

A Study Of The Book Of Revelation

February 2, 2020

Resources used:

- A Study Of The Book Of Revelation by Bob Dodson
- More Than Conquerors by William Hendriksen
- Overcoming With The Lamb, Florida College Annual Lectures, February 7-10, 1994
- Revelation Introduction and Commentary by Homer Hailey
- Revelation (Truth Commentaries) by Robert Harkrider
- Revelation (A Study Workbook) by Robert Harkrider
- **Revelation by Donnie Rader**
- Studies In The Book Of Revelation by Ferrell Jenkins
- The Old Testament In The Book Of Revelation by Ferrell Jenkins
- The Revelation Of Saint John The Divine by G.B. Caird
- The Book of Revelation by Foy E. Wallace
- The Avenging of the Apostles and Prophets by Arthur M. Ogden
- Worthy Is The Lamb by Ray Summers
- Written exchange on THE DOMITIAN PERSECUTION between Arthur M. Ogden and Ferrell Jenkins presented in Searching The Scriptures, June 1989, pages 7-12.

Lesson 1

An Introduction to The Book

Can It Be Understood?

- Some dismiss the book before they study
- Extreme attitudes and approaches
- Must approach the study with admission that there are difficulties
- But: *The main thrust of book can be understood!*

Can It Be Understood?

The book of Revelation is a book of hope. It's a book of encouragement.

- The word Revelation comes from a Greek word, *apokálupsis*, which means to "unveil or uncover."
- Therefore, the book of Revelation opens with, "THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST," (Revelation 1:1) and it is the unveiling or uncovering of Jesus Christ in his present glory.

Can It Be Understood?

- **Revelation 1:1-3**, "*The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show unto his servants, (even) the things which must shortly come to pass: and he sent and signified (it) by his angel unto his servant John; who bare witness of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, (even) of all things that he saw. Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of the prophecy, and keep the things that are written therein: for the time is at hand.*"

Can It Be Understood?

- **Revelation 22:6**, "*And he said unto me, These words are faithful and true: and the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, sent his angels to show unto his servants the things which must shortly come to pass.*"
- **Revelation 22:10**, "*And he saith unto me, Seal not up the words of the prophecy of this book; for the time is at hand.*"

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Can It Be Understood?

Some principles we should follow in order to derive the truth therein.

1. What did the book mean to the people of that day?
2. That would also raise the question of the date Revelation was written.
 - **Early Date:** Some defend the date between 60-70 AD.
 - **Late Date:** The second defended date would be from about 96-98 AD.

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Can It Be Understood?

Some principles we should follow in order to derive the truth therein.

3. How shall we understand the book in the light of the Old Testament prophets?
 - There are in Revelation some 400 or more allusions to the Old Testament, but not one single direct quotation. (There are only 404 verses in the book of Revelation.)

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Can It Be Understood?

Some principles we should follow in order to derive the truth therein.

4. We must understand the book of Revelation in the light of the New Testament Scriptures.

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The Nature of the Book

It is the "Apocalypse" *apokálupsis*

- Other Apocalyptic literature
 - Daniel 1-6; 7-12, Ezekiel 37 and Zechariah
 - Parts of Isaiah: 24-27 and 33
 - Joel
 - Matthew 24; Mark 13; Luke 21
- Conditions out of which such grew
 - Trials, suffering, and adversity
 - Pictures present suffering in contrast to future glory

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The Nature of the Book

- (1) It is a book of wars. The noun *war* or *wars* is found in Revelation 14 times. This gives emphasis to the fact that Revelation is a book about war or conflict.
- (2) It is a book of earthquakes, thunder, lightning, and earth-shaking events.
- (3) It is a book of rewards for the righteous, and defeats for the wicked.

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The Nature of the Book

(4) It is a book of optimism. The word “OVERCOME” / “OVERCOMETH” is used 13 times in the book of Revelation. It is used in all seven of the letters to the churches in Asia.

- **To overcome means to CONQUER.** And this is the theme throughout the book, that we are more than conquerors in Christ (cf. Romans 8:37)
- The more you study this book, the more you can also gain the strength to overcome the EVIL ONE.

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