



The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Introduction

THIS IS A BOOK OF MYSTERIES

- Don't expect specifics
 - God is laying out the outlines of his victory over and judgment of the evil world, who are persecuting, oppressing, and opposing God's people.
 - However, that being said, there are lots of things to learn in this book.
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THIS IS APOCALYPTIC LITERATURE

- It deals heavily in symbols
 - “sēmainō” (Rev. 1:1) — meaning: signifying
 - Points to symbols to reveal God's plans
 - Not to a literal understanding
 - Rooted deeply in Old Testament books
 - All of the Old Testament is used (Torah, Historical books, Poetry, Major Prophets, Minor Prophets)
 - Especially Daniel, Ezekiel, and Zechariah
 - Therefore, we will find ourselves referring to the Old Testament often
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KEYS IN AS SPECIFICALLY REVEALED IN REVELATION, DANIEL, EZEKIEL, AND ZECHARIAH

- Horn — power, kingdom, often a king
- Beast — a powerful kingdom or empire
- Dragon — Satan or a Satanic power
- Candlestick/lampstand — churches
- Babylon — an empire opposed to God
- Whore — like the empire above, emphasizing vileness
- Sea — the nations of the earth

- Woman — God's people
- 1000 years — a long time
- 144,000 — 12 x 12 x 1000

ESSENTIALS

- Title: the revelation of Jesus Christ
- Visions of John the apostle
 - Date: approximately A.D. 95, during the reign of Domitian
 - On the island of Patmos in exile
 - On the Lord's Day
- Written to the seven churches of Asia
 - Seven is revelations favorite number
 - The meaning of seven is usually complete and thought to therefore symbolize all churches of all time
 - Written to slaves of Christ (1:1)
- "Soon to take place"
 - John uses this phrase as a substitute for Daniel's "latter days" (Daniel 2:28)
 - Double prophecy
 - Near term fulfillment
 - Long-term fulfillment
 - So, some events
 - Near-term
 - Events throughout history
 - End of Time events
- Theme of the book
 - Behavior of the churches
 - Hope for the persecution to come (God wins)



PARKS OUTLINE OF REVELATION

- See outline

- Notice several views of the end
 - Revelation 11:15–19
 - Revelation 16:17ff
 - Revelation 19:20
 - Revelation 20:11–15
 - Probably more
 - Repetition may signify looking at the same event (judgment) from different points of view, judgments on different aspects of man's wickedness
- Four great symbols of God's judgment
 - The seals
 - Trumpets
 - Signs
 - Bowls of wrath