

Revelation

Timeline of writing: 95AD

Timeline of events: 1st coming of Christ – 2nd coming of Christ

Revelation	
Chapter(s)	Time period covered
1	What you have seen
2-3	What is now
4-22	What will take place later

Four views:

- Allegorical, non-literal
 - Symbolic non-literal presentation of God's ultimate victory
- Preterist
 - Symbolic presentation of what has already occurred
- Historical
 - An unfolding of the history between Christ's two comings. No literal millennial reign
- Futuristic
 - Ch 4-22 detail future events, mainly the 7 year period prior to Christ's return (4-18), the second coming (19), millennial reign (20), and eternal state (21-22).

Theological significance:

Revelation is the climax of human history. All prophecies in both testaments are concluded in their entirety within its pages. The second coming of Christ and the events immediately preceding it are explained in graphic detail. The details surrounding the ultimate destination for mankind, as well as the ultimate victory in Christ are revealed.

God's plan revealed through the Epistles:

- God's salvific plan in Christ is ultimately achieved and detailed in Revelation.
- The previous (Ch 1), current (Ch 2-3), and future (Ch 4-22) state of mankind between Christ's two comings are revealed.
- God displays both His righteous judgment and gracious mercy.
- The destination for those who follow and reject Christ are ultimately revealed.

How to Interpret:

- Utilize basic interpretive principles (OICA)
 - Observation, Interpretation, Correlation, Application
- Use this book to develop or sharpen your view of God, man, sin, salvation, etc.
- Recognize the genre of apocalyptic literature:
 - It was meant to be read in its entirety
 - Follow the chronology in the book, without getting hung up on EXACT dates
 - Symbolism is highly evident
 - Look for direct interpretations for greatest accuracy
 - What is figurative, what is literal
 - Recognize the image and non-image in order to understand the correct interpretation
 - Utilize parallel passages and yet to be fulfilled prophecies (Old Testament and Olivet Discourse)
- Practical application:
 - Revelation assures us Jesus is returning.
 - Focus on the WHY, not the WHEN
 - Focus on HOW we are to live in light of His return:
 - Matt 22:36-40
 - Matt 28:19-20

Analyze and apply the Book of Revelation:

- In what way does Jesus reveal the future to John in the Revelation?
- How do the letters to the seven churches speak to us today?
- What is the significance of the seven seals, trumpets, and bowls?
- Why does Revelation depict Christ as a Lamb?
- What actually occurs at Armageddon when Jesus returns?
- What does the promise of the New Jerusalem (eternal city) mean to you personally?