

## **Key to REVELATION**

### **1. BACKGROUND:**

Writer is John, disciple, bishop of Ephesus, now prisoner of Caesar and exiled to the island of Patmos off the coast of Asia Minor.

Time of writing is about A.D. 96 from Patmos.

Occasion: Without a doubt John was allowed to be exiled to Patmos in order that GOD might give him this revelation which is the capstone of all Scripture. Later, John was released and took up his residence in Ephesus where he died.

### **2. THEME:**

The unveiling, the revealing, the disclosing of the true Person of JESUS CHRIST in all the wonder of His person and the glory of His work. This book is the grand climax to all the magnificent truths in the Bible's other parts. Without The Revelation, the Bible would be incomplete. Here we gather together all the threads of truth and weave them into one clear and complete picture.

### **3. MAIN DIVISIONS:**

The things which thou hast seen, the vision (1:19a);  
the things which "are" (church age) (1:19b);  
the things which shall be (coming events) (1:19c)

### **4. SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS:**

Revelation abounds with O.T. quotations. While Matthew contains 92 quotations, and Hebrews 102, Revelation has 285.

This is the one book of prophecy in the N.T. CHRIST is seen to be the center and the circumference of all predictive writing. Everything that is to come is bound up in Him. It should be noted that the subject is not plural, "revelations," but singular (1:1) "revelation," i.e., the revealing of the true person of the Son of GOD.

The writing of Revelation abounds in signs, symbols, mysteries. But we are to understand the truths of this book in a literal manner except when it is clearly symbolical or figurative.

Only once in the entire Bible is a special blessing promised to those who read and who hear (1:3).

### **5. OUTLINE:**

Introduction (1)  
Seven Letters (2; 3)  
Six Sevens (4-22)  
Seven Seals  
Seven Personages  
Seven Dooms  
Seven Trumpets  
Seven Vials  
Seven New Things

## **6. OUTSTANDING TEACHINGS:**

The seven letters of chapters 2 and 3 have a fourfold application:

- (1) they were written to correct abuses in the actual churches named;
- (2) they apply to churches of all ages;
- (3) they have an individual application to all Christians of all ages;
- (4) they constitute an outline, historically, of the great church ages from the time of CHRIST to the coming of CHRIST.

The main section of Revelation is occupied with the great Tribulation period, including chapters 4-19.

These chapters are further divided into 6 sevens (see above).

Revelation has a special relationship to Genesis. In that first book all things begin, including man, life, marriage, sin, etc.

In Revelation we find the final disposition of man.

The most delightful truth of Revelation is found in the last chapters as Heaven and its glories are thrillingly described. The final note however, is one of glorious invitation to come to CHRIST.

## **7. KEY:**

Look for CHRIST's face in all of this book. Admittedly it is difficult, but the SPIRIT who wrote it will teach it to all who want to learn.

~ end of Revelation ~

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