

Subject: Know Your Bible – Part 34

Scripture: Revelation 1:1-8

Time, Place, and Purpose of Revelation

1. This book was written by the apostle John, who also wrote the Gospel of John and the three epistles of 1, 2, and 3 John. He refers to himself by name five times (Rev. 1:1, 4, 9; 21:2; 22:8). He also described himself as Christ's servant (1:1) and a brother and companion in tribulation (1:9). There are some similarities in style and vocabulary between Revelation and John's other writings, but there are also many differences.

2. John wrote while on the island of Patmos (1:9), a small, rocky, barren island in the Aegean Sea about 60 miles southwest of Ephesus. John served as pastor of the church in Ephesus during his final years, and he had been banished to the Patmos as a punishment by the Roman government for preaching the gospel and sharing his Christian faith.

3. John wrote the Book of Revelation about 95-96 A.D. There are twelve commands throughout the book in which John was commanded to write what he saw and heard (1:11). This suggests that John wrote at different intervals after seeing the visions instead of writing the book at one continuous sitting. Once he was told not to write what he heard (Rev. 10:4).

4. This book is a revelation of Jesus Christ (1:1). This means it came from Christ and it reveals the person and work of Christ. Revelation was given to exalt the Lord Jesus Christ as it unfolds what He will do and what will be done for Him in the final stages of God's eternal plan of redemption. All the details focus on Christ "for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy" (19:10). Revelation has many visions and symbols that point to the glorified Christ who alone has authority to judge the earth, remake it, and rule over it in righteousness.

- A. Vision of Christ's glory, wisdom, and power (Rev. 1:10-20)
- B. Christ's authority over His churches and letters to them (2:1—3:22)
- C. Christ the Lamb who is worthy of worship (5:1-14)
- D. Christ's righteous wrath poured out on the earth (6:1—18:24)
- E. Christ's return to judge His enemies and reign on earth (19:1—20:15)
- F. Christ's eternal reign in the presence of all who are saved (21:1—22:21)

5. The word revelation means a disclosure or unveiling. As a revelation (Gk. *apokalupsis*, from which we get our English word, apocalypse), this book was given to reveal, not conceal important truth for God's people. Revelation is often considered to be extremely difficult to comprehend and even confusing, but it was given to that we might understand, believe, and obey its teachings. This book reveals or unveils Jesus Christ in His glory.

6. Revelation is the only Bible book that promises a blessing to those who read, hear, and obey its contents (1:3). In order to keep (obey) the teachings of this book, the reader would obviously need to understand it.

7. Revelation contains more references to the Old Testament than any other New Testament book. There are no direct quotes, but many allusions to the Old Testament (estimates range from 278 to over 400). By comparison, Matthew has 92 and Hebrews has 102 references.

8. Revelation is a book of prophecy. Although there are many prophecies in the Gospels and Epistles, Revelation focuses mainly on future prophetic events (Rev. 1:3; 22:6, 7, 10, 18, 19).

It tells us about the final political setup of the world, the last battle of history, the career and defeat of Antichrist, Christ's 1,000 year earthly kingdom, the glories of heaven, and the final state of the wicked and the righteous.

9. Revelation is a book of numbers. Seven is a very prominent number: seven churches (1:11); seven lamp stands (1:13); seven stars (1:16); seven letters (chps. 2-3); seven spirits (4:5); seven seals (5:1); seven trumpets (8:2); seven thunders (10:3); seven heads and seven crowns (12:3; 13:1); seven angels (15:6); seven bowls (15:7); seven mountains (17:9); and seven beatitudes (Rev. 1:3; 14:13; 16:15; 19:9; 20:6; 22:7, 14). Seven is the number that represents perfection and completion. The numbers four and twelve are also significant.

10. Revelation is a book of symbols. This is typical of apocalyptic writing such as Daniel, Ezekiel, and Zechariah in the Old Testament. Although Revelation contains many symbols, these represent actual people, things, and events. Revelation is not a book of mythology or imagination, but a book that reveals certain facts about the future. An understanding of Daniel is useful in the proper interpretation of Revelation. Whereas Daniel was a sealed book (Dan. 12:8-9), Revelation is an open book, designed to be read and understood because the things will take place soon (Rev. 1:2; 22:10).

11. Revelation is the consummation of all Scripture. The New Testament fulfills and builds upon the Old Testament foundation. As the last book of the Bible, Revelation ties the themes of Scripture together. Note these contrasts between Genesis 1—3 and Revelation 21—22.

- A. Creation of heaven and earth (Gen. 1:1); new heaven and earth (Rev. 21:1)
- B. Darkness (Gen. 1:5); no more night (Rev. 21:25)
- C. Sun and moon created (Gen. 1:16); no need of sun or moon (Rev. 21:23)
- D. Warning of death (Gen. 2:17); no more death (Rev. 21:4)
- E. Satan appears as deceiver (Gen. 3:1); Satan punished forever (Rev. 20:10)
- F. Sin enters the garden (Gen. 3:6-7); sin never enters the city (Rev. 21:27)
- G. Fellowship with God interrupted (Gen. 3:8-10); fellowship resumed (Rev. 21:3)
- H. Multiplied sorrow (Gen. 3:16); no more sorrow, crying, or pain (Rev. 21:4)
- I. Curse entered (Gen. 3:17); no more curse (Rev. 22:3)
- J. Man's dominion broken (Gen. 3:19); man's dominion restored (Rev. 22:5)
- K. First paradise closed (Gen. 3:23); new paradise opened (Rev. 21:25)
- L. Access to tree of life banned (Gen. 3:24); access to tree of life restored (Rev. 22:14)
- M. Man driven from God's presence (Gen. 3:24); man sees God's face (Rev. 22:4)

Outline of Revelation (based on Rev. 1:19)

- I. The Things Which You Have Seen (1:1-20)
 - A. Introduction (1:1-8)
 - B. Vision of the glorified Christ (1:9-18)
 - C. The apostle's commission to write (1:19-20)
- II. The Things Which Are (2:1—3:22)
- III. The Things Which Shall Be After This (4:1—22:21)
 - A. Worship in heaven (4:1—5:14)
 - B. The Great Tribulation (6:1—18:24)
 - C. The return of the King (19:1-21)
 - D. The Millennium (20:1-10)
 - E. The Great White Throne Judgment (20:11-15)
 - F. The Eternal State (21:1—22:21)

Know Your Bible – Part 34

Book of Revelation

Time, Place, and Purpose of Revelation

1. This book was written by _____, who also wrote the Gospel of John and the three epistles of 1, 2, and 3 John. He refers to himself by name five times (Rev. 1:1, 4, 9; 21:2; 22:8). He also described himself as Christ's servant (1:1) and a brother and companion in tribulation (1:9). There are some similarities in style and vocabulary between Revelation and John's other writings, but there are also many differences.
2. John wrote while on the _____ (1:9), a small, rocky, barren island in the Aegean Sea about 60 miles southwest of Ephesus. John served as pastor of the church in Ephesus during his final years, and he had been banished to the Patmos as a punishment by the Roman government for preaching the gospel and sharing his Christian faith.
3. John wrote the Book of Revelation _____. There are twelve commands throughout the book in which John was commanded to write what he saw and heard (1:11). This suggests that John wrote at different intervals after seeing the visions instead of writing the book at one continuous sitting. Once he was told not to write what he heard (Rev. 10:4).
4. This book is a revelation of _____ (1:1). This means it came from Christ and it reveals the person and work of Christ. Revelation was given to exalt the Lord Jesus Christ as it unfolds what He will do and what will be done for Him in the final stages of God's eternal plan of redemption. All details focus on Christ "for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy" (19:10). Revelation has many visions and symbols that point to Christ who alone has authority to judge the earth, remake it, and rule over it in righteousness.
 - A. Vision of Christ's glory, wisdom, and power (Rev. 1:10-20)
 - B. Christ's authority over His churches and letters to them (2:1—3:22)
 - C. Christ the Lamb who is worthy of worship (5:1-14)
 - D. Christ's righteous wrath poured out on the earth (6:1—18:24)
 - E. Christ's return to judge His enemies and reign on earth (19:1—20:15)
 - F. Christ's eternal reign in the presence of all who are saved (21:1—22:21)
5. The word revelation means a _____ (Gk. *apokalupsis*, from which we get our English word, apocalypse). This book was given to reveal not conceal important truth for God's people. Revelation is often considered to be extremely difficult to comprehend and even confusing, but it was given to that we might understand, believe, and obey its teachings. This book reveals or unveils Jesus Christ in His glory.
6. Revelation is the only Bible book that _____ to those who read, hear, and obey its contents (1:3). In order to keep (obey) the teachings of this book, the reader would obviously need to understand it.
7. Revelation contains more references to the _____ than any other New Testament book. There are no direct quotes, but many allusions to the Old Testament (estimates range from 278 to over 400). By comparison, Matthew has 92 and Hebrews 102.

8. Revelation is a book of _____. Although there are many prophecies in the Gospels and Epistles, Revelation focuses mainly on future prophetic events (Rev. 1:3; 22:6, 7, 10, 18, 19). It tells us about the final political setup of the world, the last battle of history, the career and defeat of Antichrist, Christ's 1,000 year earthly kingdom, the glories of heaven, and the final state of the wicked and the righteous.

9. Revelation is a book of _____. Seven is a very prominent number: seven churches (1:11); seven lamp stands (1:13); seven stars (1:16); seven letters (chps. 2-3); seven spirits (4:5); seven seals (5:1); seven trumpets (8:2); seven thunders (10:3); seven heads and seven crowns (12:3; 13:1); seven angels (15:6); seven bowls (15:7); seven mountains (17:9); and seven beatitudes (Rev. 1:3; 14:13; 16:15; 19:9; 20:6; 22:7, 14). Seven is the number that represents perfection and completion. The numbers four and twelve are also significant.

10. Revelation is a book of _____. Although Revelation contains many symbols, these represent actual people, things, and events. Revelation is not a book of mythology or imagination, but a book that reveals certain facts about the future. An understanding of Daniel is useful in the proper interpretation of Revelation. Whereas Daniel was a sealed book (Dan. 12:8-9), Revelation is an open book, designed to be read and understood because the things will take place soon (Rev. 1:2; 22:10).

11. Revelation is the _____ of all Scripture. The New Testament fulfills and builds upon the OT foundation. As the last book of the Bible, Revelation ties the themes of Scripture together. Note these contrasts between Genesis 1—3 and Revelation 21—22.

- A. Creation of heaven and earth (Gen. 1:1); new heaven and earth (Rev. 21:1)
- B. Darkness (Gen. 1:5); no more night (Rev. 21:25)
- C. Sun and moon created (Gen. 1:16); no need of sun or moon (Rev. 21:23)
- D. Warning of death (Gen. 2:17); no more death (Rev. 21:4)
- E. Satan appears as deceiver (Gen. 3:1); Satan punished forever (Rev. 20:10)
- F. Sin enters the garden (Gen. 3:6-7); sin never enters the city (Rev. 21:27)
- G. Fellowship with God interrupted (Gen. 3:8-10); fellowship resumed (Rev. 21:3)
- H. Multiplied sorrow (Gen. 3:16); no more sorrow, crying, or pain (Rev. 21:4)
- I. Curse entered (Gen. 3:17); no more curse (Rev. 22:3)
- J. Man's dominion broken (Gen. 3:19); man's dominion restored (Rev. 22:5)
- K. First paradise closed (Gen. 3:23); new paradise opened (Rev. 21:25)
- L. Access to tree of life banned (Gen. 3:24); access to tree of life restored (Rev. 22:14)
- M. Man driven from God's presence (Gen. 3:24); man sees God's face (Rev. 22:4)

Outline of Revelation (based on Rev. 1:19)

- I. The Things Which You Have Seen (1:1-20)
 - A. Introduction (1:1-8)
 - B. Vision of the glorified Christ (1:9-18)
 - C. The apostle's commission to write (1:19-20)
- II. The Things Which Are (2:1—3:22)
- III. The Things Which Shall Be After This (4:1—22:21)
 - A. Worship in heaven (4:1—5:14)
 - B. The Great Tribulation (6:1—18:24)
 - C. The return of the King (19:1-21)
 - D. The Millennium (20:1-10)
 - E. The Great White Throne Judgment (20:11-15)
 - F. The Eternal State (21:1—22:21)