

# Revelation

## Summary

Imagine a time in history when it is illegal to worship Jesus. Imagine a nation where the top political leader declares, "I am GOD!" Imagine a time when followers of Jesus are persecuted and churches are threatened. The people who lived in the time when the book of Revelation was written did not have to use their imaginations. This was their reality. The book of Revelation was written to assure the people of God that, no matter what they might face in their day-to-day life, God was on the throne. Jesus was Lord. And, when history comes to an end, evil would be crushed and God would be victorious. Christians are called to hold on to Jesus no matter what happened and no matter how hard things got. Faithfulness to Jesus would be worth whatever they might face. Because the book of Revelation is filled with apocalyptic literature (images of beasts, flying creatures, strange numbers, and rich symbolism), some people have made it more mysterious than it needs to be. The people in John's day would have understood the meaning of these words and taken great encouragement in the hope of God.

## Author

The apostle John, son of Zebedee, who wrote the Gospel of John, 1 John, 2 John, and 3 John, authored the book of Revelation.

## Date

The most common date given for the writing of Revelation is A.D. 95.

## Primary Characters

God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit (Revelation 1-22)

The Seven Churches (Revelation 2-3)

Jesus, the Lamb of God (Revelation 4-5, 14)

The Woman, the Dragon, and the two Beasts (Revelation 12-13)

The Great Prostitute and Satan (Revelation 17-20)

## Historical Moments

Introduction and a Vision of Jesus (Revelation 1)

Letters to the Seven Churches (Revelation 2-3)

The Throne of God and the Lamb Slain Before the Foundation of the Earth (Revelation 4-5)

The Seven Seals (Revelation 6-8)

The Seven Trumpets (Revelation 8-11)

Deliverance and Judgment (Revelation 12-14)

The Seven Bowls (Revelation 15-16)

The End of Evil: Babylon Falls, Satan's Doom, Great Throne Judgment (Revelation 17-22)

The Victory of God: The New Jerusalem, the Wedding of the Lamb, the Return of Jesus, a New Heaven and Earth, and Closing Words and Benediction (Revelation 17-22)

## Major Theological Themes

**God Rules, Reigns, and Wins** - Throughout Revelation, we learn that God is on the throne. He is sovereign over the universe, and when all the dust settles, God wins. It is always best to hold on to God and keep our eyes on Jesus, no matter how hard things get.

**Satan Loses and Evil Is Cast Down** - In the end, Satan loses and the enemies of God are cast down. We know how the battle ends and wise people make sure they are on the side of the One who rules the universe and not the one who is cast into the lake of fire.

**Judgment Is Real, Righteous, and Eternal** - God is holy and righteous. Judgment will come on the spiritual forces of evil and on human beings who have rejected Jesus and resisted God. The judgment of God is not unfair but absolutely justified.

**Heaven Is the Hope and Home of All Who Embrace Jesus By Faith** - Every human being who places their faith in Jesus will be gathered to the heart of God and taken home to heaven. We cannot know exactly how this will occur, but we can be absolutely certain that those who have received the grace and forgiveness of Jesus will spend eternity with God and His people in heaven.

## Lessons Learned from Revelation

**Jesus Is Worthy of Worship** - The glory, majesty, and wonder of Jesus cannot be denied. He is worthy of praise and honor. Do not wait until heaven to start lifting praise to Him; begin today and do not stop.

**The Church of Jesus Is Both Powerful and Flawed** - We are called to be active and productive members of a local church body. We cannot leave the Church because it is filled with flawed people. Choose to serve, love others, and help make the local church healthy and strong. God loves His Church, so we should too.

**This World Will Come to an End** - In the end, God will be on the throne and Satan will be cast down. Seek to follow God's will and ways in this life. Do not wait until tomorrow or next week to repent of sin and walk closely with Jesus.

**There Is Hope for God's People, Even in the Most Difficult and Painful Situations** - Jesus wants us to walk in hope and confidence, even when this world resists His grace and truth. God's people can be a beacon of hope and light in a dark and broken world. The darker the world gets, the brighter our light can shine.