

## John Writes the Book of Revelation

December 11, 2022

Revelation 1:1-20

“There are two books the devil especially hates: one is Genesis, and the other is Revelation. It’s very easy to see why he hates both of these books, because in Genesis his doom is pronounced, and in Revelation it is carried out.”<sup>1</sup>

Revelation = an unveiling, to uncover, to reveal, to make manifest.

Not so much about an event or events, but a person, Jesus.

God used “His angel” to convey the Revelation.

Seven churches in Asia is known as modern day Turkey. While originally sent to seven actual churches John makes it clear any believer can profit.

“In the mid 60’s A.D. the Emperor Nero was feeding Christians to the lions. All of the apostles had been martyred for their faith, except John. Peter was crucified upside down because he felt he was unworthy to be crucified like Christ. By the mid 90’s the persecution was even more intense. All Roman subjects were to worship Emperor Domitian. John refused so he was sent to the rock quarry on the island of Patmos. Execution was avoided to prevent from giving the believers a martyr, which could have spurred them on their commitment to the truth of Jesus Christ.”<sup>2</sup>

In the Book of Genesis, you see the creation of the first heaven and the first earth. In the Book of Revelation, you see new heavens and a new earth. In the Book of Genesis, you see the first Adam reigning on Earth. In the Book of Revelation, you see the last Adam reigning in Glory. In the Book of Genesis, the night and the seas are created. In the Book of Revelation, there is no more night and no more sea. In the Book of Genesis, there is a bride who is brought to the first Adam. In the Book of Revelation, there is a bride—the Church—that is brought to the last Adam. And in the Book of Genesis, you see the tree of life in the Garden of Eden. In the Book of Revelation, you see the tree of life in the new creation. In the Book of Genesis, you see sin as it as it crawls its slimy corroding path into the pages of history; you see that sin brings death and a curse. But in the Book of the Revelation, we come to a time where there is no more curse and no more death. In Genesis, Satan appears for the first time. In Revelation, he appears for the last time before he is sentenced to the pit. In the Book of Genesis, you see man driven from God’s face in sin. In Revelation, you see God’s face in glory. In the Book of Genesis, the inhabitants of the world are looking for a city by faith. And that holy city is presented in glory in the Book of the Revelation. In the Book of Genesis, Satan utters his first lie; but in the Book of the Revelation, we see a city where no lie can ever enter. The first time He came, He came to a crucifixion. When He comes again, He’s coming to a coronation. The first time He came, He came to a tree. When He comes again, He’s coming to a throne. When He came the first time, He stood before Pilate to be judged. When He comes again, Pilate will stand before Him to be judged. When He came the first time, He came in shame. When He comes again, He shall come in splendor. When He came the first time, He came to redeem us. When He comes the second time, He comes to reign over us. When He came the first time, He came as a servant. When He comes again, He is coming as Sovereign—the one and only Lord of lords and King of kings.<sup>3</sup>

THEME: The overriding theme of the Book of Revelation is the return of Jesus Christ to defeat all evil and to establish His reign.<sup>4</sup>

### Three words this morning to give an overview of the Revelation:

**Culmination**-- the highest or climactic point of something, especially as attained after a long time.

NOT CONCLUSION

In its 404 verses, Revelation contains over 500 allusions to the Old Testament. There are more allusions to the Old Testament in Revelation than in all other books of the New Testament combined. To understand Revelation, we need to read it with the Old Testament open.

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<sup>1</sup> Adrian Roger

<sup>2</sup> Warren Wiersbe

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

“BIG STORY” FROM ABOVE—CREATION (GENESIS 1-2); FALL (GENESIS 3); REDEMPTION ( GENESIS 3:15-REVELATION 20); NEW CREATION (REVELATION 20-21)

“BIG STORY” FROM BELOW—GOD→SIN→CHRIST→RESPONSE

Genesis gives us the beginning and Revelation gives us the culmination.

All that God has written down for us in the Old and New Testament culminates in Revelation. It all comes together here. Not in words but in the Person of the Word—Jesus Christ.

### **Consolation**

*And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. Luke 2:25 (NKJV)*

WAITING—Looking forward to

Anticipating

Consolation – Comforter of Israel

*Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing. 2 Timothy 4:8 (NKJV)*

**Control**—Jesus is sovereign; He is in control:

OF LIFE

OF DEATH

OF THE CHURCH

OF THE WORLD

ALL THINGS

You cannot be realistic unless you understand that what we see, hear, smell, taste and touch is not all there is. Darrell Johnson writes, “We are given, as some like to put it, “an alternative reading of reality.”” He goes on to write:

Because John the pastor knows that if we can just see the full reality of the present, then we will have courage to overcome the powers of the age, and we will then follow Jesus Christ with reckless abandon:

1:7— “Look! He is coming with the clouds.”

1:18— “Look! I am alive forever more, and I have the keys of death and of Hades.”

4:2— “Look! A throne and one sitting on it.”

5:5— “Look! The lion has overcome.”

14:1— “Look! The Lamb standing on Mt. Zion.”

19:11— “Look! A white horse, and he who sets upon it is called Faithful and True”

21:3— “Look! The tabernacle of God is among people, and he will dwell with them.”<sup>5</sup>

Jesus is saying, “I am coming. Be encouraged. Stay on track. Do not be fearful, Hard times must come. And then the end, which is really the beginning.”

### **Prayer Focus:**

- **Do I know Jesus?**
- **Am I anticipating His return?**
- **Am I seeking to prepare others?**

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<sup>5</sup> Johnson, Darrell W.. Discipleship On The Edge: An Expository Journey Through the Book of Revelation (p. 27). Canadian Church Leaders Network. Kindle Edition.