

The Revelation to John

Αποκάλυψις Ιωάννης

Intro & Chapter 1

From Fr. Michael's *Bible Overview*:

The Book of Revelation presents a mystical vision of the history of salvation and the cosmic battle between good and evil. Revelation bears the most resemblance to the Old Testament book of Daniel in its heavy use of symbolism. The Book of Revelation has probably generated the most divergent opinions of any New Testament book: people tend to be either fascinated by it, or ignore it.

Famous sections include the letters to seven churches in Asia (modern-day Turkey)—ch's 1-3; war in heaven (12.7-17); The marriage feast of the lamb (19.1-10); The coming of the armies of heaven (19.11-21); the final judgment (20.11-15); The new Heaven and new Earth (ch. 21); the river of life and Jesus' promise that "I am coming soon" (ch. 22). Written by the Apostle John ~ 95 A.D.

From the *ESV Study Bible*:

Revelation unveils the unseen spiritual war in which the church is engaged: the cosmic conflict between God and his Christ on the one hand, and Satan and his evil allies (both demonic and human) on the other. In this conflict, Jesus the Lamb has already won the decisive victory through his sacrificial death, but his church continues to be assaulted by the dragon, in its death-throes, through persecution, false teaching, and the allure of material affluence and cultural approval. By revealing the spiritual realities lying behind the church's trials and temptations during the time between Christ's first and second comings, and by dramatically affirming the certainty of Christ's triumph in the new heaven and earth, the visions granted to John both warn the church and fortify it to endure suffering and to stay pure from the defiling enticements of the present world order. (p. 2454)

The Rev. Dr. Rod Whitacre: The establishing by God of his kingdom

Authorship

Dating

Location of Writing

Literary Form

Audience

Schools of interpretation

- Foretelling or Forthtelling?
- Preterist (focus on events already fulfilled)
- Historicist (literal history – past, present & future)
- Futurist (primarily yet to be fulfilled)
- Idealist (types and realities recurring throughout salvation history)

A few thoughts on Millenarianism

- Millenarianism was largely absent from Christian theology from 500 A.D. until the reformation.
- “The millennium is not the central theme of Revelation. The explicit references to Christ’s reign of a thousand years are confined to one passage in the whole of the Bible: Revelation 20.1-10. Unfortunately, the specific interpretation of this passage has often been made the test of orthodoxy.”
~ *The Rev, Dr. Graeme Goldsworthy, Moore Theological College, Sydney*
- “Though Millenarianism has never been formally rejected by the larger Christian bodies, they have treated the subject with the greatest reserve.”
~ *Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church, 2nd ed.*
- **Terminology:**
 - Premillennial (Jesus returns before the future millennium)
 - Postmillennial (Jesus returns after the future millennium)
 - Amillennial (we’re already in it)
 - Rapture (the removal of the faithful from earth—either pre-, mid- or post-tribulation)

Chapter 1 outline:

- Prologue v. 1-3
- Greetings to the Seven Churches v. 4-8
- A Vision of the exalted Christ v. 12-16
- John’s response & Jesus’ charge v.17-20

An approach to reading scripture:

- **Person** – What does this reveal about the person of God?
- **Plan** – What does this reveal about God’s plan of salvation?
- **Pattern** – What is the pattern of life God calls us into through this passage?

For further study:

The ESV Study Bible

www.tsm.edu/the-gospel-in-the-book-of-revelation/