

Overview of Revelation

Revelation means God is unveiling the final end of God's program. Apocalypse means unveil.

Rev 1:7: Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they *also* which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen. The focal point of Revelation is Christ and his return. Jews and Gentiles both were responsible for Christ's crucifixion. As the end of this age approaches, Satan tries harder and harder to discredit Jesus, to take his deity away from him. Examples: the DiVinci code says Jesus didn't really die; he just escaped and married Mary Magdalene and that's where the crowned heads of Europe come from; a new story saying Judas was Jesus' best friend, etc.

Rev 1:1: The Book of Revelation is not the Revelation of St. John; it is the Revelation of God, revealing the program of Jesus Christ. Verse 1 says "things which must shortly come to pass"; that means it will definitely come to pass. God has a set date, but that date has not been revealed to mankind.

Rev 1:3 There is a special blessing reserved for those who read it, hear it, and apply it.

Rev 1:9 What is the setting of Revelation? John is on the isle of Patmos off the coast of Turkey, put there as an exile and to spread the Word of God. God put him there to eliminate any other distractions so God could reveal Revelation to John. This is all there is that God wants us to know – there is no more. There is a lot of things in the universe that God does not want us to know. We shouldn't go searching for further revelation through psychics and mediums. There is more out there, but it is not for us.

Rev 1:13 describes what Jesus looks like today. His feet are in brass because brass means judgment. He's getting ready to come pass judgment on Earth. After Chapter 3 in Revelation, we don't see the Church again until Chapter 19. The Church is taken up to Jesus in the Rapture, so we won't know the antichrist because we will be gone. The Holy Spirit will be taken out with the church. The church and Holy Spirit are holding the antichrist down right now, so we won't know who he is.

Rev 1:19 God wants John to write the things that John has seen – what has happened, what is happening right now, and what will happen with the 7 churches. Remember, the number 7 means complete in scripture. In all 7 letters, Jesus starts with "I know your works" then he says what's good with them, then he states their problems, then he offers a blessing if they overcome. The 7 churches are 7 phases of the church, not 7 different denominations.

Next Sunday we'll start our study of the church of Philadelphia.
