

MORE THAN
CONQUERORS
A STUDY OF REVELATION

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT
BIBLE STUDY**

August 14, 2024

First Baptist Church ~ Covington, Louisiana

Waylon Bailey, Pastor

Revelation 1:1-11 RSV

V1:1-3 is the introduction to John's letter to the churches. The speaker is anonymous.

[1] The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants what must soon take place; and he made it known by sending his angel to his servant John,

"The Revelation of Jesus Christ" is the best title of the book. It is the only use of "revelation" in the letter. "show" – a drama of redemption.

[2] who bore witness to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw.

We get the word "martyr" from the Greek word for "witness".

[3] Blessed is he who reads aloud the words of the prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written therein; for the time is near.

Revelation contains 7 Beatitudes /Blessings vs. 1:3; 14:13; 16:15; 19:9; 20:6; 22:7, 22:14

[4] John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne,

The number seven is found 54 times in Revelation. It signifies something "complete", "ideal", or "perfect." By writing to the "7 churches", it shows that it is written to the entire church.

Seven spirits represent the perfect Spirit. Notice that the Trinity is pictured

Notice the 3 descriptions of Jesus in 1:4 and God in 1:3. Revelation is thoroughly Trinitarian.

[5] and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the first-born of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood

[6] and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Revelation gives almost 500 hundred references or allusions to the Old Testament, more than all the other New Testament books combined. Eugene Peterson said that nothing is said in Revelation that hasn't already been said elsewhere in the Bible.

Compare a "kingdom, priests" to Exodus 19:6

[7] Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, every one who pierced him; and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.

"Coming with the clouds" may be a symbol of judgment.

[8] "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

Alpha and Omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. God's timelessness is emphasized.

[9] I John, your brother, who share with you in Jesus the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.

Tertullian said that John had been exiled.

[10] I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet

"To be in the Spirit" means to be under the control of the Spirit, or in a moment of understanding 4:2, 17:3, 21:10 May we all be in the Spirit as we recall the resurrection – a "trumpet's" call to action.

[11] saying, "Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea."

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Revelation Overview

Intro: The Revelation of Jesus Christ gives us a beautiful description of the Son of Man, the throne of God, and the victorious Christ going forth in battle. This Book gives us comfort for today and insight for the future.

AUTHOR: John the Apostle

DATE: AD 95-96 Domitian was emperor.
AD 81-96 Reign of Terror; AD 98-117AD Trojan

THE SITUATION IN THE 1st Century: Domitian Emperor of Rome AD 81-96. Known for his “Reign of Terror. Murdered by those closest to him. Terrorized Christians - demanded worship as god. Beheaded believers and burned them alive. In these kinds of circumstances, believers ask, “How long, O Lord?”

THE RECIPIENTS: Not to foretell history but:

- For the people of the 1st century. The book is God’s answer to the prayers and tears of severely persecuted Christians in Asia Minor.
- For believers of all times and seasons (*vs. 1:3, 22:18*)

PURPOSE: To comfort the militant church in its struggle against the forces of evil.

- God sees their tears (*vs. 7:17; 21:4*)
- Their death is precious in the sight of the Lord
- Their victory is assured (*v.15:2*)
- Boon is avenged (*v.19:2*)
- Christ is coming again to take the church and to live with them forever
- He is with us NOW in the Spirit (*vs. 1:12-20*)

THEME: The victory of Christ over the dragon (Satan) and his helpers.

- The apocalypse shows us that things are not as they seem (*vs. 11:7-10*). The beast seems to be victorious but his is premature (*vs. 11:11,15*)
- Christ is the victor. He conquers death, Hades, the dragon, the beast, the false prophet, and those who worship the beast.
- The theme in Scripture: **Revelation 17:14** *they will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful.*

HOW WE WILL APPROACH THE BOOK:

- We will let the Bible speak for itself. We will not impose an interpretation on it.
- We will take one passage at a time, seeking to understand what it means.
- We will use John’s method – *apocalyptic literature*.
- We will seek to understand symbolism, as in the use of numbers.
- We will seek the Word of God to us today.

ROMAN EMPERORS:

- Caesar Augustus 27 BC – AD 14 *Birth of Jesus*
- Tiberius AD 14-37
- Caligula AD 37-41
- Claudius AD 41-54
- Nero AD 54-69 *Paul, Peter, Timothy executed*
- Galba, Otho, & Vitellius AD 68-69
- Vespasian AD 69-79 *“Caesar is Lord”*
- Titus AD 79-81
- Domitian AD 81-96 *Revelation is written*

