



# Revelation

An Overview

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1. Introduction

2. Overview

# 1. Introduction

“The revelation from Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, who testifies to everything he saw—that is, the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.”

–Revelation 1:1-3

“He made it known by sending his angel to his servant **John**, who testifies to everything he saw”

–Revelation 1:1

“I, **John**, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of **Patmos** because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.”

–Revelation 1:9



# Characteristics of Revelation

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## **1. Christ-centered**

“...revelation of  
Jesus Christ...”

–Revelation 1:1

# Characteristics of Revelation

1. Christ-centered

**2. Prophetic**

“...what must soon  
take place...”

–Revelation 1:1

- **1:3:** "...the words of this prophecy..."
- **22:7:** "...the words of the prophecy in this book..."
- **22:10:** "...the words of the prophecy of this book..."
- **22:18:** "...the words of the prophecy of this book..."
- **22:19:** "...this book of prophecy..."

“Looking for meaning in history is like looking for patterns in clouds.”

–John Gray

“The universe we observe has precisely the properties we should expect if there is, at bottom, no design, no purpose, no evil and no good, nothing but blind, pitiless indifference.”

–Richard Dawkins



# Characteristics of Revelation

1. Christ-centered
2. Prophetic
- 3. Symbolic**

“He made it known **[signified]**  
by sending his angel to his  
servant John”

–Revelation 1:1

“A great sign appeared in heaven: a **woman** clothed with the **sun**, with the **moon** under her feet and a crown of twelve **stars** on her head. She was pregnant and cried out in pain as she was about to give birth. Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red **dragon** with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on its heads. Its tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth.”

–Revelation 12:1-4

“The great **dragon** was hurled down—  
that ancient serpent called the devil, or  
**Satan**, who leads the whole world astray.”

–Revelation 12:9

“Then he had another dream, and he told it to his brothers. “Listen,” he said, “I had another dream, and this time the **sun** and **moon** and eleven **stars** were bowing down to me.”

–Genesis 37:9

# Characteristics of Revelation

1. Christ-centered
2. Prophetic
3. Symbolic
- 4. Rooted in the Old Testament**

| <b>Genesis</b>  | <b>Revelation</b>   |
|---|---|
| Mankind cut off from tree of life in Eden (2:9; 3:22) | Mankind given access to tree of life in new creation (22:2) |
| Death and a curse (3:14, 17-19)                       | No more curse; no more death or tears (22:3)                |
| Conflict between Christ and Satan (3:15)              | Satan's final doom (20:10)                                  |
| Man driven from God's face (3:23; 4:16)               | Men see His face in glory (22:4)                            |
| Believers looking for a city (Heb 11:13-16)           | The holy city presented in glory (21:10)                    |
| "Where is the Lamb?" (22:7)                           | The Lamb reigns (22:3)                                      |
| Satan utters the first lie (3:1)                      | No liars enter the city (21:27)                             |

# Characteristics of Revelation

1. Christ-centered
2. Prophetic
3. Symbolic
4. Rooted in the Old Testament
- 5. Book with a blessing**



“But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? **You ought to live holy and godly lives** as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming.”

–2 Peter 3:10-12

“By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.”

–Hebrews 11:8-10

“Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. Everyone who has this hope in him **purifies** himself, just as he is pure.”

–1 John 3:2-3

“Many in my generation of evangelicals have held dispensational eschatological chart-drawing in such derision that we have been virtually paralyzed in our study of prophecy. For two generations, perhaps, we have failed to study prophecy with anything like the rigor that it deserves. We have been so afraid of being viewed as one of those Zionist, right-wing, antichrist-sniffing, culture-denying, alarmist left-overs from the Scofield, prophecy conference era that we give hardly any energy to putting the prophetic pieces together – at least not in public.

“So my prophecy is that younger evangelicals who take the Bible seriously will start to feel like the paralysis of my generation was an overreaction to prophetic studies; Chris Tomlin and others will write more worship songs about the second coming; and younger scholars will not be embarrassed to write doctrinal dissertations on Daniel 9 and Matthew 24 and 2 Thessalonians 2, unintimidated by the academic scorn of futuristic possibilities.

“And my exhortation is: Go for it! But in the process don’t lose any of the real gains of the last 60 years – like the chastening of our abilities to predict the end, and the full-blooded engagement with the challenges of this present day.”

–John Piper

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## 2. Overview

# Views on Revelation

## **1. Preterist**



# Views on Revelation

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**2. Historcist**

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1. Preterist
2. Historicist
- 3. Futurist**

# Views on Revelation

1. Preterist
2. Historicist
3. Futurist
- 4. Idealist**

“Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later.”

—Revelation 1:19  
*(key verse)*

# Structure of Revelation

| <b>"What you have seen"</b> | <b>"What is now"</b> | <b>"What will take place later"</b> |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Past                        | Present              | Future                              |
| Ch. 1                       | Chs. 2-3             | Chs. 4-22                           |

“What you have seen”  
(**ch. 1**)

“Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.”

–Revelation 1:17-18

“What is now”  
(**chs. 2-3**)



1. Ephesus: The careless church
2. Smyrna: The crowned church
3. Pergamon: The compromised church
4. Thyatira: The corrupt church
5. Sardis: The feeble church
6. Philadelphia: The faithful church
7. Laodicea: The foolish church

“What will take place later”  
(**chs. 4-22**)

# Chapters 4-22

- Chs. 4-5: The throne room
- Chs. 6-19: Judgments
- Ch. 20: The Millennium
- Chs. 21-22: The new creation

“After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, ‘**Come up here**, and I will show you what must take place after this.’”

–Revelation 4:1

# The Tribulation

- Chs. 6-9: First 3.5 years
- Chs. 10-14: Midpoint
- Ch. 15-19: Last 3.5 years

“All these are the  
beginning of **birth pains.**”

–Matthew 24:8

“And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. He had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on his horns, and on each head a blasphemous name. The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion. The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority. One of the heads of the beast seemed to have had a fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been healed. The whole world was astonished and followed the beast. Men worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast and asked, ‘Who is like the beast? Who can make war against him?’

–Revelation 13:1-4

“The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise his authority for forty-two months. He opened his mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander his name and his dwelling place and those who live in heaven. He was given power to make war against the saints and to conquer them. And he was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation. All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast—all whose names have not been written in the book of life belonging to the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world.”

–Revelation 13:5-8



“Then I saw another beast, coming out of the earth. He had two horns like a lamb, but he spoke like a dragon. He exercised all the authority of the first beast on his behalf, and made the earth and its inhabitants worship the first, whose fatal wound had been healed. And he performed great and miraculous signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to earth in full view of men. Because of the signs he was given power to do on behalf of the first beast, he deceived the inhabitants of the earth. He ordered them to set up an image in honor of the beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived. He was given power to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that it could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed.”

–Revelation 13:11-15

“Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. The earth and the heavens fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what they had done. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.”

–Revelation 20:11-15

“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

–Revelation 21:1-4

“I am coming **soon.**”

–Jesus

# Questions

1. Is the Jesus of Revelation the Jesus you worship?
2. Are you living in light of Christ's return?

