

THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION

**Bereans Adult Bible Fellowship
Placerita Baptist Church**

Mission Statement

This study of the Book of Revelation gives special attention to the testimony it provides concerning our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

“The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy” (Rev 19:10; cp. 1:2), leading us to worship and serve Him in everything.

1.0 Outline of the Book of Revelation

- I.** What you have seen (Rev 1).
- II.** What is now (Rev 2–3)—the seven churches of Asia Minor.
- III.** What will take place after these things (Rev 4–22).
 - A.** The Seven Seals (4:1–8:1)
 - B.** The Seven Trumpets (8:2–11:19)
 - C.** The Unholy Trinity (12–14)
 - D.** The Seven Bowls (15–16)

1.0 Outline of the Book of Revelation

III. What will take place after these things (Rev 4–22).

E. Babylon (17–18)

F. The Return of Christ (19:1–20:6)

G. The Millennial Kingdom (20:1–6;
21:9–22:5)

H. The Eternal Day of God (20:7–21:8;
22:6–21)

2.0 Theme: Jesus Christ Himself (1:1)

- Names (chapter 1):
 - Jesus Christ
 - Faithful Witness
 - Firstborn of the Dead
 - Ruler of the Kings of the Earth
 - The Alpha and the Omega
 - The Lord God
 - The Almighty
 - The First and the Last
 - The Living One



3.0 Purposes of the Book of Revelation

- 1. To reveal Jesus Christ.**
- 2. To correct moral and doctrinal problems.**
- 3. To reveal the climax of human history.**
- 4. To reveal the ultimate triumph of true believers and the final victory of our Lord Jesus Christ.**
- 5. To reveal to all true Christians, especially to those in the midst of persecution, that they have a sure hope for the future.**

3.0 Purposes of the Book of Revelation

Doctrinal principles:

- **Faith triumphs over might.**
- **The judgment of sin is inevitable.**
- **The Christian approach represents the true philosophy of history.**
- **The Lord is faithful in all He has promised and He is all that He claims to be.**

4.0 Author of the Book of Revelation: John

- John, the son of Zebedee and the brother of James (Matt 4:21, 22).
- Fisherman by trade.
- Tradition says that John was youngest of the disciples.
- Authored: Gospel of John, I–III John, and Revelation.
- Closest circle to Jesus: John, Peter, and James.



4.0 Author of the Book of Revelation: John

- **John was the only disciple present at the cross when Christ was crucified.**
- **Jesus asked John to take care of His mother (John 19:25–27).**
- **John is known as the beloved disciple.**
- **Exiled to island of Patmos for his preaching (Rev 1:9), A.D. 85–90.**



4.0 Author of the Book of Revelation: John

Evidence supporting the Apostle John as the author of Revelation:

- **The author calls himself by the name of John (1:1, 9).**
- **Seven churches in same area where John had ministered previously.**
- **Early Church Fathers state that John was the author of the book of Revelation.**
- **Historical evidence of John's exile to Patmos.**

5.0 The Date of Writing: A.D. 95–96

- Titus destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple (A.D. 70)



5.0 The Date of Writing: A.D. 95–96

- Mt. Vesuvius explodes (A.D. 79)



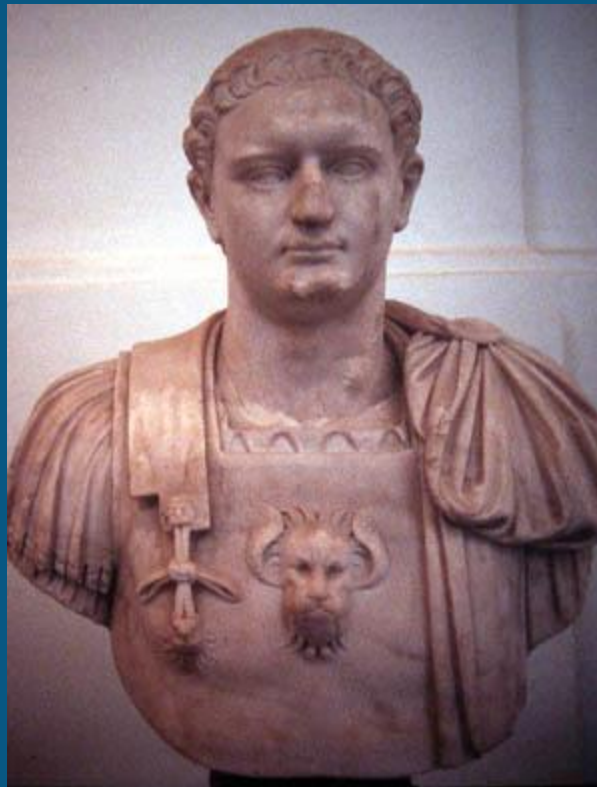
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- Colosseum dedicated (A.D. 80)



5.0 The Date of Writing: A.D. 95–96

- Domitian—emperor of Roman Empire—
reign of terror (A.D. 89–96)



5.0 The Date of Writing: A.D. 95–96

- Pope Clement I (A.D. 92–101)



5.0 The Date of Writing: A.D. 95–96

- Settlement of Hawaiian Islands (A.D. 100)



6.0 Visions in the Book of Revelation

A vision is not the same as a dream—the two are distinct:

- A dream involves a series of mental images or ideas present while one is asleep.**
- A vision presents images to the mind other than by natural, ordinary sight while a person is awake (Gen 46:2; Num 24:4, 16; Dan 10:7; Acts 9:3–7; Rev 1:9, 10, 17).**

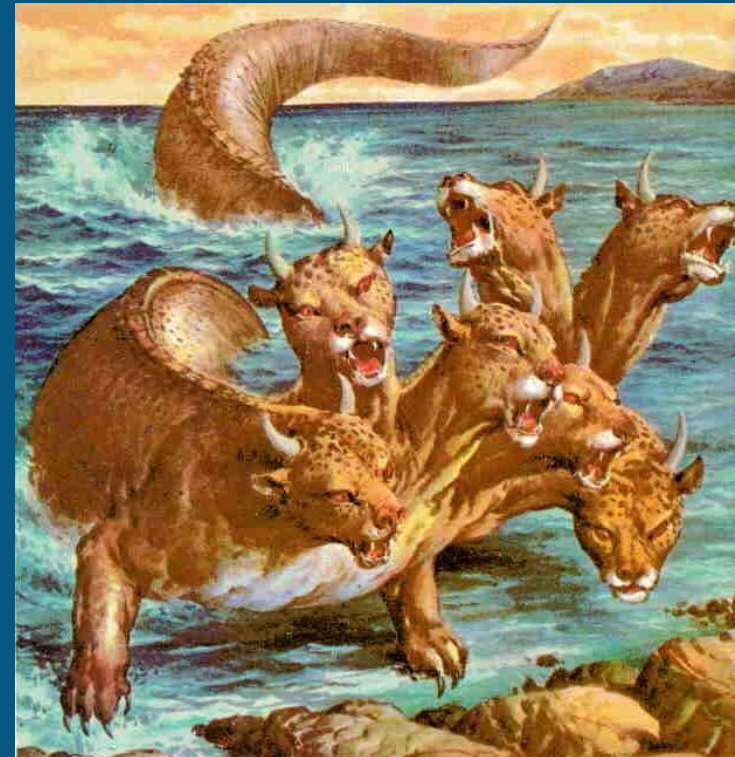
6.0 Visions in the Book of Revelation

A vision is not the same as a dream—the two are distinct:

- However, the recipient of a biblical vision under divine influence can oscillate between the sleeping and wakening states (Zech 4:1, 2; Luke 9:32).**

7.0 Symbols and Symbolism

- The Book of Revelation contains more symbols than any other book in the New Testament.
- Extraordinary happenings occur in the book, like the turning of one-third of the sea into blood, and hail and fire mingled with blood.



7.0 Symbols and Symbolism

Two main reasons for the use of symbolism in the book of Revelation:

- **Severe persecution—Christian literature and the preaching of the gospel were forbidden. Symbols used so that it was Christian literature and God's Word.**
- **The message was so far removed from the language of his day that the ordinary use of Greek words would not have adequately conveyed all that John saw.**

8.0 Use of the Old Testament

- No direct quotations from the Old Testament.
- Out of 404 verses, only 126 contain no allusion to the Old Testament.
- Closest association: the prophecies of Daniel.



9.0 Interpreting the Book of Revelation

Three basic principles of interpretation:

- 1. The Bible, in every word and totally, is the inspired, final, and authoritative Word of God.**
- 2. The Bible should be interpreted literally.**
- 3. The context of Scripture must be carefully and faithfully observed.**

10.0 Various Interpretations

- A. Preterist View
- B. Historicist View
- C. Idealist View
- D. Futurist View



Futurist Interpretation

- **Events from chapter 4 to the end have yet to be fulfilled.**
- **Two types of views among futurists regarding chapters 2 and 3:**
 - 1. These two chapters represent periods of church history up to the rapture of the church.**
 - 2. These two chapters describe the churches in John's day.**

Futurist Interpretation

- Revelation 4–19 = period just preceding the glorious coming of Christ to earth.
 - 7 years called the “tribulation.”
 - 2 parts, 3-1/2 years each.
 - Last 3-1/2 years = “great tribulation.”
 - Rev 19 = coming of Christ to earth.
 - Rev 20 = Christ’s future millennial reign.
 - Rev 21–22 either contemporary with or subsequent to the millennium.

Futurist Interpretation

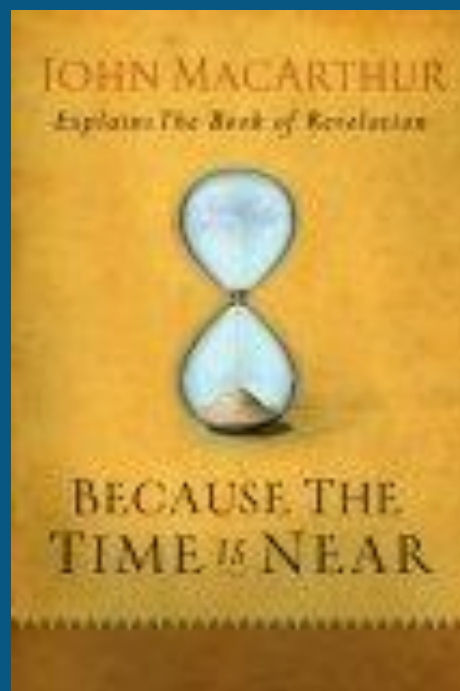
- **Fulfillment of these prophecies in a normal way.**
 - **No judgments in history equal those described in Rev 6, 8, 9, and 16.**
 - **Resurrections and judgments in Rev 20 have not yet occurred.**
 - **Nor has there been a visible return of Christ as portrayed in Rev 19.**

Futurist Interpretation

- **Some object to the futurist view:**
 - John and the first readers of the book of Revelation would not have understood the real meaning of the prophecies.
- **Response:**
 - Prophecy, as given in Scripture, was not always completely understood by the writer or his generation (Dan 12:4, 9; 1 Pet 1:10–12).

Recommended Commentaries

- Hindson, Edward
- MacArthur, John
- Osborne, Grant R.
- Ryrie, Charles Caldwell
- Smith, J. B.
- Thomas, Robert L.
- Walvoord, John F.



Implications Regarding Jesus Christ

- He reveals Himself.
- He cares about His people.
- He gives hope to His people.
- He will fulfill all that He has promised.