

# **NOTES - Introduction and Revelation 1:1-6**

## *THE WITNESS OF THE CHURCH*

In Revelation, we see things as they truly are

- D-Day - war is over, but the battle rages
- The decisive battle won by Jesus on the cross
- Gen 3:15 - Head of the serpent crushed through the death of the seed of the woman
- Church in the middle of the battle

### **Revelation - Three Literary Genres**

#### 1. Apocalyptic

- Flourished from approximately 200BC-100AD
- Transmission from a heavenly being to a human
- Rev 4-21 - most of the book of Revelation falls into this category
- Highly symbolic - not mysterious to the original readers
- Encouragement to oppressed people

#### 2. Letter

- From someone to someone; reason for writing; Revelation has a purpose
- Rev 1-3, 22
- Easiest part of Revelation to understand and the part we are most familiar with

#### 3. Prophecy

- John in the tradition of the OT prophets
- Prophecy - words of comfort, challenge and hope

## Four Primary Approaches to Revelation

### 1. Preterist

- Fulfillment in the 1st century
- Symbols refer to Rome (Babylon, best, harlot, etc.)

### 2. Futurist

- Tribulation map
- Rev 1-3 applicable in 1st century; Rev 4-22 about tribulation and the 2nd coming
- Timeline for Daniel's 70th week

### 3. Idealist/Spiritual

- Great drama depicting spiritual realities
- Battle between God and Satan using symbolic language

### 4. Historicist

- Represents all of church history
- Fulfillment of prophecies throughout church history