

“THE TIME IS NEAR”

A Study of the Book of Revelation

CHAPTER ONE

A. Important Truths in the Book of Revelation

1. It helps us understand a lot of the Old Testament.
2. It presents a high view of God.
3. It magnifies God the Son.
4. It sums up the whole Gospel - Rev. 1:5:
5. It describes the final victory of Jesus over the world-wide evil political and religious kingdom that will come in the future.
6. It is the capstone of the Bible:

B. Background to the Book of Revelation

1. **The structure of the book (1:19):**
 - a) What John “had seen” - 1:1-1:20.
 - b) “Those things that are” - 2:1-3:22.
 - c) Those things that are “to come” - 4:1-22:21.
2. **The human author of the book (1:1):**
 - a) Revelation has a dual authorship: God is the ultimate author, and John recorded God’s revealed words.
 - b) Justyn in 135 AD: “There was a 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 eternal resurrection and judgment of all men would likewise take place”.
3. **The date of the book:**
 - a) Approximately 68 AD has been suggested, but is probably wrong:
 - b) Approximately 95-96 AD:

4. The interpretation of the book:

a) The “Preterist view”:

b) The “Historicist view”:

c) The “Idealist view”:

d) The “Futurist view”:

PART ONE: “THE THINGS WHICH YOU HAVE SEEN” (1:1-20)

I. PROLOGUE TO THE REVELATION (1:1-20)

A. Revelation’s Unique Character (1:1-6)

1. Its essential nature is ‘revelation’ (V. 1):

“Apokalypsis”:

2. Its central theme is Jesus Christ (V. 1):

3. Its source is God (V. 1):

4. Its recipients are God’s ‘servants’ (V. 1):

5. Its biblical style is prophecy (V. 1):

6. Its supernatural delivery was through God’s angel: (V. 1)

7. Its human author was His servant John (V. 1-2):

8. Its blessing is promised to those who read and hear and take it to heart (V. 3):

9. Its time is near” (V. 3)

“Time” – the word for ages or seasons or eras:

2 Peter 3:3-8: “Know this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires. They will say, “Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation.” They deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God, and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished. Do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.”

10. Its benediction honors the Trinity (V. 4-5a):

a) John wishes grace and peace to seven churches in Asia:

b) Who is sending this greeting through John?

c) Grace and peace from “the seven spirits”:

d) Grace and peace come “from Jesus Christ”:

(1) He is the “faithful witness”:

(2) He is “the firstborn from the dead”:

(3) He is “the ruler of the kings of the earth”:

11. Its doxology exalts God (V. 5b-6):

B. Revelation’s Preview of the Second Coming (1:7-8)

1. The fact of His coming (V. 7):

2. The manner of His coming (V. 7):

3. The visibility of His coming (V. 7):

4. The certainty of His coming (Vs. 7-8):

C. Revelation's Opening Vision (1:9-20)

1. The setting for the vision (Vs. 9-11):

a) Historical setting of John's vision:

- (1)** About 95-96 AD, Domitian was emperor of the Roman Empire.
- (2)** In the 90s AD, Domitian became emperor, Christianity began to be seen as a religion separate from Judaism, and it was not well-thought-of in the Roman empire:
- (3)** Pliny called Christians "a depraved and extravagant superstition", "the contagion of this superstition has spread not only in the cities, but in the villages and rural districts as well".
- (4)** Historian Tacitus called Christians "a class hated for their abominations".
- (5)** Domitian (emperor 81-96) began a wide-spread and systematic persecution of Christians and John was caught up in that:

b) John was "in the Spirit on the Lord's Day":

c) John heard a voice behind him:

2. The unfolding of the vision (Vs. 12-16, 20):

a) John saw were "seven lampstands":

b) A detailed description of the one who spoke to John:

- (1)** A "robe down to His feet":
- (2)** A "golden sash" was "around His chest":
- (3)** "The hairs of His head were white, like white wool, like snow":
- (4)** "His eyes were like a flame of fire, his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters":

(5) “In His right hand He held seven stars”:

(6) “From his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength”

3. The effects of the vision (Vs. 17-18):

a) “The First and the Last”:

b) “The Alpha and Omega”:

c) The “Living One Who was dead and now lives forever”:

d) The One Who holds the keys to death and Hades”:

4. The object of the vision (Vs. 19-20):

a) The seven golden lampstands:

b) The seven stars:

NOTES: