

THE REVELATION TO SAINT JOHN

Introduction

Literary Background

Why is the Book of Revelation the only book of its kind in the New Testament? What does it have in common with the prophetic books of the Old Testament? How does it differ?

Interpretive Views

What are the five approaches to interpreting the Book of Revelation?

Chapter 1

Introduction and Salutation

What is the meaning of the following verse: “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.” (Note 1:3)

Word Study

What is the meaning of the word “Revelation”?

What type of priesthood do we share with Jesus Christ?
(Note 1:6)

What is the meaning of the following verse: “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” (Note 1:8)

A Vision of Christ

Where is the Island of Patmos? What does John mean when he says “I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day” (Note 1:9, 1:10)

What do the seven golden lampstands symbolize? (Note 1:12)

Chapter 2

The Message to Ephesus

In Chapters 2-3 John addresses 7 churches in Asia Minor. What is a general overview of these chapters? (Note 2:1-3:22)

What is the meaning of the following phrase: “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.” (Note 2:7)

The Message to Smyrna

Was the Jewish community in Smyrna hostile to Christianity? Who are the perpetrators of Christian persecution? (Note 2:8, 2:9)

The Message to Pergamum

What is the meaning of the following verse: “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, with a new name written on the stone which no one knows except him who receives it.” (Note 2:17)

Chapter 3

The Message to Laodicea

What is the meaning of the following verses: “I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were cold or hot! So, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew you out of my mouth.” and “Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any one hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.” (Note 3:16, 3:20)

Chapter 4

The Heavenly Worship

What does the third phase of Revelation disclose? (Note 4:1-5:14)

What are the four living creatures and how does traditional exegesis relate them to the four evangelists? (Note 4:6)

Is the Sanctus chanted in the heavenly liturgy? (Note 4:8)

Chapter 5

The Scroll and the Lamb

What is a scroll? How does St. Gregory the Great interpret the scroll as a sealed book? (Note 5:1)

How can a slain lamb be standing? (Note 5:6)

Chapter 6

The Seven Seals

What is the meaning of the breaking of the seven seals? (Note 6:1-8:5)

Chapter 8

The Seventh Seal and the Golden Censer

What is liturgical silence? (Note 8:1)

What is the relationship between the incense and prayers of all the saints? (Note 8:3)

The Seven Angels and Seven Trumpets

What is the meaning of the Seven Angels blowing Seven Trumpets? (Note 8:17-11:19)

Chapter 12

The Woman and the Dragon

Who is the Woman and the Dragon? (Note 12:1-6, 12:3)

What is the meaning of the following verse: “His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven, and cast them to the earth.” (Note 12:4)

Chapter 13

The Beast from the Sea

What two agents of the dragon are introduced in Chapter 13? (Note 13:1-18)

Chapter 15

The Angels with the Seven Last Plagues

What are the final cycle of judgements in the Book of Revelation? (Note 15:1-16:21)

Word Study

Who Is Babylon?

Chapter 20

The Thousand Years

What are the three views of the binding of Satan and the millennial reign of Christ? (Note 20:1-6)

What is millenarianism and what does the Church teach concerning this interpretation of Scripture? (Note 20:1-6)

Chapter 21

The New Heaven and the New Earth

How does St. John see all of creation at the end of time?
(Note 21:1)

How does the new Jerusalem come down from heaven?
What are the antithetical parallels between the new
Jerusalem and the harlot city? (Note 21:2)

Chapter 22

River of the Water of Life

How does “the tree of life” relate to heaven and the
Garden of Eden? (Note 22:2)