

## *Session One: An Introduction To The Revelation*

### **I) Introduction**

- A)** During this series we are starting a journey through the “Revelation of Jesus Christ.” This journey will be a thorough look at what God’s intention in giving us The Revelation is. The Revelation of Jesus Christ is the fourth largest book of the New Testament given from the Father, to Jesus, to show His servants things which must take and signified by an Angel to John (**Revelation 1:1**).
- B)** The Church throughout history has bought into much extra-biblical conversation around The Revelation because most people propagating wrong information about this book understand most Christians avoid The Revelation.
- C)** It seems clear to me that the Church has left her first love (Jesus Christ) when the primary book we have been given about Jesus is utterly neglected or treated as a Crystal ball. It’s important that when we look into The Revelation, we are looking primarily to encounter the Knowledge of God and grow in personal fascination about the beauty of Christ Jesus.
- D)** My challenge to you in the coming months, is to begin reading The Revelation once a week (3 chapters a day) to become aquatinted with the flow of this glorious book. Making the reading of The Revelation something you do daily, will surly bring you into an encounter with Jesus.

### **II) Authorship/Date**

- A)** John the Beloved, one of the 12 Apostles (the son of thunder and one of the 3 closest apostles to Jesus) was the author of The Revelation and it is believed to have been written around 96 A.D from the Isle of Patmos. Patmos is on the Aegean sea(Greece) and is about 13 sq. mi (Alcatraz).
- B)** It’s important that we understand the commonly agreed upon date of 90ish A.D. because many try to write off The Revelation as irrelevant because it’s already been fulfilled in 70 A.D. when God destroyed Jerusalem and scattered the Jew’s to the four corners of the earth.
- C)** We know three primary things about John on Patmos;
  - 1)** Though locked in chains, John’s mind was in the Word of God. In the 404 verses of the Revelation, there are upwards of 400 direct illusions to the Word of God. 24 of the 39 books in the Old Testament are referred to in this one book.
  - 2)** Though locked in chains, John’s heart was with the Churches 150 miles away all throughout Asia minor, or what’s now considered modern Turkey. John’s life had been given for these people and they were very dear to him.

- 3) Though locked in chains, John's spirit was with the Lord. It's true that though our bodies are chained our spirit are able to travel in the grace of God throughout God's universe.
- D) John was suffering persecution during the time this book was written which he clearly tells us in **Revelation 1:9**. John was a political prisoner, not for any crime but for his exclusive agreement with the Word of God. John was the only apostle, from historical records that died naturally.

## III) Interpreting The Book Of Revelation

- A) The goal of the prophetic scriptures isn't specifically to give us charts, diagrams and programs, but rather to let the end time consummation fall on the present.
- B) All of the Epistles (letters) are written from an eschatological vantage point. All of the divine streams of thought throughout the whole of the Bible are flowing in a river and making their way into the divine ocean of The Revelation.
  - 1) **Ephesians 1:9-10** *"...having made know to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him (Jesus Christ)."*
  - 2) **Revelation 11:15** *"Then the seventh angel sounded; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying "The kingdom's of this world (natural) have become the Kingdom's of our Lord and of His Christ (spiritual), and He shall reign forever and ever."*
- C) Nobody takes the book of Revelation as only literal and nobody takes this book to be totally symbolic. But it's mostly literal with some symbolism. The four horseman are symbolic, but the wars pestilence and famine that follow are literal (**Revelation 6:1-8**).
- D) It's best to see, that the book of Revelation *"says what it means, and means what it says."* I believe that the best way to read this book is to take it at it's plain, literal meaning.
  - 1) **1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:44-46** *"It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body and there is a spiritual body. And so it is written, the first man Adam became a living being. The last Adam became a life giving spirit. However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual."*
- E) The closing chapter of Revelation contains a striking contrast between the opening chapter of Genesis. All that begins in seed form in Genesis finds its total fruition in the Revelation. These two books (Genesis/Revelation) link creation and redemption.
  - 1) **Genesis** speaks of the creation of the sun, the entrance of sin into the world, the curse pronounced, satan's triumph, the exclusion from the tree of life.
  - 2) **The Revelation** speaks of a place where there will be no need for the sun, sin banished, no more curse, satan overthrown and admission to the tree of life is granted.