

Book of Revelation

Lesson One - 3/5/17

Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near. (Rev. 1:3)

Theme of Revelation: The return of Jesus to defeat evil and to establish His reign. A book of victory -- His people win!

- I. Written in an apocalyptic (means revelation, unveiling, disclosure) literature style. A book of prophecy that includes both warnings and consolations. The message from the Lord uses both symbols (code) and visions.
- II. Can you decode this message? 211292012238121512522237192241291523
- III. Why was the book of Revelation written in an apocalyptic style?
 - a. A time of great danger to Christians. Readers understand images, enemies did not understand the images. Who was the enemy of Christians?
 - b. Convey Heavenly realities in earthly terms. Describe the indescribable. The realities of God are beyond human words to express. *"... the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass. (Rev. 21:21)*
- IV. Seven Beatitudes in Revelation (taken from Revelation Commentary by Warren Wiersbe)

Blessed . . .

1:30 - who reads and hears

14:13 - dead who die in the Lord

16:15 - one who stays awake and keeps clothes clean

19:9 - invitees to the marriage supper of the Lord

20:6 - one who shares in the 1st resurrection

22:14 - who wash their robes

V. No one understands everything about Revelation, but there have been 4 basic interpretations (see chart below)

VI. Do various scriptures in the NT support the "1000 year reign" of Jesus at His second coming (Rev. 20)? [I Th 4:13-18; 5:1-3; II Pet 3:8-13; Jn 14:1-4; Lk 17:30-37; Mt 24:30-41]

Interpretations of Revelation

Taken from the Zondervan NIV Bible Commentary, Vol. 2, 1984

Chap 1-3 Chap 4-19 Chap 20-22

Preterist	Historic churches	Symbolic of contemporary conditions (John's time)	Symbolic of heaven and victory	Developed in 1614 by Spanish Jesuit, Alcasar. Events limited to John's time at end of 1 st century
Historicist	Historic churches	Symbolic of events of history: fall of Rome, Mohammedanism, papacy, Reformation	Final judgment millennium (?), eternal state	Lack of consensus of the historical identifications
Futurist	Historic churches and/or 7 stages of church history	Future tribulations; concentrated judgments on apostate church and on antichrist; coming of Christ	Millennial kingdom; judgement of wicked dead; eternal state	Church will be removed from the earth before the events described occur
Idealist	Historic churches	Symbolic of conflict of good and evil	Victory of good	Poetic, symbolic, spiritual in nature. Does not predict specific historical events. Sets forth timeless truths – battle between good and evil