

Introducing Revelation

1. Initial Encouragement

1. We have apprehensions about studying Revelation.
 - Revelation is difficult to understand.
 - Revelation can be controversial and divisive.
 - Revelation can make us uncomfortable.
2. We have expectations we bring to the book.
 - Do not expect us to chart future events.
 - Do not expect us to set a date for the Second Coming.
 - Do not be surprised if you hear something new.

2. Background Information

1. Author
2. Audience
3. Genre
 - Apocalyptic
 - Prophetic
 - Epistolary
4. Date
 - Late Date (AD 95-96)
 - Early Date (Prior to AD 70)
5. Different Approaches to the Book
 - Futurist
 - Preterist

- Historicist
- Idealist

6. Difficulties of Interpretation

- Revelation's use of other difficult Scriptures (Daniel, Matt. 24)
- The sequence of the visions: chronological or recapitulatory?
- The nature of the millennium (Revelation 20:1-6)

3. Five Keys of Interpretation

1. Read with a Christ-centered focus.
2. Respect the time references and original audience.
3. Receive the teaching with practical obedience.
4. Recognize the symbolism.
5. Reference other Scriptures.

Recommended Resources:

- Douglas F. Kelly's *Revelation: A Mentor Expository Commentary*
- Steve Gregg's *Revelation: Four Views, A Parallel Commentary*
- J. Marcellus Kik's *An Eschatology of Victory*