

A Study Of The Book Of Revelation

February 9, 2020

Introduction:

Controversy abounds in the book of Revelation.

- Who is the beast with seven heads and ten horns?
- Who is the false prophet or the harlot who sits atop of the beast?
- Who wrote Revelation?
- When was it written?
- What is the proper method of studying the book?

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."

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 about from 96-98 AD.

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.)

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.

Synopsis Of The Book

- "The absolute sovereignty of God, and his ultimate purpose to destroy all forms of evil.
- The inevitable judgments of God upon evil, upon the worship of false gods, which include riches, power and apparent success.

Synopsis Of The Book

- The necessity for patient endurance, the ultimate security being the knowledge that God is in control of history.
- The existence of reality, represented here under such symbols as the New Jerusalem, apart and secure from the battles and tribulations of earthly life, promises complete spiritual security to those who are faithful to God and his Christ.
- The glimpses of worship and adoration, constantly offered to God and the Lamb, are a kind of pattern of man's ultimate acknowledgment of the character of God when he sees him as he is. (J.B. Phillips in The New Testament in Modern English, Pages 516-517; Quoted by Robert Harkrider in Truth Commentary)

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.**

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. In all seven of the letters to the churches in Asia it is used.

- **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.

The Nature of the Book

It is the "Apocalypse" *apokálupsis*

- Other Apocalyptic Literature.
- Illustrations:
 - 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

Revelation and Apocalypse

- **Revelation 1:1** uses the Greek word *apokalupsis*, which means “**to unveil, to reveal.**”
- Used 18 times in NT
- “*Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show.*”
 - NOTE: Jesus is both the recipient and the revealer of God's message.

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