

Let's Look & Listen to Revelation!

Revelation 1.1-8

RMCC SMW

January 24, 2010

Introduction

1. Revelation is a *Revelation*: A Strategy for Reading, v.1



St. John on Patmos
Federico Fiori Barocci, c.1528-1612

2. Revelation is a *Letter*: The Who, When and Where, v.4

3. Revelation is a *Prophecy*, v.3

Discussion Questions

1. What are some reasons why Revelation scares Christians to not read and study it? What may keep you this week from reading the whole book through?
2. Revelation is a *revelation* (*apocalypsis* = *uncover, to reveal through vivid images*). The images of Revelation counter the images of the world. What images of the world distort our view of the world as it really is?
3. Revelation is a *letter* written to specific people, at a specific time, for specific issues. What practical pastoral counsel, then, do you expect to find in Revelation?
4. In what ways are Christians in the United States and abroad threatened by both affliction and affluence? How do both of these threats (affliction and affluence) expose the true object of our love, worship and service?
5. Revelation is *prophecy*, Rev 19.10. In what sense do you expect to see Jesus in Revelation in a new way?
6. Close with reading the blessing in Rev 1.3. Pray that the Lord would use us all, Pastor Alfred and ourselves, to understand and live out our lives now in the light of Revelation's testimony to Jesus.

Four Key Questions to Ask While You Read Revelation

- 1] *Where does the action occur?*
- 2] *Who are the actors or agents?*
- 3] *What happens?*
- 4] *What is the result of the action?*

Use the following Outline to help you read through Revelation.

Outline of Revelation

Introduction: 1.1-8

Main Body: 1.9-22.6

Conclusion: 22.5-21

Key Structural Verse: Rev 1.19 “*Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later.*” This verse should not be understood in a wooden way. It is generally true. However, as you’ll see, chapter 12 is a vision of the past—Christ’s birth and Satan’s attack on Christ and his church in the 1st century as well as after the 1st century.

Outline of Main Body: 1.9-22.5

“*What is now (1st century)*” 1.9-3.20

1-3 Letters to the Seven Churches

“*What will take place later (after 1st century)*” 4.1—22.5

4.1-5.14 Vision of God & the Lamb
6.1-8.1 The Seven Seals of God’s Judgment
8.2-11.18 The Seven Trumpets: Warning of Coming Judgment
11.19-15.4 Dragon & the Lamb: The Heart of the Conflict
15.5-16.21 Seven Bowls: God’s Wrath Completed
17.1-19.10 Babylon the Whore
19.11-21.8 1,000 Years, Final Battle, Last Judgment
21.1-22.5 Jerusalem the Bride, New Creation (New Heaven and New Earth)