

Introduction to the Book of Revelation

- I.** Understanding the book of Revelation presumes a knowledge of the entire Bible's record.
 1. Particularly important is familiarity with Daniel, Ezekiel, Isaiah, Joel, Zechariah, Jeremiah, Psalms, Genesis, all the major and minor prophets, the Pre-Tribulation Rapture, the postponed Kingdom, and different judgments.
 2. Essential terms:
 - 1) The Day of the Lord—refers to the Tribulation through the Great White Throne, up to Eternity.
 - 2) God's wrath, not yet seen (Rom. 1:18; Rev. 6:17).
- II.** General Background regarding the book of Revelation.
 1. Written by the Apostle John (Rev. 1:4, 9; 22:8-90).
 2. Written on Patmos while in exile (Rom. 1:9).
 3. Last God-breathed book to be written, about 96AD.
 4. Written in highly symbolic language—visions (Rev. 9:17).
 5. Usual non-literal interpretations:
 - 1) Allegorical—make symbols mean whatever fits their theology: basically then the sky is the limit.
 - 2) Preterist —make the book historical, not prophesy.
 6. Literal approach is based on the fact that the book is God-breathed.
 - 1) Have Scripture interpret the symbols.
 - 2) Harmonize interpretation with the rest of Scripture.
- III.** The name of the book of Revelation.
 1. Note that all translations are wrong; should be *The Revelation of Jesus Christ*.
 2. Revelation—new truth added to other books.
 3. Revelation from Jesus Christ.
 - 1) Given to Him by the Father, in realm of humanity.
 - 2) Made known to John through an angel.
 4. Revelation that is about things that are necessarily going to occur quickly.
- IV.** The titles "Jesus Christ" change after the cross (Acts 2:32-36).
 1. "Jesus" the God-man who died for our sins.
 2. "Christ" the glorified and risen One who sits at the right-hand of the Father.