

Introduction:

- 1) Date. Most believe that Revelation was written in A.D. 95 or 96.
- 2)
- 3) Revelation is written in code form
  - a. The **key** to unlocking the code is found in the other books of the Bible
  - b. Revelation is a composite of the other 65 books of the Bible
    - i. If can't find the meaning of something in one of the other books of Bible then just guessing at meaning

- 4) This book is valuable beyond degree – it is the capstone of Scripture

a. It brings to finality all things	
b. <b>In <u>Genesis</u></b>	In <b><u>Revelation</u></b>
c. Earth is created	Earth is <u>destroyed</u>
d. Man's <u>first</u> rebellion	Man's <u>last</u> rebellion
e. <u>Creation</u> of heavens & earth	<u>Destruction</u> of heavens & earth
f. Story <u>began</u> in darkness	<u>Ends</u> in light
g. <u>Entrance</u> of sin	<u>Final judgment</u> of sin
h. <u>Entrance</u> of death	<u>Destruction</u> of death
i. <u>Beginning</u> of sorrows	<u>End</u> of all sorrows
j. Satan's doom <u>announced</u>	Satan's doom <u>fulfilled</u>
k. <u>First</u> marriage	<u>Marriage of the Lamb</u>
l. <u>Redemption</u> is <u>revealed</u>	<u>Redemption</u> is brought to <u>fruition</u>

- 5) **Four basic** approaches to understanding Book of Revelation

- a. The allegorical or nonliteral approach / Symbolic approach: This form of interpretation was offered by the Alexandrian school of theology in the third and fourth centuries. It regards the entire Bible as an extensive allegory to be interpreted in a **nonliteral** sense.

The allegorical interpretation of the Bible was later **restricted** largely to **prophecy** about the Millennium by Augustine (354–430), who interpreted Revelation as a chronicle of the spiritual conflict between God and Satan being fulfilled in the present Church Age.

A liberal variation of this in modern times considers **Revelation** & **Genesis** as simply a symbolic presentation of the concept of God's ultimate victory

I don't believe it is possible to be intellectually honest & hold this view

I believe it is a heart issue that causes someone to interpret Scripture in this manner

- b. The historical approach: A popular view stemming from the Middle Ages is the historical approach which views Revelation as a symbolic picture of the total church history of the present Age between Christ's

first and second comings. This view was advanced by Martin Luther, Isaac Newton, Bengel, Wordsworth, Elliott & others. The problem is that when they attach these symbols in Revelation to history they all attach the same symbol to different historical events. They can't agree w/ each other b/c it is strictly a matter of their own interpretation. Most of them were also of the **postmillennial** belief. The postmillennial view is getting harder to swallow every day.

i. Postmillennial view:

- Tribulation equals terrible events of Jewish war of 66–70 a.d. (Titus Roman general)
- Gospel and Christian missions will become so powerful that most of human society will be brought voluntarily into Christ's kingdom (world will get better & better)
- Earth will have long golden age of peace b/c of the Church's influence (the Millennium)
- I don't know how they justify that w/ **2 Tim.3:1**

**2 Tim.3:1** But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come.

2 For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy,

3 unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good,

4 treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,

5 holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these.

- After Millennium Christ will return visibly to earth, welcomed by all
- Last judgment will mean all people go to either heaven or hell
- Eternal state will go on forever

ii. Most **reform movements** accept the above as true. They tend to deny a literal future Millennium and also literal future events in the Book of Revelation.

iii. They usually are proponents of **replacement theology** – i.e. the Church has replaced Israel so everything stated about Israel now applies to the Church. That too is getting harder to swallow as Israel has become the lead story of every news day. They think they exist!!

- c. The preterist interpretation: The preterist view regards Revelation as a **symbolic** picture of early church conflicts which have been fulfilled. This view denies the Book of Revelation having **prophetic value**.

The word "preterist" comes from the Latin word "praeter" which means "past".

In varying degrees this view combines the allegorical/symbolic and Historic interpretation with the concept that Revelation does not deal with specific future events.

This view was propagated by the Roman Catholic Church. There was a good reason for them to do that & that reason is found in **Rev.17**.

There is a great harlot mentioned which is a religious system, a persecutor of the true church, a great city, sitting on 7 hills. This sounds too much like the Church of Rome for their comfort. So, to stop that they started the idea that all of the book of Revelation was history & had no meaning for those of the church age.

Still another variation of the preterist view regards Revelation as setting forth **principles** of **divine dealings with man**, without presenting specific details

- c. The futuristic approach: The futuristic approach has been adopted by conservative scholars, **usually premillenarians**, who state that chapters 4–22 deal with future events.

The content of **Revelation 4–18** describes the **last seven years** preceding the second coming of Christ and particularly emphasizes the Great Tribulation, occurring in the last three and one-half years before His coming.

They take a **literal** view of Scripture. One of the arguments of the symbolic crowd is found in **Revelation 1 & 19**

They say if you are going to be consistent you have to take those verses literal also

**Rev.1:16** In His right hand He held seven stars, and out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword; and His face was like the sun shining in its strength. **Rev.19:15 (NP)**

**Rev.19:15** From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty.

\*They ask if we really believe Christ will come back w/ a sword hanging from His mouth?

\***The answer** is "of course not" but we have this symbolism explained

**Heb.4:12** For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

\*He spoke the creation into existence – He can speak it **out** of existence also

There is much more to talk about but not today or next week – maybe ½ way thru book

- i. Amillennialism
- ii. Post millennialism
- iii. Premillennialism
- iv. Pre tribulation
- v. Mid tribulation
- vi. Post trib

6) Let's look at the Word together

Rev.1:1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must soon take place; and He sent and communicated *it* by His angel to His bond-servant John,

V.2 who testified to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, *even* to all that he saw.

V.3 Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near.

V.1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must soon take place; and He sent and communicated *it* by His angel to His bond-servant John,

1) "The Revelation of Jesus Christ"

a) The word is – ἀποκαλυψις – *apokalupsis*

i) It is singular not plural – The book of Revelation no "s"

b) Made up of 2 words

i) "apo" – a preposition meaning a state of separate – to move away

ii) Kalupto = means to hide or veil something – to hinder the knowledge of

c) The word means to remove the covering – unveil – take the veil away – to make clear – to make visible

d) This word is used in **Mt.16**

**Mat.16:15** He<sup>(Jesus)</sup> said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"

16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

17 And Jesus said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona,

because flesh and blood did not **reveal** *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven.

- e) The book is the revealing of Jesus Christ
  - i) Actually **all** Scripture is about Him – but **this book** in particular
  - ii) This book has other things in it – but they are all about Him revealing Him as He really is
  - iii) **Is your life is all about you?** – if so, you haven't found the meaning of life yet
  - iv) You will **never** know fulfillment, joy, contentment until life is bigger than you!
- f) There is a lot of **revealing** to be done in the **future**
- g) Who Jesus is – has been hidden from man by His flesh
- h) The **world** doesn't know Who He is – His enemies
  - i) In the Garden of Gethsemane the world couldn't stand when a little of Who He is leaked out  
**Jn.18:4**<sup>(in garden of Gethsemane)</sup> So Jesus, knowing all the things that were coming upon Him, went forth and \*said to them, "Whom do you seek?"  
5 They answered Him, "Jesus the Nazarene." He \*said to them, "I am *He*." And Judas also, who was betraying Him, was standing with them.  
6 So when He said to them, "I am *He*," they drew back and fell to the ground.
  - ii) His own "close" disciple, John, couldn't stand in His presence when some of His glory was revealed  
**Rev.1:12** Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands;  
13 and in the middle of the lampstands *I saw* one like a son of man, clothed in a robe reaching to the feet, and girded across His chest with a golden sash.  
**V.17** When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man. And He placed His right hand on me, saying, "Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last,
  - iii) The Apostle Paul, when he was Saul, couldn't stand when some of His glory was revealed to him  
**Acts 9:3** As he<sup>(Saul/Paul)</sup> was traveling, it happened that he was approaching Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him;  
4 and he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?"

5 And he said, "Who are You, Lord?" And He *said*, "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting,

- i) The Church doesn't / can't yet know Who He is
- j) This unveiling of Christ is a huge coming event

**Col.3:4** When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

**2 Thes.1:4** therefore, we ourselves speak proudly of you among the churches of God for your perseverance and faith in the midst of all your persecutions and afflictions which you endure.

5 *This is* a plain indication of God's righteous judgment so that you will be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which indeed you are suffering.

6 For after all it is only just, for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you,

7 and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be **revealed** from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire,

8 dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

9 These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,

**2 Tim.4:8** in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His **appearing**.

**Titus 2:11** For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men,

12 instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age,

13 looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory <sup>(glorious, bright appearing)</sup> of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus,

V.1 x The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must soon take place; and He sent and communicated *it* by His angel to His bond-servant John,

2) "which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants"

- a) God the Father gave to God the Son the revelation of Himself?!
- b) When the Son took on humanity – He limited Himself

**Mk.13:30** "Truly I<sup>(Jesus)</sup> say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.

31 "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.

32 "But of that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but the Father *alone*.

- c) Even after the resurrection when the disciples ask the Lord when He would establish His kingdom – He didn't know!

**Acts 1:6** So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, "Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?"

7 He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or epochs **which** the Father has fixed by His own authority;

- d) But now Christ is seated at the right hand of the Father
- i) There is something in heaven that has never been there before
    - (1) There is a man sitting on the throne of God
    - (2) God the Father gave Him the revelation of Himself
  - ii) This book makes that clear
  - iii) Jesus now knows exactly the moment He will return

3) "the things which must soon take place"

- a) That is a poor translation
- b) We get our word tachometer from this word
  - i) This word doesn't mean "soonness" as in "before long"
  - ii) It is a word of rapidity
- c) It says the things that must take place w/ speed when they start
- d) When things fall into place – look out!!! It will be over before you know it
- e) Have you looked around lately – man has never been where he is now
- f) Does it bother you that Iran will get a bomb?
- g) Does it bother you that our leadership & the rest of the world look like idiots?
- h) Relax, it is all according to God's plan – it seems to me that we are in the last of the last days it is only going to speed up from here!
  - i) **More futility**, more anxiety for the world
  - ii) Anxiety is contagious – don't catch it!!! It isn't your disease
- i) God the Father gave a message to the Son who in turn gave it to John so that we would know what is happening – be at peace!

V.1 x The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must soon take place<sup>(w/ at accelerated speed)</sup>; and He sent and communicated *it* by His angel to His bond-servant John,

V.2 who testified to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, *even to all that he saw.*

1) "that he saw"

- a) There are a lot of prophecies written in this world
- b) But there is a difference between them and the book of Revelation
  - i) This book makes sense w/ all other Scripture
  - ii) If you ever have a chance to read some book written by a man instead of God you will see how far off those books are
  - iii) They sound totally silly when read
- c) Somehow as only God can do He played the tape in front of John and he literally saw the future
- d) Apparently Satan could do the same thing – even w/ his limited power
  - i) In the wilderness he played for Christ all the kingdoms of the world & offered them to Him

V.3 *Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near.*

1) "Blessed is he who reads...who hear...the prophecy...heed the things which are written in it"

- a. I promise you – if you will be faithful to study this book w/ us – you will be blessed!

2) "for the time is near"

- a. Now we have a different word than the earlier word for quickness
- b. This does mean soonness as in how long before it starts
- c. Literally, the Kairos (the opportune moment) is near
- d. How can that be? It has been 2000 years since that was written
  - i. No, it had already started just like it said it would
  - ii. The Church age started on the day of Pentecost
  - iii. The first part of the book is about the Church age – that is clear

## CONCLUSION

This is not a scary book for believers

This is not a hard book to study – for believers

It is a book that should bring real peace as we see that God is still in control

The events of today are right in line w/ His plans