

Revelation

Lenny D'Ambrosia

REVELATION

DATE	BOOK	KEY THOUGHT	CONTENT	KEY LESSONS	JESUS IN THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE
	New Testament				
	Prophecy				
54-68 AD or 94 - 96 AD	Revelation 22 Chapters	Victory in Jesus Jesus provides Hope.	A panorama of Daniel's 70th week is greatly expanded to include the tribulation period, the kingdom, Armageddon, the judgment of Satan and demons, the Great White Throne Judgment, the New Heaven.	Always be prepared.	Jesus is King of Kings and Lord of Lords, the Alpha and the Omega, The Beginning and the End, and He is coming again. He is the One who makes all things new.

REVELATION

Revelation is a book of hope. John proclaimed that the victorious Lord would surely return to vindicate the righteous and judge the wicked.

Revelation is written in “apocalyptic” form – a type of Jewish literature that uses symbolic imagery to communicate hope to those Christians facing persecution.

CONTENTS

Ch 1 - Introduction

The Messages to the Churches

Ch 2-3 - Letters to the seven churches
(seven Asian churches—Ephesus, Smyrna,
Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and
Laodicea)

Ch 4-5 – The Seven Scenes in Heaven

CONTENTS

The Tribulation Period

Ch 6: 1 – 8: 6 - The Seven Seals

**Ch 8: 6 – 11:19 - The Seven Trumpets
and Scourges**

CONTENTS

The Judgment of the Beasts

Ch 12 – 14 – The Seven Signs

Ch 15 – 16 – The Seven Bowls of Wrath

Ch 17 – 20 – The Final Visions

CONTENTS

The Beauty of Heaven

Ch 21: 1 – 8 – The New Heaven and Earth

Ch 21: 9 – 27 – The Heavenly City

Ch 22: 1 – 5 – The Heavenly Eden

Epilogue

Ch 22: 6 – 21 – The Last Words of Jesus

METHODS OF INTERPRETING REVELATION

1. **PRETERIST** – The book was written and fulfilled in John's day;
2. **CONTINUOUS HISTORICAL** – The book foretells events from John's writings to the end of time;
3. **PHILOSOPHY OF HISTORY** – The symbols and pictures described represent forces rather than real events and peoples;

METHODS OF INTERPRETING REVELATION

4. **HISTORICAL BACKGROUND** - The book was written for people in John's day with principles applicable to the end of time.
5. **FUTURIST** – The book describes events which immediately precede the second coming of Christ.

DATE OF REVELATION

Two dates have primarily been suggested.

1. A.D. 54-68 – shortly after the persecution of Nero and prior to the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70 – “the early date”
2. A.D. 95-96 – during or shortly after the persecution by Domitian – the “late date”

DATE OF REVELATION

Internal evidence

The book addresses a spiritual conflict between the Lord and the adversary, Satan. Satan uses a world government – “beast” and “the false prophet” to enforce universal worship.

Rev. 1: 4 – addressed to 7 churches of Asia

Rev. 1: 9 – John is banished to the isle of Patmos

Rev. 3: 10 – “the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world”

Domitian banished many prisoners to islands.

Rev. 13: 7 – “It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation.” 11

DATE OF REVELATION

Rev. 2-3 – unlikely that half these churches would have deteriorated to the point described in such a short time if early date is proposed.

Rev. 3: 17 – “Because you say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy ...’ (Laodicea)

Laodicea was destroyed by an earthquake in A.D. 61.

Unlikely it would have been rebuilt so quickly and referred to as “wealthy” if the early date is the case

DATE OF REVELATION

External evidence

The apostle Paul wrote the church in Ephesus during the year AD 62. The state of the church appeared to be good. Paul commended the brethren of Ephesus, saying that he had heard of their faith and “the love which ye show toward all the saints” (Eph. 1: 15).

In the Revelation account, Ephesus had obviously made spiritual changes for the worse. John wrote that they had “left their first love” (Rev. 2: 4). The time is obviously different.



**Patmos and
The Seven Churches**

1 Ephesus	5 Sardis
2 Smyrna	6 Philadelphia
3 Pergamum	7 Laodicea
4 Thyatira	P Patmos

REVELATION

Revelation's Message: God Wins

1. The Gospels present Christ's humiliation:
 - a. His earthly life
 - b. His ministry
 - c. His death
 - d. His burial
 - e. His resurrection

2. The epistles give a glimpse of Christ's coming in glory.

REVELATION

Phil. 2: 9 – 11

9 For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,

10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

11 and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

REVELATION

3. **Revelation** reverses Christ's humiliation and reveals Him as the **King of Kings** and **Lord of Lords in all His Glory**. **Jesus takes His rightful place as Ruler over the earth.**

The book of Revelation is a letter written to seven churches as both an **encouragement** and a **challenge**.

It uses visions and symbolic imagery to offer a glimpse of God's plan for a new creation. The visions of Revelation point to the fulfilment of God's promise to Abraham and His purpose for humanity.

REVELATION

The purpose of the book of Revelation is to bless Christians and equip them.

Rev 1: 3

3 Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near.

Rev. 22: 7

7 “And behold, I am coming quickly. Blessed is he who heeds the words of the prophecy of this book.”

REVELATION

The Revelation contains visions which proclaim for us the last days before Christ's return and the ushering in of the new heaven and new earth.

The Revelation begins with letters to the seven churches of Asia Minor, then goes on to reveal the series of devastations poured out upon the earth.

The mark of the beast, "666".

The battle of Armageddon.

The binding of Satan.

The reign of the Lord.

The Great White Throne Judgment.

The nature of the eternal city of God.

Prophecies concerning Jesus Christ are fulfilled and a concluding call to His Lordship assures us that He will soon return.

REVELATION

Rev 1: 8

8 **I am the Alpha and the Omega,**” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”

Rev. 22: 12 - 13

12 “Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward *is* with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done.

13 **I am the Alpha and the Omega,** the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”

REVELATION

Worship

The book of Revelation is about adoration for God. It contains scene after scene of worshiping God and the Lamb in heaven, because the Godhead alone is worthy.

(Rev. 4-5)

REVELATION

4 Horsemen of the Apocalypse

The first four seal judgments consist of horsemen who gallop across the earth carrying various forms of Judgment.

1. The white horse and rider – The Antichrist (Rev. 6: 2)
2. The red horse and rider – War and bloodshed (Rev. 6: 3-4)
3. The black horse and rider – Famine (Rev. 6: 5-6)
4. The pale horse and rider – Pestilence and death (Rev. 6: 7-8)

REVELATION

Lamb of God

The Lamb of God is Jesus Christ.

John the Baptist describes Jesus as the Lamb of God (Jn. 1: 29, 26)

The Book of Revelation uses this symbol seven times (Rev. 5: 6; 7: 9; 14: 10; 15: 3; 19: 9; 21: 22-23; 22: 1, 3)

REVELATION

The book of Revelation focuses on 3 symbols:

1. The seven seal judgments (Rev. 6:1-8: 5) present the world ruined by Man.
2. The seven trumpet judgments (Rev. 8: 6-9; 11:15-19) portray the world ruled by Satan.
3. The seven bowls judgments (Rev.16) prefigure the world reclaimed by God.

REVELATION

Human beings have had a problem with sin since the fall of man in Gen. 3.

Revelation provides final answers to this problem:

1. A hope that Jesus will once and for all heal the wounds caused by sin (Rev. 19)
2. “The period of victory when Roman persecution ended and continuing until some time before the Lord’s return” (Homer Haley) (Rev. 20)
3. “The church at home with God in final glory beyond the judgment...” “The final and eternal order beyond judgment” (Homer Haley) (Rev. 21–22).

The Bible’s narrative is a simple one: creation, fall, victory over sin.

REVELATION

Rev. 20: 11

11 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them.

Rev. 21: 1

1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer *any* sea.

REVELATION

Before the final judgment begins, Christians are to share with friends and neighbors about **God's offer of eternal life in Christ** (The Gospel).

Christians are to **live like Christ** and **show others the hope** we have **in the promises** **of God.**