

THE REVELATION TO SAINT JOHN

Author

Who is the author of the book based on Tradition?

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?

Read 1:1-3 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"?

Read 1:4-6 What type of priesthood do we share with Jesus Christ? (Note 1:6)

Read 1:7-8 What is the meaning of the following verse: "I am the Alpha and the Omega," (Note 1:8)

Read 1:9-11 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)

Read 1:12-18 What do the seven golden lampstands symbolize? (Note 1:12)

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

Read 2:7 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)

Read 2:8-10 Was the Jewish community in Smyrna hostile to Christianity? Who are the perpetrators of Christian persecution? (Note 2:8, 2:9)

Read 2:17 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)

Read 3:15-22 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 anyone 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)

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

Read 4:5-7 What are the four living creatures and how does traditional exegesis relate them to the four evangelists? (Note 4:6)

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

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

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

Read 5:9-10 How does Christ the Passover Lamb bring forth a New Exodus? (Note 5:9-10)

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

Read 7:1-4 What is a seal? (Note 7:3)

What is the symbolic meaning of the number 144,000? (Note 7:4)

Read 8:1 What is liturgical silence? (Note 8:1)

Read 8:2-3 What is the relationship between the incense and prayers of all the saints? (Note 8:3)

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

Read 12:1-6 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)

Read 13:1, 13:11 What two agents of the dragon are introduced in Chapter 13? (Note 13:1-18)

Read 13:16-18 What is the mark of the beast? (Note 13:18)

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

What are the 7 bowls of wrath and how does this relate to the Exodus plagues? (Note 16:1-21)

Topical Essay

Who Is Babylon?

Read 20:1-6 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)

Read 21:1-4 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)

Read 22:1-2 How does “the tree of life” relate to heaven and the Garden of Eden? (Note 22:2)