

The Book of Revelation Introduction and Chapter 1

The Revelation is of Jesus Christ

The purpose is to get a clearer picture of Jesus in triumph and lordship over his church

and how the Kingdom of God will prevail over all evil.

Challenges to Understanding Revelation:

1. Prophetic interpretation involves some speculation
2. The sequence of Revelation is not necessarily chronological
3. Prophecy can be discursive to pass rapidly from one subject to another.
4. John sees both the literal and the symbolic.
5. Revelation's literary style is apocalyptic

Terms to define:

Great Tribulation: Seven year period of God's wrath on the earth.

End Times: Also known as last days (Acts 2:17-21; Joel 2:28-32).

Rapture – to catch saints up to heaven: (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 Cor. 15:51-55)

1. It is eminent.
2. More than one of these raptures in Scripture.

Christ's Return: also known as the second coming of Jesus Christ.

CHAPTER 1

Author is John: Brother of James

Written about 90-95 A.D.

Written to:

- Oppressed Christians facing persecution
Complacent Christians.

V3: Reading, hearing and taking to heart: there is blessing that comes from this book.

V4: Seven Spirits before His throne: manifestations of Holy Spirit (Isa. 11:2).

V6: A Kingdom of priests: He loved us and freed us.

V9/10: Exiled on Patmos.

V11: The seven churches.

V13: Son of Man (Daniel 7:13-14): Traits of Jesus. How Jesus looks in His glorified state.

V19: Have seen – vision of the son.

Is now – messages to seven churches.

Will take place later - future event

V20: Stars represent angels or seven churches.

Jesus gives position and leadership to the churches.