

God's Amazing Book

Journey Through the New Testament

COMING ATTRACTIONS

A Quick Look at the Prophetic Book of Revelation¹

Things you 1 have seen	Things which 2 are 3	Things which shall be hereafter 4	22	
Prologue (1:1-8)	Ephesus (2:1-7)	<p>← 7 Seals →</p> <p>7th Seal is 7 Trumpets →</p> <p>7th Trumpet is 7 Bowls →</p> <p>Salvation of Jews and Gentiles</p> <p>Demon Armies Released</p> <p>Two Witnesses</p> <p>The Beast</p> <p>The False Prophet</p> <p>Armageddon</p> <p>One World Government</p> <p>One World Economy</p> <p>One World Religion</p> <p>Partial Judgments</p> <p>More Severe Judgments</p> <p>Climatic Judgments</p>	Babylon Destroyed (17:1-18:24)	
Christ of the Churches (1:9-20)	Smyrna (2:8-11)		Marriage Supper and Second Coming (19:1-21)	Millennial Kingdom (20:1-6)
	Pergamum (2:12-17)		Final Rebellion and Satan's Defeat (20:7:10)	Great White Throne and Lake of Fire (20:11-15)
	Thyatira (2:18-29)		New Heaven, Earth and Jerusalem (21:1-22:5)	Epilogue: The Final Invitation (22:6-21)
	Sardis (3:1-6)			
	Philadelphia (3:7-13)			
	Laodicea (3:14-22)			
	7 Letter to 7 Churches			
"In the Spirit" (1:10)	"In the Spirit" (4:2)		"In the Spirit" (17:3)	"In the Spirit" (21:10)
Key verse: "Write the things which you have seen...which are...and which shall be" (1:19)				

Fast Facts on REVELATION

"revelation"—apokalupsis: disclosure, unveiling (*The book of Revelation is the disclosure from Jesus, about Jesus, belonging to Jesus Christ.*)

Written by? John (1:1)

Written when? A.D. 90-96

Purpose: "To show... things which must shortly come to pass" (1:1; cf. also 1:19)

Promise: Blessing for those who read and heed (1:3)

THINGS TO REMEMBER ABOUT REVELATION²

1. Revelation is the only New Testament book that focuses primarily on prophetic and future events.
2. Revelation is the only book of the Bible that pronounces a special blessing for reading, hearing, and obeying the prophecy within (1:3).
3. Revelation pronounces a distinct curse at the end (22:18-19).
4. Revelation contains more symbolism than any other New Testament book.
5. Revelation is the only book in Scripture that refers to the "thousand years" (Millennium) specifically by name (20:2-7).
6. Revelation contains more references to, and more quotations from, the Old Testament than any other book in the New Testament.
7. In the book of Revelation, Jesus is referred to as the "Lamb" some 28 times.
8. Revelation contains more references to numbers, especially seven (more than 50x) and 12 (over 20x), than any other New Testament book.
9. The first two chapters of Genesis and the last two chapters of Revelation both contain these similarities: No sin, no curse, no death, no sorrow, no suffering.

¹ Charts are from Daniel Akin's handout for a local church on "Revelation" www.danielakin.com.

² Jeff Lasseigne, *Highway 66* (Santa Ana, CA: Calvary Chapel Publishing, 2004)

10. Revelation is the only NT written that is based upon a vision (1:10).
11. Revelation is the last book written in the Bible, chronologically (90-96 AD).
12. Revelation gives more titles for the Savior than any other book in the Bible.
13. Revelation records the name of Satan 7x, more than any other NT book.
14. In Revelation, the ministry of angels is very prominent, and are mentioned 74x.

Four Basic Interpretive Approaches to Revelation

Interpretive Method	Basic Thesis	Major Advocates	Evaluation
<p>PRETERIST</p> <p>(USUALLY POSTMILLENNIAL)</p>	<p>All the events of Revelation were fulfilled during the days of either Nero or Domitian. The Book is concerned with only the events of the first century.</p>	<p>This view was developed by the JESUITS and is still held by many in the Roman Church and a growing number of Protestants.</p>	<p>The message of the Book is primarily for believers of the first century with no message for later generations.</p>
<p>HISTORICIST</p> <p><u>POSTMILLENNIALISM</u></p> <p>THE BELIEF THAT CHRIST WILL RETURN AT THE END OF THE MILLENNIAL AGE.</p>	<p>Revelation is a panorama of church history from the initiation of the apostolic era to the consummation of the age.</p>	<p>This position was espoused by Martin Luther, John Wycliffe, and most of the Reformers, except for the Anabaptists.</p>	<p>The multiplicity of interpretation of metaphors and symbols quickly becomes subjective and, therefore, problematic. No two historicists agree.</p>
<p>IDEALIST</p> <p><u>AMILLENNIALISM</u></p> <p>THE BELIEF THAT THERE WILL BE NO LITERAL MILLENNIAL REIGN OF CHRIST ON EARTH</p>	<p>The Apocalypse is not to be seen as a representation of actual events, whether past or future. The Book is viewed as symbol or metaphor to depict the great struggle between good and evil</p>	<p>This concept was spawned in the Alexandrian school of philosophy and theology by Origen (and later Augustine) and is maintained by a host of liberal, and some conservative Bible scholars today.</p>	<p>The wedding of Greek philosophy to Christian theology has seldom created a fruitful union. This seems to be the case in this method. The early Fathers of the church are overwhelming in their support of Revelation as representing actual history in some sense.</p>
<p>FUTURIST</p> <p><u>PREMILLENNIALISM</u></p> <p>THE BELIEF THAT CHRIST WILL RETURN TO USHER IN THE MILLENNIAL AGE ON THE EARTH PRIOR TO THE ETERNAL STATE</p>	<p>Beginning with chapter four or six, the events described belong to the future age and constitute a marvelous prophecy of God's program for the consummation of the age.</p>	<p>This view has wide acceptance among evangelicals around the earth. Anabaptists of the Reformation era were futurists. Numerous Church Fathers from the initial Christian centuries also were advocates.</p>	<p>The futurists perspective is harmonious with the message of the entire Bible. Far fewer interpretive enigmas are engendered by this approach.</p>

LIFE LESSONS FROM REVELATION³

1. God controls all people and events – what He says will happen in the future will happen indeed. This should give you confidence for the future.
2. In the end, justice and righteousness will prevail. Sin will not continue forever. This should give you encouragement for each and every day of your life.
3. Christians will one day become free from this sin-filled world and know perfection and glory in heaven. This should give you hope for eternity.
4. God is worthy of worship at all times. This should give you reason to praise Him... now!

³ Jim George, *The Bare Bones Bible Handbook*