

Sunday Night Bible Study
LAUNCHINGPOINT

REVELATION

“WEEP NO MORE; BEHOLD, THE LION OF THE TRIBE OF JUDAH, THE ROOT
OF DAVID, HAS CONQUERED...”

REV. 5:5



REVELATION

“For most people today, the Book of Revelation is a closed book – literally. They never read it. They are either afraid of it or think they cannot possibly understand it. This is unfortunate because from the early days of the church this book was turned to in times of persecution as a source of strength and encouragement. Of all the books in the Bible, it has the most panoramic sweep of history and of God’s ultimate control over it. Things might be rough, but God knows what he is doing and is leading us to the New Jerusalem, where he will wipe away all tears and we will dwell with him forever.”

Walter A. Elwell, *Encountering the New Testament*

REVELATION

EXPECTATIONS:

What do you expect to
gain from a study of
Revelation?



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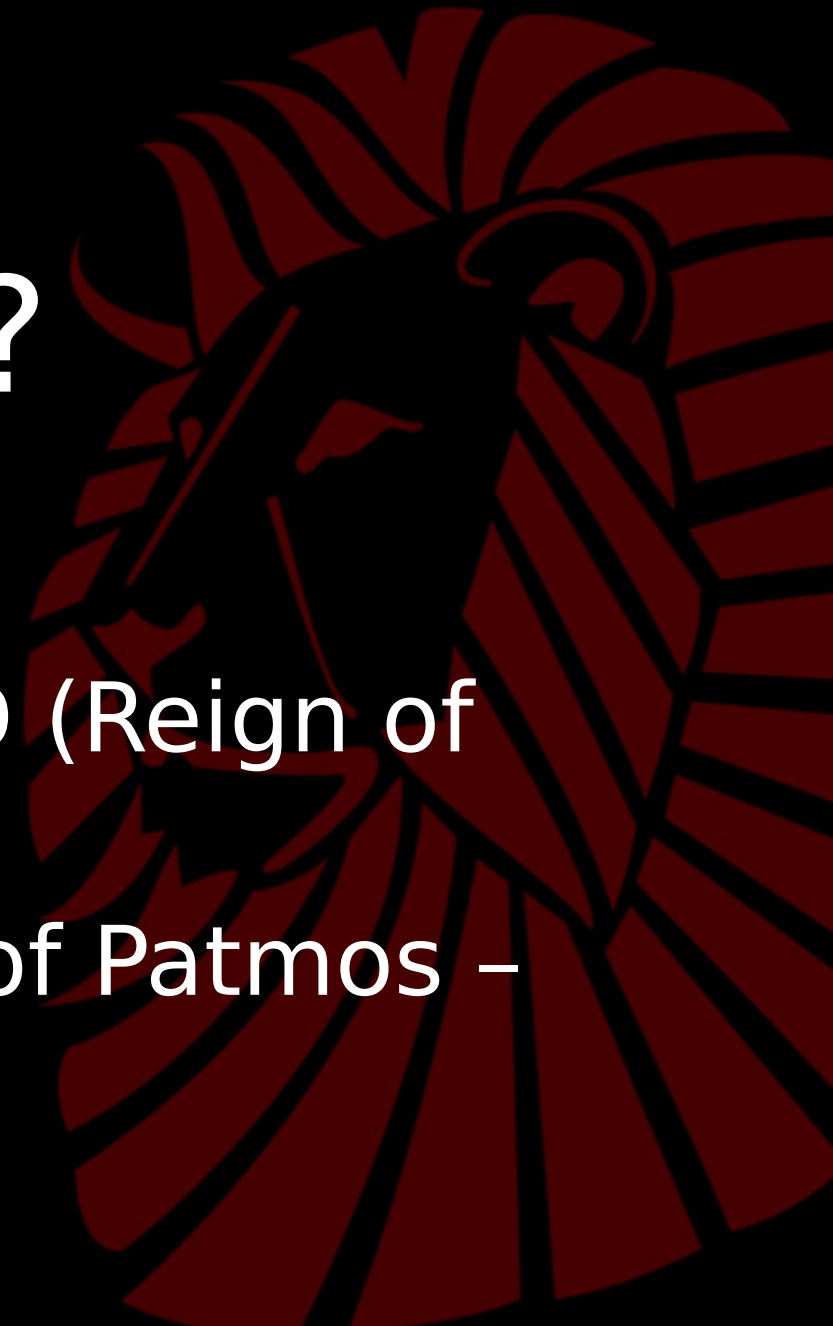
REVELATION

Introduction Matters:

Who wrote the Book?

-John the Apostle

- Date: Traditionally – 81-96AD (Reign of Domitian)
- While in exile on the Island of Patmos – 1:9



REVELATION

Introduction Matters:

What type of Book is it?

- Apocalypse
- Prophecy
- Letter



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Introduction Matters:

What type of Book is it?

- Rev. 1:1-4
 - Apocalypse (v1)
 - Prophecy (v3)
 - Letter (v4)



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So:

Revelation is an
apocalyptic prophecy in
the form of a circular
letter.



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Introduction Matters:

How do we interpret the content?

- 4 Major Views:
 - Preterist
 - Historical
 - Idealist
 - Futurist



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Introduction Matters:

Preterist:

- Revelation describes events that are happening in John's time and those that are about to happen.



REVELATION

Introduction Matters:

Historical:

-A sketch of history from the time of Christ to our own day.



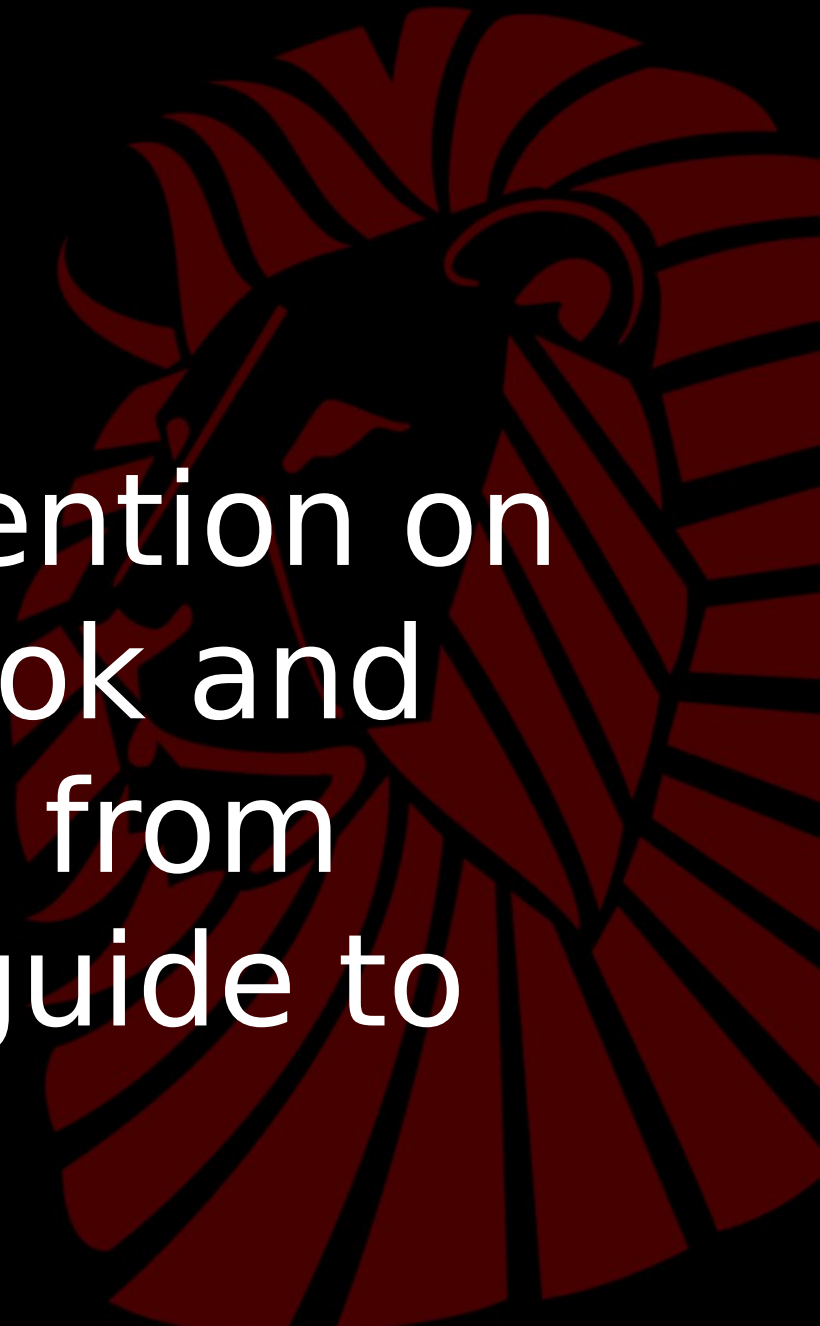
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Introduction Matters:

Idealist:

- Focuses particular attention on the theology of the book and directs attention away from seeing the book as a guide to future events.



REVELATION

Introduction Matters:

Futurist:

- Though there is some variety in this approach, it stresses that a number of events described in the book of Revelation are events that will occur in the very last days of human history.

REVELATION

Introduction Matters:

Futurist (variations):

- Dispensational Premillennialist
- Historical Premillennialist



Structure:

- 1. Prologue (1:1-20)
- 2. Messages to the seven churches (2:1-3:22)
- 3. Vision of heaven (4:1-5:14)
- 4. Seven seals (6:1-8:5)
- 5. Seven trumpets (8:6-11:19)
- 6. Seven significant signs (12:1-14:20)
- 7. Seven bowls (15:1-16:21)
- 8. Triumph of God (17:1-20:15)
- 9. New heaven and new earth (21:1-22:5)
- 10. Epilogue (22:6-21)

REVELATION

Key Themes:

- Salvation
- Faithfulness
- Victory / Overcoming
- Judgment



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Contributions:

- 1. It is the most significant work of Christian prophecy in the NT.
- 2. It provides a helpful perspective on the life of Christians in our world today.

Revelation 1:6-8

- Titles:

- One who is, who was, who is to come.
- Kingdom, Priests.
 - Exodus 19:6; 1 Peter 2:9



REVELATION

Revelation is not meant just for our future, but for our present! The One who IS, is watching even now! Allow it to shape your worldview today.

Takeaway Thought.

REVELATION

“No other book in the Bible has such circumference and height and depth as does the Apocalypse of Jesus Christ. It describes the great consummation of the age, and we are in that plan and that program and that unfolding now. We are involved in it. It is part of our life and ultimately a part of our destiny. When we read the book of Revelation, we read about ourselves. When we scan the vistas of the ages in this book, we are looking at the destiny of our own souls. It is not something far off; the time is at hand. It concerns us.”

W.A. Criswell, *The Vision of the Apocalypse*

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This Week Try:

Read Matthew 24 and make note of what events may have happened already, and what are still to come.



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