

Book 66: Revelation

"Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near." – Revelation 1:3

- Revelation was the last book of the Bible to be written. That was in about 95 A.D.
- It was written by John the Apostle and is the only book of his that actually gives us his name.
- John wrote it after receiving a series of visions while in exile on the island of Patmos, a Greek island near Ephesus in the Aegean Sea.

- Revelation is often ignored by people who find it too difficult.
- There are also imbalanced believers who never read anything else.
- While it's wrong to be imbalanced, there is very good reason to dig into Revelation.
- It is the only biblical book that promises a blessing to all those who read, hear and keep its words (Rev 1:3).

- Genesis was the book of beginnings.
- Revelation reveals a *new beginning* after the end of this age.
- The word *revelation* means an "unveiling" or "disclosure."
- The *Revelation of Jesus Christ* is His revelation, meaning it *belongs* to Him.
- It is also His in that it *reveals* Jesus Christ in all His power like no other book.

- Revelation is the only New Testament book based exclusively on heavenly visions.
- It is also the only book to give such a detailed account of the Last Days.
- While the Bible frequently speaks of a coming kingdom, Revelation is the only book to define the length of that age, the 1000 years, or *millennium* of Rev 20.

- The book of Revelation conveniently gives us its own outline in 1:19.
- There we see three things John was supposed to write:
 - The things which you have seen Rev 1
 - The things which are Rev 2-3
 - The things which will take place after this Rev 4-22

- That outline expanded looks as follows:
 - 1 The Vision of the Glorified Christ
 - 2-3 The Letters to the Seven Churches
 - 4-5 The Scene in Heaven
 - 6-18 The Pouring Out of the Wrath of God
 - 19-20 Christ's Return and Coming Kingdom
 - 21-22 Final Judgment and Eternal Glory

- Revelation may seem too complex to look at in such a general way in one sitting.
- We should remember that we are blessed even if we simply read and hear the words.
- We will benefit spiritually from any exposure to the material at all.
- On our own we should make it a point to read it until it becomes familiar.