

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

REVELATION 1:1-3

I. THE TITLE OF THE BOOK.

A. The Misstated Title of the Book.

1. Some refer to this book as “The Book of Revelations.”
2. Some refer to this book as “The Revelation of John.”

B. The Stated Title of the Book.

1. The declaration of the title. 1:1.
2. The meaning of the title.
 - a. “Revelation” comes from the word “apocalypse” which means an “unveiling.”
 - b. This last book of the Bible is “The Unveiling of Jesus Christ.”
 - c. While the gospels reveal Jesus in his humiliation Revelation reveals him in his glory.
 - d. Jesus is the subject and theme of Revelation. Rev. 19:10.

II. THE AUTHOR OF THE BOOK.

A. The Person.

1. His identity. 1:1.
2. His situation. 1:1,10.
 - * John is an old man and the last of the apostles. He is in exile on Patmos. *

B. The Time.

1. AD 90-95.
2. About 60 years after the ascension of Christ.

C. The Background.

1. The religious background.
 - a. Pagan religions were prominent in every city.
 - b. The church was dealing with false teaching, spiritual apathy and persecution.
2. The political background.
 - a. The Roman Empire dominated the Mediterranean world.
 - b. Christianity was now seen as a separate religion from Judaism.
 - c. Christianity was experiencing persecution from the Roman government that would grow and continue until about 325 AD.

III. THE STRUCTURE OF THE BOOK. 1:19.

A. The Things That John Had Seen. 1:1-20.

B. The Things That Now Exist. 2:1-3:22.

C. The Things That Will Be Hereafter. 4:1-22:21.

- * The vast majority of Revelation deals with the future. *

IV. THE BLESSING OF THE BOOK.

A. The Book Reveals the Glory of Christ.

1. His present glory is described in Revelation 1.
2. His heavenly glory is described in Revelation 5.
3. His returning glory is described in Revelation 19.
4. His eternal glory is described in Revelation 21-22.

B. The Book Reveals the Victory of Christ.

1. His victory over Satan. Rev. 20:10.
2. His victory in redemption.
 - a. In Genesis Satan appears (Gen. 3:1). In Revelation he is destroyed (Rev. 20:10).
 - b. In Genesis sin enters God's creation (Gen. 3). In Revelation sin is banished from the new creation (Rev. 21:27).
 - c. In Genesis the curse is pronounced (Gen. 3:17). In Revelation the curse is removed (Rev. 22:3).
 - d. In Genesis man is barred from paradise (Gen. 3:24). In Revelation man dwells in paradise (Rev. 21-22).
 - e. In Genesis death and sorrow enter the human race (Gen. 3:19). In Revelation God wipes away all tears and death is abolished (Rev. 21:5).

C. The Book Reveals the Return of Christ.

1. The promise of his return. 1:7; 22:7,12,20.
2. The events preceding his return. 6:1-19:10.
3. The description of his return. Rev. 19:11-16.
4. The challenge of his return. Rev. 3:11.

