

The Revelation

A. Written by John the Revelator

1. John was functioning as a scribe in the penmanship of the book of Revelation.
2. He was writing what he saw and heard.
3. It was not his opinion nor his interpretation of the kingdom but a direct revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ.
4. Revelation is the only book in the Bible promises of blessing to those who read and hear its content.
5. The Greek word, Apokalupsis, means to "reveal" or "unveil" that which is hidden. It is the disclosure or unveiling of the mysteries of God.
6. It was written to the 7 churches (Congregations) of Asia minor but clearly have a much more far-reaching application than to just those 7 churches.
7. It also pertained to the 7 church ages from the day of Pentecost to the present.
8. Explain the expression "in the spirit on the Lord's day." What does it mean to be in the Spirit?
9. pneuma (pronounced pnyoo'-mah) from 4154; a current of air, i.e. breath (blast) or a breeze; God's Spirit, ghost or life, spirit. Can also reference unclean spirits.

Luke 1.35 – The angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God."

Luke 8:54-55 – He, however, took her by the hand and called, saying, "Child, arise!" And her spirit returned, and she got up immediately; and He gave orders for something to be given her to eat

Luke 10.20 – Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven."

What does it mean to be in the Spirit?

B. Discuss the Fourfold Apostolic Commissioning – Acts 22

Revelation 1.10—I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like the sound of a trumpet, saying, “ Write in a book what you see, and send it to the seven churches:to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea.”

1. To Know His Will
2. To See the Righteous One
3. To Hear Utterances From His Lips
4. To Testify or be a witness of what was Seen and Heard.

C. John’s Special Relationship with the Lord.

1. John The Revelator is described as the disciple whom Jesus loved.
2. It was to John that the Lord committed His own mother.
3. Was it his love for the Lord that made the relationship so special or did he have a revelation of the Lord’s love for him.
4. Did John die?

John 21.20-22— Peter, turning around, *saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them; the one who also had leaned back on His bosom at the supper and said, “Lord, who is the one who betrays You?” So Peter seeing him *said to Jesus, “Lord, and what about this man?” Jesus *said to him, “If I want him to remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow Me

D. During times of Great Persecution.

1. John addressed himself to the Christians as a brother in tribulation. It was at this time that the early church was going through great persecutions.
2. Their religion was not only "everywhere spoken against" but the people themselves were imprisoned and killed.
3. John, like multitudes of others, was now suffering imprisonment for the Word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ.
4. It is believed when arrested, they tried in vain to kill him by boiling him in oil for twenty-four hours. The enraged and powerless officials then sentenced him to Patmos as a witch.
5. But God was with him, and he was spared to leave the island and return to Ephesus where he again continued as pastor

E. On the Isle of Patmos

1. "Patmos" means "my killing" (Dictionary of Scripture Proper Names by J.B. Jackson).
2. It was a sterile island. "Sterile" meaning "1. unable to produce offspring; infertile. 2. free from living . . . 3. (of plants or their parts) not producing or bearing seeds, fruit, spores, stamens, or pistils. 4. lacking inspiration or vitality; fruitless" ~ Collins).
3. How interesting that God would use such a place to bring to John the Revelation of Jesus Christ! (God sure works in an "opposite spirit" to what man does)!

F. When was it written?

1. The traditional position is 95-96 A.D.
2. Others subscribe to an earlier date before the destruction of the Temple in 70 A.D. Mostly those that subscribe to a preterist position.
3. I do not believe that all was fulfilled in the destruction of the Temple in 70 A.D. There are many applications of the prophetic Scriptures.
4. **Preterism** holds that the contents of Revelation constitute a prophecy of events that were fulfilled in the 1st century. Preterists believe the dating of the book of Revelation is of vital importance and that it was written before the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD.
5. Partial Preterism – some things have been fulfilled but others yet to be fulfilled.
6. Futurist – Most, if not all to be fulfilled at a future date.
7. What do I believe?

Irenaeus (A.D. 180), a student of Polycarp (who was a disciple of the apostle John), wrote that the apocalyptic vision "was seen not very long ago, almost in our own generation, at the close of the reign of Domitian" (Against Heresies 30). The testimony of Irenaeus, not far removed from the apostolic age, is first rate. He places the book near the end of Domitian's reign, and that ruler died in A.D. 96. Irenaeus seems to be unaware of any other view for the date of the book of Revelation.

Domitian was a particularly cruel and ostentatious Roman emperor, who reigned from AD 81 - 96. He regularly arrested, imprisoned, and executed his enemies, even Roman noblemen and senators, and confiscated their properties for his own

use. According to the *Encyclopedia Britannica*, "The years 93-96 were regarded as a period of terror hitherto unsurpassed.

Clement of Alexandria (A.D. 155-215) says that John returned from the isle of Patmos "after the tyrant was dead" (*Who Is the Rich Man?* 42), and Eusebius, known as the "Father of Church History," identifies the "tyrant" as Domitian (*Ecclesiastical History* III.23)

Victorinus (late third century), author of the earliest commentary on the book of Revelation, wrote: When John said these things, he was in the island of Patmos, condemned to the mines by Caesar Domitian. There he saw the Apocalypse; and when at length grown old, he thought that he should receive his release by suffering; but Domitian being killed, he was liberated (*Commentary on Revelation* 10:11).

1. Many argue for the pre-destruction date citing that John makes no mention of the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple which would've been an incredibly significant event.
2. Jesus predicted that the Temple would be destroyed and not one stone would be left upon another. If this amazing prophecy had been fulfilled they argue that it should have been mentioned in the Revelation.
3. This occurred on the exact date of the Babylonian destruction.

G. John's Perspective of Imminence

"The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to show unto his servants things that must *shortly* come to pass ... for the time is at hand."

• *Revelation 1:1, 3*

"The Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to show unto his servants the things which must *shortly* be done. Behold, I come *quickly*. ... for the time is at hand. ... And, behold, I come *quickly*. ... Surely, I come *quickly*. Amen. Even so come, Lord Jesus."

• *Revelation 22:6-7, 10, 12, 20*

1. This appeal to the soon advent of Christ is also found in the messages to the Seven Churches of chapters two and three.

"I will come unto you *quickly*. ... Repent; or else I will come unto you *quickly*. ... hold fast *till I come* ... shall not know what hour I will come upon you. ... Behold, I come *quickly*. ... Behold, I stand at the door and knock."

• *Revelation 2:5, 16, 25, 3:3, 11, 20*

H. Jesus Among the Lampstands

1. Share of the story of how John was the most familiar person on earth with the Lord Jesus yet the revelation on Patmos overwhelmed him.
2. John also wrote his gospel account along with 3 epistles in addition to the Revelation. John emphasized that the Lord Jesus was God manifested in flesh.

Revelation 1:5 – The Lord Jesus was the firstborn of the dead That would never die again. Enoch did not die but was translated to heaven implying that he had the future purpose.

He is the King of kings and the Lord of lords. We rule and reign with him but in subjection to Him.

Philippians 2:9-11 – For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father