



*A STUDY IN*  
***The Book of the Revelation of Jesus Christ***

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*With my whole heart have I sought thee; O let me not wander from thy commandments. Thy word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against thee. Ps.119:10,11*

The believed author of the book, the Apostle John, mentions his name some four times throughout the book (Rev. 1:1, 4, 9, Rev. 22:8). John had been exiled to the island of Patmos which was literally "a barren rock" by the authorities for preaching the Gospel in Asia. The word "Revelation" comes from the Greek word "apocalypsis" and refers to an unveiling or disclosure of something unknown. And how appropriate the title as it *unveils* both near and far epic events relative to the 2nd. coming of Jesus Christ. John wrote Revelation around AD 95 from Patmos. He addressed his work to seven Asian churches—Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, Laodicea. Because John worked in Ephesus for so... many of his latter years, it would be natural for him to communicate his vision to the churches under his immediate care and influence. Each of those churches received a message directed specifically to them (chs. 2 &3) before he shares his account of future events revealed to him. Revelation provides the clearest biblical portrait of the events (*with specifics*) of the "Tribulation". The "Tribulation" (Rev. chps. 4-18), a time of judgment when those left on earth after the "Rapture" will suffer greatly for their unbelief.

John pictured this judgment as *a series of 21 events*—introduced by the *breaking of 7 seals, the blowing of 7 trumpets, and the pouring out of seven bowls*. This great judgment on the sinfulness of humanity shows the seriousness with which God views sin—and payment will be exacted from all not covered by the blood of Jesus Christ. Though Revelation offers many details on the Tribulation (*mysteriously hidden in symbolic language*)— it's really the final 4 chapters that dictate the overall message of the book (Rev. 19-22). In these chapters are found Christ's future triumph over the "evil one", the forces of evil and re-creation of the world for His redeemed where in reign truth, goodness, and the beauty of His holiness. The 66 books of the Bible portrays a world deep in the throes of the suffering brought about by the sin of mankind. The brilliance of Revelation is that it provides an answer to this problem; Jesus Christ will once and for all heal the wounds wrought by sin (Rev. 19) and re-create the world into a place that represents God's original design.

Why study the book of Revelation you ask? No matter how difficult it is to comprehend the mind-blowing visions of this prophecy (*or Daniel*), never forget that it (*they*) are part of **God's Word**; and as such, there is "an inherent blessing" in reading, hearing, and keeping those things we do-understand, **AMEN**. The "main goal" of studying Revelation is the same as that of the other 65 books of Scripture; that we comprehend at least "the big picture" of the book—and it's truth, and don't be unduly disturbed by details not yet understood. Wars, famine, diseases natural disasters—all appear to be evidence that chaos is King. However Revelation shares that God's sovereign plan replaces fear with hope and confidence that in the end, evil is destroyed, God is glorified in the highest in the glorification of His redeemed! And how were the redeemed glorified? By the blood of the Lamb of God, the GLORIFIED SON OF GOD!

So-Revelation tell's us that God's glorious Son is worthy of worship and is to the object of our undivided faith—as He is the center of our worship, the focus of our obedience, and the source of our blessing, both now & future. Usually when people mention Revelation, "judgment" is the first thing thought of. However, Revelation doesn't end with judgment. Instead it provides the 2nd. "biblical bookend" for the 66 books the bible (*consider: Genesis begins in Paradise. Revelation ends in Paradise*) Revelation reminds us that there is yet hope beyond the momentary trials and struggles of this life.