book already fulfilled in the history of the Roman Empire of the First Century with Nero being the Antichrist.
3. Historical: Sees events since Christ's resurrection such as WW1 and WW2 as the fulfillment of Revelation.
4. Futurist: Sees most of Revelation as yet to be fulfilled, a prophetic description of end-time events. This interpretation does not deny the presence of symbols with a plain, possible to comprehend, meaning.

WHY STUDY THE BOOK OF REVELATION?

Regardless of which method of interpretation you use, there are at least three lasting values to the book of Revelation.

- (1) Those who read it are promised a special blessing (1:3).
- (2) It reveals more accurately the correct picture of Christ than any painting or shroud ever could.
- (3) It is a demonstration of the eventual triumph of the purposes of God, in spite of persecution, conflict, and the speculating of men.



Revelation Chapter Chart

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| Questions | Chapter | Title | Verse |
|--|---------|-------|-------|
| What was the desired response to these prophecies? Why was the book written? How does this picture of the risen Christ contrast your own? | 1 | | |
| Four actual churches are mentioned here. What triumphs, trials, and failures were true of each? | 2 | | |
| Three more churches are described. What triumphs, trials, and failures were true of each? What was the chief misconception of the Laodicean church and why was this such a problem? | 3 | | |
| What are the striking aspects of John's view through the door of heaven? | 4 | | |
| Why was Christ's worthiness so important, and what did that worthiness do for us? | 5 | | |
| Why was the opening of the seals significant? Note the phrase wrath of the Lamb. | 6 | | |
| Why is the Lamb positioned as He is in relationship to the throne? | 7 | | |
| Why do you think that incense is poured out at this particular point? How do the seven trumpets differ from what we have seen so far? | 8 | | |
| What does the fallen star represent? What do learn about power from these chapters? | 9 | | |
| Why do you think that the seven peals of thunder were not recorded? What is the significance of John's response to the little scroll? | 10 | | |
| Why does God allow the two witnesses to be killed? What affects do you suppose the resurrection had upon the various onlookers? | 11 | | |
| Whom do you think that the woman represents? The child? When do you think that the dragon was cast down? | 12 | | |
| What is the significance of the beast in relationship to the dragon? The second beast? What is the purpose of his mark? In what ways do you think this will affect believers alive at this time? | 13 | | |

| Questions | Chapter | Title | Verse |
|---|---------|-------|-------|
| Who exercised the right to swing the sickle and reap the earth? What does this teach you about power? What did each angel represent? | 14 | | |
| What is the "temple of the tabernacle of testimony?" | 15 | | |
| How do these seven last plagues differ from what has already taken place? Why did the nations gather at Har-Magedon? | 16 | | |
| Do you think that the harlot is a person, a nation, or a culture? Why was Babylon judged so severely? What does this final war teach you about the nature of man? | 17 | | |
| In what ways does Babylon of old reflect anything that we see today? | 18 | | |
| What is the purpose of the marriage supper of the Lamb? How does this scene make you feel? | 19 | | |
| On what basis are men judged? How does this war differ from Armageddon? Why is the dragon bound for a thousand years? How does the judgment at the Great White Throne differ from the one spoken of in 1 Corinthians 3? | 20 | | |
| Why did the old heaven pass away? Why was the city measured? | 21 | | |
| How did John feel about the return of Christ? How do you feel about eternity? How does one keep righteous? | 22 | | |

WHAT ABOUT TODAY?

Someone has suggested an outline for the book of Revelation that divides like this:

- Chapters 1-3 The Revelation of Christ as Lord over the churches
- Chapters 4-20 The Revelation of Christ as the Lion over the nations
- Chapters 21-22 The Revelation of Christ as the Lamb among the "ransomed ones"

This is indeed a sobering book. John described correctly our feelings toward these events when he related his thoughts about the "little scroll" in chapter ten. The taste of judgment upon the earth is bitter in the stomach but sweet in the mouth. "No longer shall there be any curse...no more need for a lamp or the light of the sun. I shall illumine you, and you shall reign, forever and ever! And you shall see My face, and you shall know my grace. And you shall sing together with the Morning Stars!"

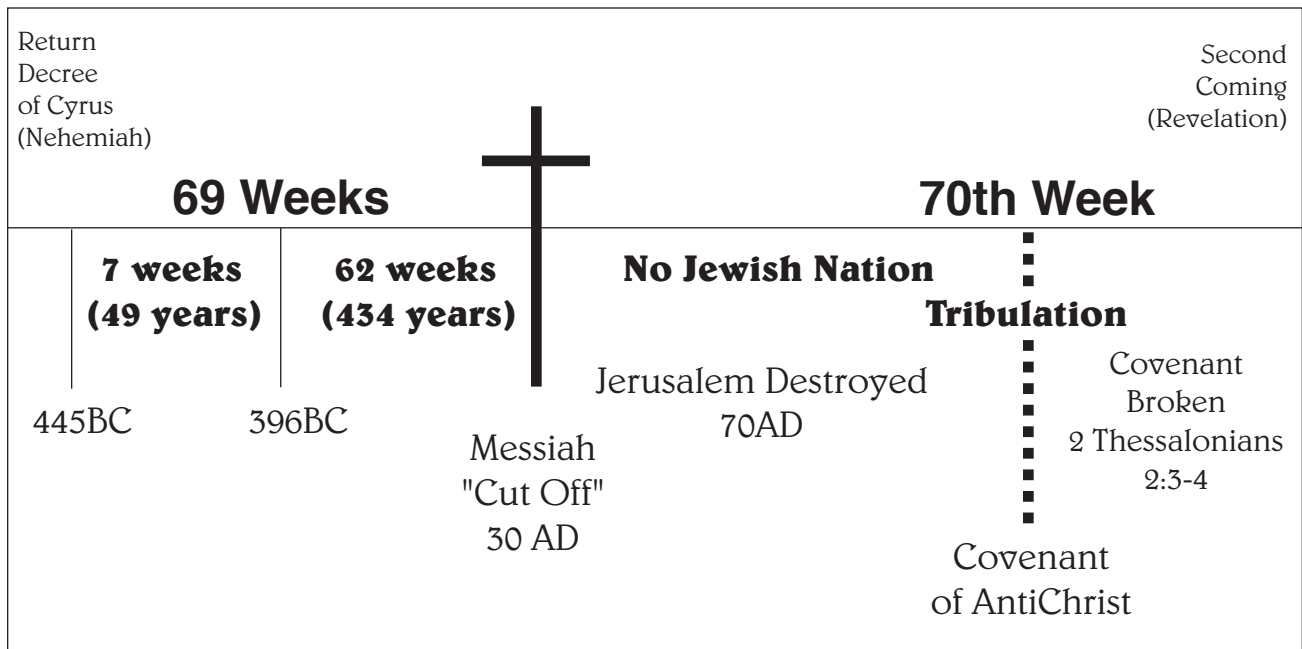
Daniel is a must read if you are interested in end time events. It will be a wild ride!

| Nebuchadnezzar's Image (2:31-45) | Fulfillment | Daniel's Four Beasts (7:1-28) |
|--|----------------------------|---|
| Head | Babylonia (Nebuchadnezzar) | Lion |
| Breasts and Arms | Medes-Persians (Darius) | Bear |
| Belly and Thighs | Greeks | Leopard |
| Legs and Feet | Romans | Beast |

Past: Ancient Rome **Future:** Rome-like government (10 horns) - Antichrist

DANIEL'S PROPHECIES

Also note below a diagram seeking to integrate the seventieth week of Daniel into an historical progression...



An amazing new world begins!
2 Peter 3:11

REVELATION (uncovering)

DANIEL'S 70th WEEK (Daniel 9)

TIME OF JACOBS TROUBLE (Jeremiah 30)

WAIT FOR THE FUTURE (Daniel 12:1-4)

The Person or the Program?

- 1 The Risen Judge
- 2-3 The seven churches
- 4 Trumpet in heaven
- 5 Book & Seals
- 6 Opening of 6 seals
- 7 12 Tribes from Tribulation
- 8 7th Seal - 4 trumpets sound
- 9 5th Angel/trumpet - 1st woe/no repentance
- 10 7th angel/little book/mystery complete
- 11 2 Witnesses/end of second woe
- 12 War in Heaven
- 13 Beast
- 14 Reaping of the earth/horses bridles
- 15 Seven Bowls of wrath brought out
- 16 Seven Bowls of wrath poured out
- 17/18 Judgment of Babylon recounted
- 19 Great Supper/Lake of Fire
- 20 Satan bound/millennial reign/satan loosed
Great White Throne Judgment
- 21/22 New City: all things new! Invitation

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

2 Peter 3:1-13

MATTHEW 24/LUKE 21
LIFT UP YOUR HEADS!
BE ON YOUR GUARD!
BE ALERT!

NO ONE KNOWS THE HOUR

BEGINNING OF BIRTH PANGS

False Christs/misleading

Wars & Rumors of Wars (disturbances)

Wars & Nation conflicts

Persecution & Hatred & Death for the Name

Betrayal

Earthquakes

Famines (plagues)

False prophets misleading

Increased lawlessness

Cold love

Kingdom gospel preached to the nations

THEN THE END WILL COME

Abomination of Desolation (Daniel 12:1-4)

GREAT TRIBULATION

False signs and wonders/False Christs

Deception

Jerusalem Surrounded by Armies

The Sun will darken

Moon will not give light

Stars and heavens will be shaken

THEN HE WILL RETURN

Sign of the Son will appear in the sky/lightning:

Tribes of the earth will mourn

Son will come come with/on the clouds

Trumpet Gathering will occur

Elect are gathered from four winds

Figs will be ripe

Let no one mislead you...

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Judge Revealed

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