

The Revelation

*. Who wrote the letter?

The author is indicated in vs 1 as “His bond-servant John.” Most everyone agrees that this is John the Apostle. Many similarities exist between this writing and those others of the New Testament that are attributed to the Apostle. The Apostle finds himself exiled to the Isle of Patmos perhaps because he was a leader of the NT church. NOTE: The title is “Revelation” -- this letter contains an “unveiling” of the hope that is found in Jesus Christ.

*. When was it written?

The Revelation was written about 94-96 AD. Domitian was the emperor of the Roman Empire. He also began to consider himself to be a “god” and was forcing all people in the empire to worship him. For those who refused, they were subjected to tremendous persecution and, on many occasions, death. Christians were particularly targeted for persecution because of their unwillingness to worship anyone other than the one true God. As a result, for the first time in history, the persecution was taking place throughout the entire empire.

*. To whom was it written?

The letter is addressed to seven churches as identified in chapters 2 and 3. These are “real” churches that John has perhaps had influence upon during his ministry.

*. Why was it written?

As mentioned previously, persecution against the Christians was breaking out throughout the entire Roman Empire. The letter was written to encourage them to continue to place their hope for the future in Jesus Christ and to recognize that judgment is inevitable. For those who follow after Christ, judgment will be a great time of reward as one enters into the presence of Christ. For those who don't follow after Christ (for those who persecute the Christians), judgment will be a time of receiving what is due to them for their having rejected Christ.

*. What is the main topic?

Christ is at work to bring history to its victorious end!

Rev. 1:9-20

Revelation 1:9–20 I, John, your brother and fellow partaker in the tribulation and kingdom and perseverance which are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. **10** I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like the sound of a trumpet, **11** saying, "Write in a book what you see, and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea." **12** Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands; **13** and in the middle of the lampstands I saw one like a son of man, clothed in a robe reaching to the feet, and girded across His chest with a golden sash. **14** His head and His hair were white like white wool, like snow; and His eyes were like a flame of fire. **15** His feet were like burnished bronze, when it has been made to glow in a furnace, and His voice was like the sound of many waters. **16** In His right hand He held seven stars, and out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword; and His face was like the sun shining in its strength. **17** When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man. And He placed His right hand on me, saying, "Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, **18** and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades. **19** "Therefore write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after these things. **20** "As for the mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

Rev. 20:11-21:8

Revelation 20:11–21:8 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. **12** And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. **13** And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds. **14** Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. **15** And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire. **1** Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. **2** And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. **3** And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, **4** and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away." **5** And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." And He said, "Write, for these words are faithful and true." **6** Then He said to me, "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost. **7** "He who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son. **8** "But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."