

## Revelation Introduction

### Turn in your Bibles to the book of Revelation Chapter 1

A) Revelation is not a hard book to find— last book in the Bible

B) So turn to the back of the book - Listen all the answers are in the back of the book.

C) You home school parents know about that right You are trying to help your kids study - some subject

1) you can't remember when you were in school.

D) Aced it back then - but you can't remember now - **The ANSWERS are in the back of the book.**

### True of the book of Revelation:

A) The answers are still in the back of the book - What answers? – answer like...

B) Will sin and sinful people ever be dealt with?

1) why shouldn't I just give into to sin and rebellion, the people of the world seems so blessed?

C) Questions like will the righteous ever inherit the earth?

D) Does God have a plan, is the plan in motion because at times He seems like an absentee Father?

### Friends – the answers to all those questions that that the enemy loves to bring up to torment our minds

A) ARE IN THE BACK OF THE BOOK!

They are in the book of Revelation

B) It is where we discover that Yes, God has a plan

- No, the wicked will not always flourish
- Yes, the righteous will inherit the earth

C) And the reason we know this is because the answers are in the back of the book – IN REV.

### Now Today we are going to do an introduction

A) And this will serve as our introduction to both our Sunday am Revealed Series -

B) Some people have been asking me - are the two studies connected. - Do I need to come to both.

C) Answer is yes they are very much connected. - I will explain that in a minute.

1) If you want to fully understand this book - plan on being here for both.

D) Summer - You don't have to be as concerned about your kids getting to sleep -

1) Our children's ministry has some special things planned on Wednesday nights for this summer. -

### Today in our Intro: I want to answer some key questions:

A) What is this book about, who wrote it, who was it written to, why was it written

B) And how are we going to study it!

C) So if you are taking notes this morning which I encourage you to do,

D) We are going to see 4 things in this introduction

The Purpose of the book – Revelation 1:1

The Person who wrote the book – Revelation 1:1-2

The Pure and Perfect outline of the book

Revelation 1:19

The Promised blessings from the book –

Revelation 1:3

The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants—things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified *it* by His angel to His servant John, <sup>2</sup> who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw.

<sup>3</sup> Blessed *is* he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time *is* near.

<sup>19</sup> Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

### The first thing we want to see is the purpose of the book of Revelation

A) And the purpose is to reveal.

B) The late British prime minister Winston Churchill once described the former Soviet Union as “a riddle, wrapped in a mystery, inside an enigma.”

C) Well, many Christians view the book of Revelation in much the same way.

1) They are bewildered by its mystifying symbolism and striking imagery.

D)many believers (including some pastors, who never preach through Revelation)

1)Who avoid serious study of the book

**Many Christians and churches say – you can't study the book of Revelation**

A)That book is sealed and too cryptic; too hard to understand

B)I admit - some of the imagery is mind-boggling and can leave you scratching your head

C)And It's almost unfathomable to imagine the amount of destruction, demonic activity,

1)and spiritual manifestations that occur in such rapid succession.

**But this is what we must understand: Key**

A)The stated purpose of the book is given to us in the first sentence -

**B)The stated purpose of the book is to Reveal - It is the Revelation of Jesus Christ**

C)It is a book about Jesus - It is book that wants to help us see Jesus!

D)The word "Revelation" means the exact opposite of what most people see this book as –

1)being sealed, hidden and cryptic

**The word Revelation in the Greek is the word "apokalypsis" –we get our word Apocalypse**

A)In our culture we have reinterpreted the Word "Apocalypse" to mean the destruction of the world

B)But the word actually means **revealing, unveiling** –

1)It means to let you in on the secret

C)It is like when a present is being revealed that you didn't wrap - too big -

1)you say to someone - Close your eyes- you lead them out to the garage - New BIKE - **Ok You can open them.**

D)That is the point of the book of Revelation is to Reveal -

**AND Notice the book is called Revelation - not the book of Revelation(S)**

A)The purpose is not many revelations - **ONE MAIN REVELATION!**

**B)True This book will amplify things like the 7 year tribulation, the final war in the middle east -**

1)The arrival of a mysterious figure, typically called the Anti-Christ--

C)It will detail the second coming of Christ, the millennial kingdom, the great white throne judgment 1)the new heaven and new earth

D)But that is not the central purpose of the book - the Purpose of the book of Revelation is to Reveal

1)to Reveal what? = Answer is Jesus

E)That is the one main purpose of the book - to Reveal Jesus to us!

"The purpose of the book of Revelation isn't to fix our eyes on the troubles around us, but the Savior above us."

**It is His Story – His Coming – His reclaiming of this world from the usurper Satan and all who follow him**

A)The gospels primarily reveal Jesus in His humanity and in his sacrifice.

B)But the Book of Revelation reveals His glory, and His power.

**C)In Chapter 1 we see Jesus in his power and glory.**

- In chapter 2-3 We see Jesus in the midst of the churches as their priestly king
- In Ch 4-5 We see Jesus in Heaven as the glorified Lamb of God-- as the lion of the tribe of Judah.
- In chapter 6-18, Jesus will be seen as the judge of all the Earth.
- In chapter 19, we see Jesus coming back returning to the Earth from Heaven as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.
- Ch. 20, we see him ruling on the Earth as the bridegroom with his bride, the church.
- Ch. 21- 22, describe Jesus as illuminating Heaven with his glory.

**These are the pictures of Jesus we are going to be zeroing in on in our Sunday morning Studies.**

A) See Jesus in this book - See him in ways that we don't normally think of Jesus. -

B) But we desperately need to see him in this way.

C) Then with that picture firmly in our minds -

1) We will come to Wed nights and look at the events presented in that scene - In greater detail - verse by verse.

**D) Think of it this way: On Sunday morning we are going to take the telescope so to speak and zoom in -** 1) See all the nuances of Jesus -

E) See him in detail as he is presented in a particular seen in the book of Revelation

**Then on Wednesday we are going to take our telescope and zoom out**

A) And see how that picture of Jesus relates to that seen as a whole.

B) How it relates to the overall - message of the book.

C) If you want to clearly and deeply understand the message of this book -

1) try hard to be here for both Sundays/ Wednesdays

**So the Purpose of the book of Revelation is to Reveal Jesus to us!**

A) So If you read Revelation/ and become more consumed with prophecy - **than you are with Jesus, you are missing the point.**

B) My hope and prayer as we work our way through this book on both Sunday mornings

1) and Wednesday nights - Is that we would be **in AWE of Jesus,**

C) And that we would be motivated to eagerly await the return of Jesus,

D) And that we would be consumed with loving and serving Jesus!

**So #1 We have the purpose of the book - To reveal Jesus to us!**

**#2 The person who wrote it.**

The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants—things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified *it* by His angel to His servant John, <sup>2</sup> who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw.

**Written by the apostle John in AD 96 –**

A) John is at the time of this writing the last of the 12 apostles still alive –

B) He has been Banished to island of Patmos by the Roman Emperor-

1) after they tried to kill him by boiling him in oil.

C) But God preserved John and he didn't cook - **like a jacuzzi -**

1) so when they couldn't kill him they banished him to Island called Patmos in the Mediterranean

D) It was on this Island Prison – Cold, alone, hungry, - John gets a visit from Jesus – **He is given a vision.**

1) He writes down for us the book of Revelation

**Now for the first 300 years of the Christian Church –**

A) the authorship of Apostle John was believed and taught by all of the church

B) So for the first 300 years of the church everyone knew and taught

1) that John the apostle wrote Revelation

**C) It was only later that some scholars started to doubt John's authorship -**

1) but it is really weird that they would do that

D) The reason is: John identifies himself 4 times in this book as the author - I John - (Revelation 1:1, 4, 9; 22:8)

**Now John as you know also wrote four other books in the New Testament**

**Books written by the Apostle John**

The Gospel of John – from Ephesus around 80 AD

I, II and III John – from Ephesus around 90-95 AD

Book of Revelation – from Patmos around 96 AD

**Now in verse 2 tells us why God picked John to receive this Revelation, it says of John...“who bore witness to the word of God and to the**

**testimony of Jesus Christ and to all things that he saw.” – Revelation 1:2**

**A) Jesus knew from John’s track record, he would get the message out**

**B) He knew John would not keep the Revelation a secret**

1) I want you to really think that through this morning

**C) God always seems to work through open vessels**

1) He will willingly pour into those who not only get blessed themselves

2) but seek to bless others with the knowledge they have been given

**Paul encouraged Timothy in a similar way: “And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.” – II Timothy 2:2**

**A) You want to be used by God in a great way? You want to be a conduit that he can work through**

**B) This is how it happens - you take the things that God is showing you in his word -**

1) The things you are learning about Jesus - the things that God is stirring your heart about -

**C) Share them with others**

**D) God works through willing vessels!**

**E) John is the author and he was a willing conduit for God to work through.**

1) Are we willing conduits for God to work through?

**Notice Who was John Writing to?** <sup>10</sup> I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet, <sup>11</sup> saying, “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last,” and, “What you see, write in a book and send *it* to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea.”

**Now When we get to chapters 2-3 we will look at these seven churches in detail**

**A) But today I want you to note that these were Seven literal churches in Asia minor-**

**B) But we will see in a later study that these churches also represent - the entire church age? -**

**C) Written to seven literal churches - but also written for us -**

1) we can see insights and traits from these 7 churches

**D) That have been true of the church throughout the ages - that are true today**

**E) We will also see things that we as followers of Jesus need to be on guard against and take heed to.**

**As we look at these seven churches we will see that 5 of them have problems that need to be addressed.**

**A) Five are sick - And two of them are pictures of health.**

**B) These seven churches existed during a time when Roman persecution**

1) against Christians was at an all time high. their families were being torn apart

**C) and the lies from the enemy in their hearts and minds would have been is God is absent?,**

1) God doesn’t care, He is going to let evil reign forever

**So those churches needed a Revelation that there is no one like Jesus**

**A) They needed to be reminded that Jesus is on the throne in glory**

**B) That Jesus is King - That Jesus is coming back again.**

**C) These Christians living under that persecution - needed this picture of Jesus**

**D) We need that reminder as well as we are living in a culture that is becoming more and more - Anti-Jesus**

1) Anti-God’s word and God’s principles

**We will see that Jesus addresses each one of these churches and their issues separately -**

**A) But to all of them he gives the same exhortation -TO OVERCOME!**

**B)In that we see one of the major themes that the book of Revelation is meant to do in us and for us - and that is to be **OVERCOMERS****

**C)The theme of overcoming is seen 10 times in the book of Revelation**

**D)One Writer I was reading put it this way: **The Book of Revelation is meant to put steel in the spine of the followers of Jesus****

1)To help us stand strong in the midst of adversity and opposition

2)that comes from living in a cultural that is anti-god

**E)The Purpose/ The person**

**#3 The Pure and Perfect - Outline of the Book**

<sup>19</sup> Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

This is the Divine outline of the book of Revelation

- Write: **The things which he had seen** -Ch.1 - the heavenly vision of Jesus.
- **The things which are** - chapters 2-3 - the seven churches and the church age.
- **The things that will take place after this**- after what? (the church age) Ch. 4-22 - the final events of history before Jesus returns.

**To me this outline is Key to understanding the book:**

A)See there are **four main methods** of interpretation of the book of Revelation that you will hear of today.

**B)The Preterist Approach: The Poetic or allegorical approach, the Historicist approach 1)and the Futuristic approach or the literal approach**

**C)In our Wednesday night study June 5<sup>th</sup> we will delve into each one of these approaches**

**1)and consider the problems with the first three**

**But let me just say today: The approach that we are going to take is the Futuristic approach or the literal approach.**

A)Why does the Futuristic approach make the most sense?

**B)First, the Futuristic approach allows us to take literally what is conveyed literally**

**1)and take figuratively that which is obviously symbolic.**

**C)Now Sometimes those lines get blurred,**

1)but trust me, it's a lot less confusing than trying to figure out the allegorical,

2)**or spiritual meaning** of everything described in the book.

**Why the Futuristic approach make the most sense?**

**2<sup>nd</sup> We believe that the return of Jesus is literal.**

Act 1:9-11 9 Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. 10 And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, 11 who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."

[Act 17:31] 31 "because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."

**Why the Futuristic approach make the most sense?**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Jesus calls this a prophecy in V.3**

**A)It is called that five times in this book.**

**B)It is not referred to as an allegory. It is not a fantasy. It is not poetry. It is not a book of History.**

1)**It is predictive prophecy.** This book predicts the future.

**C)In fact, the Book of Revelation contains more details about the end times and the coming of Christ 1)than any other portion of the Bible.**

**Why the Futuristic approach make the most sense?**

**A)4<sup>th</sup> Jesus clearly tells us in the outline in V.19 that there is a futuristic aspect to this book -**

**B)when he says to write the things that will take place after this**

**1)After the church age**

**C)What happens after the church age?**

**1)Rev 4 and 5 – the church in heaven, then....**

**D)Revelation 6-18 – Hell on earth – the Tribulation- 21 judgments**

**1)7 seals, 7 trumpet, 7 bowls – and a lot of suffering**

**The tribulation ends with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming Revelation 19 – and the battle of Armageddon**

**A)Then Revelation chapter 20 – the Millennium – 1,000 years of Jesus ruling on earth**

**B)Satan is bound then released – judged, so is everyone who follows him**

**C)And God in Revelation 21-22 creates a New Heaven and New Earth –**

**So we have seen today -**

**A)The Purpose of the book - Reveal Jesus**

**B)The person who wrote it - Apostle John**

**C)The Pure and Perfect outline in V.19 that is the key to understanding the book**

**#4 The Promised Blessing of the Book V.3**

**<sup>3</sup> Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.**

**Note: The Revelation was not revealed to be ignored.**

**A)It is meant to be read and studied**

Louis T. Talbot-- a commentator on this book said-- “The devil has turned 1,000's of people away from this portion of God's word. He-- Satan-- does not want anyone to read a book that tells of his being cast out of Heaven. Nor is he anxious for us to read of the ultimate triumph of his number one enemy, Jesus Christ. The more you study the Book of Revelation, the more you understand why Satan fights so hard to keep God's people away from it.” Louis T. Talbot

**B)Also note There is a blessing promised for those who read it, study it and keep it**

**1)Is there anyone here who doesn't want the fullness of God's blessing?**

**C)Notice - the Blessing comes to those who read it, study it and Keep it**

**1)Ah, that's the caveat isn't it. A lot of people read but a lot of people don't heed what they read.**

**D)They can even quote part of it - but they just don't do it. They don't keep it**

**Please understand this word “Keep” here, in context does not mean to keep like “Keep it in a lock box”**

**A)Keep” literally means “to keep going, to keep at it”**

**B)Here is the sad - truth about the church in America today**

**C)There are many people in The church in America today**

**1)who have been studying the word their whole lives**

**But there is something in each of us that struggles with the temptation with the more we know.**

**A)The more we don't think we need to learn anymore**

**B)If you have been in this church longer than 12 years -**

**1)you remember that we studied the book of Revelation in 2012 - 12 years ago**

**C)And when I announced that we were studying the book of Revelation - you thought - I remember...**

**D)I have studied that before - here in 2012 or in BSF yrs ago or men's study**

**D)I don't need to study it again!**

**1)I want to warn you against having that mentality**

**That is exactly what the enemy wants you to think -I know that - there is nothing new to learn.**

**A)The Bible is not just for information - it is for transformation**

**B)My Devos - I will Read passages over and over again -**

1)but God is always speaking to my heart in new ways through this book -

**C)He is going to be doing that with all of us - as we study together through the book or Revelation**

1)Whether is it your 1<sup>st</sup> time or 10<sup>th</sup> time

**Here is what happens When we start thinking - I know the book - I know what is written there in**

**A)We stop bring our hearts to it - that is when we start giving into to “carnalities” that we fool ourselves by calling “liberties”**

**B)And one of the things that breaks my heart is when I see men/women who used to challenge me**

1)because of their love for the Word and their faith and trust in God was so strong

**C)Some of them have lost that hunger for the Word - now they are dabbling in all sorts of compromise**

**D)I see some people who in their 30's and 40's were on fire for God -**

1)who now in their 50's 60's 70's - are living complacent Christian lives

**E)They give into carnality and sin instead of taking everything they have learned from God over the years** 1)and pouring into the next generation

**F)I don't want that for any of us here - neither does Jesus -**

**There is a 4 fold blessing for us in studying this book**

**A)The blessing of perspective - I always enjoy a drive better when I know where I'm going.**

**B)When you read Revelation, you recognize that the world is not eternal.**

1)Your life is fleeting, everything around us is ultimately perishing,

2)and your true future is still ahead of you, beyond the here and now.

**C)Heaven is not the end of the story - Jesus returns and we with him - 1,000 year reign.**

1)1,000 years guys - imagine that - 1,000 years perfect peace - we get to be a part of that.

**D)Later is longer - How we are living for Jesus now plays a part in what we will be doing**

1)in his eternal Kingdom

**E)Perspective: We need to live with eternity in view**

**2. The blessing of motivation -**

**A)If everything in this book is coming to pass,**

**B)There is a mission worth living for while we have the opportunity.**

**C)Now is the time to let people know there is good news concerning the end of the world & their lives.**

**D)They don't have to be afraid, but they can know the salvation of Jesus before it's too late.**

**3. The blessing of holiness -**

**A)One of the primary things Revelation wants to do for you is call you to holiness**

**B)When you read Jesus' letters to His church, it sanctifies you.**

1)It causes you to refocus your heart and repent of those areas that are off base and out of joint

**C)When we become who Jesus wants us to be, we are blessed with joy, peace, and strength**

1)despite the pull of a predominant culture that is rejecting and even mocking Jesus' reign and rule.

**4. The blessing of security -**

**A)You will be happy you know Jesus and that your salvation is secure in Him**

**B)After you read what awaits His enemies, both in time and eternity.**

**C)The book of Revelation fills our hearts with a sense of peace -**

1)as we are reminded that Jesus is our source of salvation - Protection and Hope -

**D)Jesus told His church that He has not appointed us to wrath but to obtain salvation**

1)and that those who are in Christ will be saved from the hour of tribulation that is coming upon the whole earth.

**As we close today consider the Victory that Jesus has won but gives to us V.5 To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood,**

**A)He loves you with an everlasting love -**

**B)He wants you to escape what is coming - That is why he went to the cross in your place**

**C)He has washed you from [your] sins by his blood” (v. 5).**

**D)All of your past, present, and future sins have been fully, freely, and forever forgiven by Jesus’ blood.**

1)You aren’t stuck in your sins.

**You’ve been set free from the bondage of sin and death**

**A)And can walk in the freedom that belongs only to the children of God.**