

# **Unfolding the Book**

Sermon 2 in the Revelation series

**The author:** The Apostle John

**The Date:**

1. Some consider it as late as 90-95AD.
2. Others argue that it was written before 70AD and the destruction of Jerusalem.

While this is possible – it really shouldn't make a difference to us whether it was written as late as 95AD or as early as 65AD.

**Schools of interpretation:**

### **Full Preterism**

Basically, they believe that the entire book of Revelation has already been fulfilled 70AD, when Jesus came to Jerusalem in judgment.

Do not confuse Full Preterism with Partial Preterism (which takes 70AD seriously).

Partial Preterism does not deny the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming, the judgment or the future eternal state. Many A-Millennialists are Partial Preterists and almost all Post-Millennialists.

### **The Church Historical**

PA popular interpretation by early reformers until the Puritans adopted a form of post-millennialism.

### **Futurism**

Futurists say everything from chapter 6-19 is condensed into a future 7 year period of time and they read these chapters as progressive history.

That is the way we are used to reading as westerners.  
Chronological order.

Next Sunday Night we will walk through the outline and cycles of the Book.

## **Understanding the Book**

### **1. It is a book of prophecy.**

The future is certainly included in the Revelation, including even our present day, but culminating with the second coming of Christ, the Final judgment, and the eternal state.

The book describes the struggles of the people of God against the forces of Satan during this period of time between the Ascension of Christ and His Second Coming.

## **2. It is written as Jewish Apocalyptic literature.**

As such it stands in the NT like much of Isaiah, Daniel, Ezekiel and Zechariah in the OT.

The book is full of symbolism and visions.

It is a picture book painting these word pictures for us.

**Voddie Baucham's** illustration of Jewish Apocalyptic Literature and how it can be misunderstood

As we come to Revelation there is an important interpretive principle

**“We must assume the signs, symbols and visions we read are symbolic – unless we are clearly shown they are literal”.**

## **3. It is a Book of Numbers**

In narrative passages we should not put too much stock in numbers.

Acts chapter 27 – we read there are a total of 276 people on the boat that will be shipwrecked.

7 – The number of perfection and completeness

12 – The number of the people of God.

12 OT tribes 12 NT apostles

Together they make 24

10 – Complete Sovereignty

Carries the idea of completion and also God's sovereign control over all the earth.

10 days tribulation (**Smyrna 2:10**) – but do not fear – God is even in control of this.

1000 is 10x10x10 – which helps us understand the symbolism of the millennium.

144,000 = 12x12 x1000

**Rev. 7:3-4, 9-10**

The 144,000 and the mark of God shows up again in Rev. 14

## **4. It is a book of comfort.**

The purpose of the Book is to reveal Jesus Christ to His churches – and the comfort that brings especially to those suffering persecution. God is with you. God will win. Endure!.

## **5. The book is deeply rooted in the OT.**

At least 500 allusions to the OT in 404 verses