

Class Requirements and Instructions

1. Each student will need a Bible. Any translation is fine. The teacher will be using the New King James.
2. A notebook for taking as well as keeping notes and handouts. A three ring binder is suggested.
3. Some Books suggested to aid you in your study:
 - a. Worthy Is The Lamb, by Summers, published by Broadman Press
 - b. More Than Conquerors, by Hendrikson
 - c. Revelation, by Homer Hailey
 - d. The Old Testament In The Book Of Revelation, by Ferrell Jenkins

A Brief Introduction to Revelation

1. **Title:** Revelation (*english*) - Apocalypse (*greek*).
Literal Meaning - lifting the veil. Just as Genesis is the book of beginnings, Revelation is the book of consummation. In it, the divine program of redemption is brought to fruition, and the holy name of God is vindicated before all creation.
The word "revelation" is a translation of the Greek word from which we derive the term "apocalypse" and refers to an unveiling of God's work behind the scenes.
2. **Author:** Internal Evidence - The author identifies himself as John in four places 1:1,4,9; 22:8. The fact that he introduces himself in such a simple manner implies he was well known by the Christians of the first century, and particularly to the recipients in Asia Minor. Traditionally John the apostle was in Asia Minor working with all the churches, especially Ephesus, after the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70., before his exile to the island of Patmos.
External Evidence - All the second century church fathers attribute the Revelation to John the Apostle of Christ, the one whom reclined on his breast at the Lord's Supper. These include Justin Martyr, who was martyred in 166, Irenaeus, who died in Lyons France in 190, then in the third century Tertullian of Carthage (220), Clement of Alexandria (223), Origen of Alexandria (223), Hippolytus of Rome (240). Justin Martyr wrote in Dialogue with Trypho the Jew usually dated about 140 - 160: "...there was a certain man with us, whose name was John, one of the Apostles of Christ, who prophesied, by a revelation that was made to him, that those who believed in our Christ would dwell a thousand years in Jerusalem; and that thereafter the general, and, in short, the eternal resurrection and judgement of all men would take place."
3. **Date:** The church fathers who said John The Apostle had written the Revelation held that it was written during the reign of Domitian who reigned as emperor from 81 to 96 A.D.. Domitian persecuted the Christians from 85 to 96. It would be sometime during this time that John was exiled to the island of Patmos, which was used as a prison in the last half of the

first century, and that John wrote Revelation sometime from 85 to 96. I will for ease of use refer to the date of writing as 90 A.D.. Some think that the persecution of the Christians described in Revelation is the persecution under Nero in the late 60's. The problem is that persecution was predominantly if not solely located in Rome, whereas the Christians written to here dwell in Asia Minor. This was the hardest hit area under the persecution of Domitian.

Information on PATMOS. An island of the Dodecanese, lying some 55 km off the SW coast of Asia Minor, at 37° 20' N, 26° 34' E. To this island the apostle John was banished from Ephesus, evidently for some months about the year AD 95, and here he wrote his Revelation (Rev. 1:9). The island is about 12 km long, with a breadth of up to 7 km, and it has been suggested that the scenery of its rugged volcanic hills and surrounding seas find their reflection in the imagery of the Apocalypse. See Pliny, *Nat. Hist.* 4. 69. The island now belongs to Greece. J.H.P.

A Brief Outline of Revelation

- I. Introduction 1:1-8
- II. The Lamb 1:9-20
- III. The Lamb and the Churches 2:1-3:22
- IV. The Lamb and the Sealed Book 4:1-5:14
- V. The Lamb Opens the Seals 6:1-11:19
- VI. The Lamb and the Conflict 12:1-20:10
- VII. The Lamb and Eternal Destiny 20:11-22:5

Summary of Views on Revelation

Approach	Basic Thesis
Preterist	All the events of Revelation were fulfilled during the period of the Roman Empire.
Continuous-Historical	Revelation is a panorama of church history from the apostolic era until the consummation
Idealist	Revelation is not a representation of actual events, but is rather a symbolic depiction of the spiritual warfare between good and evil.
Futurist	Beginning with ch. 4, Revelation describes the future events accompanying the end of the age.

Historical-Background

Similar to Preterist, but with the exception being that we should apply the principles we learn to ourselves.

Class Schedule

September 9	Introduction
September 16	1:1-20
September 23	2:1-3:22
September 30	Congregational Singing
October 7	4:1-5:14
October 14	6:1-7:17
October 21	8:1-9:21
October 28	Congregational Singing
November 4	10:1-11:19
November 11	12:1-17
November 18	13:1-18
November 25	Congregational Singing
December 2	14:1-20
December 9	15:1-16:21
December 16	17:1-18:24
December 23	19:1-21
December 30	Congregational Singing
January 6	20:1-15
January 13	21:1-27
January 20	22:1-21
January 27	Congregational Singing

The Symbolism of Numbers

Number	Symbolic Meaning
1	The number one came to symbolize unity or independent existence.
2	The number two came to stand for strengthening, for confirmation, for redoubled energy. In Revelation two witnesses confirm the truth of God.
3	Three symbolizes the divine
4	Four symbolized the world in which mankind lived and worked and died. Such as the four corners of the world.
6	Six had a sinister meaning, six reached to perfection as "7" but fell short and failed. It had the potential to be great but failed to measure up. It was for the Jews what 13 is to many today.
7	Seven came from combining the perfect world number 4 and 3 the perfect divine number.
10	A perfect, full-rounded man was one who had all his members intact, so 5 doubled to ten came to stand for completeness. This will be used in combination with other numbers to emphasize completeness, as in 70, 1000, 144,000.
12	4 was multiplied by 3 and the resultant 12 came to stand for God's Holy People
3-1/2	7 cut in half was used to symbolize the incomplete, imperfect, or dissatisfied. This number shows up in other forms also in Revelation, such as 42 months or a time, times and half time.