

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

A PILGRIM'S WALK THROUGH

THE NEW TESTAMENT

REVELATION



Reading: Revelation 1: 1-3

Introduction

- Revelation has 22 chapters and 404 verses.
- Its contents were given to John on the prison colony island of Patmos.
- [1:3] a blessing is promised to those who read it.
- Written in '*signs*' and '*symbols*'.

1 How Do We Interpret Revelation?

- There are basically 3 schools of thought.
- The '*Praeterist School*'. That the contents are only to do with the church in the 1st century.
- The '*Futurist School*'. That everything in Revelation is yet future commencing after the rapture.
- The '*Historicist School*'. This is the oldest interpretation. That the contents of the book are a chronological preview of the church from the time of John up to the 2nd Coming and beyond.
- In the last 2000 years much of the book has now been fulfilled.

2 Keys To Unlocking Revelation

- Prophecy is the future revealed by God to His servants.
- In the book, a prophetic day is to be understood as a literal year. [See Ezekiel 4:6].

3 Things To Look For

- Revelation is a book of numbers.
- The key number is 7.

- Note the different women used to signify various things.
- None the number of animals and creatures in the book.

4 The Theme Of The Lamb

- The Lamb holds pride of place.
- The Lamb is Jesus [John 1 :29].
- Revelation is the story of the Lamb, His followers and the assaults of Satan and his agents against them and the ultimate victory of the Lamb.

5 The Contents Of Revelation

- [Chapters 1-3]. 7 literal churches symbolic of 7 church ages between Christ's 1st and 2nd advents.
- [Ch. 4]. John is invited up to heaven to receive this '*panoramic preview*'.
- [Ch 5]. Only the Lamb worthy to open the seals on the double sided scroll to reveal the future.
- [Ch 6-8]. The 4 horsemen of the Apocalypse - God's judgement on pagan Roman empire.
- The persecution ended in AD312 when Constantine made Christianity the religion of the empire.
- The church gradually became paganised with idolatry and superstitions.
- The Medieval church responsible for deaths of some 52 million who would not accept its teachings.
- [Ch 10] The rediscovery of the Bible fuelled the Reformation.
- [Ch 15-16]. God's judgement on those European nations who facilitated the deaths of God's people.
- [Ch 17-18] . God's judgement on religious, political and economic Babylon.
- [Ch 19]. The glorious personal return of Christ.
- [Ch 20]. The millennial reign of Christ on earth sandwiched between the 1st and 2nd resurrections.
- [Ch 21-22]. The judgement of the ungodly and description of the '*eternal state*'.
- In Genesis, paradise is lost. At the end of Revelation paradise is regained.

Teaching Biblically · Thinking Biblically · Living Biblically

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