



The Book Of Revelation

Introduction



What is the book of Revelation

- The Only prophetic book in the new testament
 - 27 books {4 gospels, 1 history, 14 Pauline Epistles, 7 Catholic, 1 Revelation}
- A door to heaven, how does it look, and who is there
 - Most of the events of the book happen to St. John in visions in heaven. "I was in the spirit"
 - He sees heaven and its inhabitants: The Throne of God, the 4 creatures, the 24 priests, the angels, the victorious church.



What is the book of Revelation

- Same type of visions and prophecies as in the old testament books
 - Ezekiel and the Heavenly throne
 - Daniel and the History of the world
 - Jeremiah and the call for repentance



What is the book of Revelation

- A declaration of events that will take place till the second coming of Christ.
 - Repeated several times: 7 Churches, 7 seals, ..
- A message from God to His people assuring them His constant intervention
 - Through out the events that will happen we see God's full control of the events and His constant intervention to save and protect His flock.
- The book of praise
 - Teaches us why should we praise God
 - How do the heavenly praise him and how should we praise Him



Why Study the book of Revelation

- God wanted to declare to us His will for the future
 - He told John to write what he sees.
 - To assure us of His second coming, His love and constant protection for us.
 - To warn us of what will happen so we don't despair
- Provides answers to many of the modern heresies
 - Who is Christ
 - Is there an after life
 - Are we "god"
 - Rapture and Millennium reign
 - And a lot more



Why Study the book of Revelation

- Guides us through many common spiritual problems
 - A lot of spiritual problems are mentioned and how to overcome them
 - Great lessons on where we fall short
- Understand the origin of many aspects of our Church
 - why do we do things in a certain way in the Coptic Church
 - Sources for our rights and dogma



Why Study the book of Revelation

- Current Disasters and general feeling of hard times ahead
 - Katrina, Pakistan's earthquake, Tsunami, ...
 - Why all these disasters now
 - Is God sending us a message?
 - Are we at the end of times?
 - How to be ready?
- God ordered us to do so
 - Rev 1:3 Blessed *is* the *one* who reads and hears the Words of this prophecy, and the ones keeping the things written in it, for the time *is* near.



The writer of the book

- St. John the beloved, one of the disciples
- He is the writer of the Gospel of St. John and the three epistles.
- He met Christ in John 1:29-34
- He was one of the three that Christ always took with Him for major events
 - Raising Jairus' daughter (Luke 8:41)
 - Transfiguration at Mount Tabour (Luke 9:28)
 - In Gethsemane (Mat 26:36)
 - During Jesus' trial (John 18:15)
 - At the Tomb (John 20:2)



The writer of the book

- St. John stayed in Jerusalem, until the departure of St. Mary
 - He went to Asia Minor to preach there
 - He was exiled to Patmos by Empror Domitian
 - He used specific words as in the Gospel: The Word, The Lamb, The Victory, and the truth.
 - He mentions his name in the beginning of the book.
 - All the early fathers attributed this book to St. John.

The circumstances of writing the book



- The church was persecuted
- The current head of the church is exiled to a small island off the shore of Asia Minor
- From the outside, it seemed as if Christianity is coming to an end.
- Several Heresies invaded the Church
- In the midst of all these tribulations, The Lord Jesus Christ appears to John in a glorious and powerful way



Where is Patmos



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The Location of Patmos





Where is Patmos



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When it was written

- Most scholars agree that it was written around year 95 AD.
- After the destruction of Jerusalem



How to study Revelation

- There are several ways to study the book of Revelation.
- Mainly they are
 - Literal
 - Spiritual



Literal Interpretation

- Relate every event and symbol in the book to an actual event that happened or will happen
- Result
 - Heresy of Rapture
 - Heresy of Millennium reign
 - Jehovah's witness stating that only 144,000 people will enter heaven.



Why not literal interpretation

- St. John was describing heavenly events
- St. Paul could not describe these events
- 1Co 2:9 But as it is written, "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard," nor has it entered into the heart of man, "the things which God has prepared for those who love Him."
- 2Co 12:2 I know a man in Christ fourteen years before (whether in *the* body, I do not know; or outside of *the* body, I do not know; God knows) such a one *was* caught up to *the* third Heaven.
2Co 12:3 And I know such a man (whether in the body, or outside of the body, I do not know; God knows),
2Co 12:4 that he was caught up into Paradise and heard unspeakable words, which it is not allowed for a man to utter.



Why not literal

- The Bible says to read and hear not necessarily understand
 - Rev 1:3 Blessed *is* the *one* who reads and hears the Words of this prophecy, and the ones keeping the things written in it, for the time *is* near.
- How could you have described airplanes, tanks, TV, internet,... 2000 years ago?
- Same way, how can you describe God and heaven using human words?
- The numbers in the Bible in general and in Revelation specifically are symbolic.



Why not literal

- Who could have explained:
 - Isa 7:14 So, the Lord Himself shall give you a sign. Behold, the virgin will conceive and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call His name Immanuel.
 - Simeon did not believe but lived until the day he saw it
 - Psalm 22
 - Isa 53
 - All the sacrifices in the old testament
 - All the old testament
 - Matthew 24 (the destruction of Jerusalem)



Why not literal

- The Lord told St. John to write certain things and not to write others. So the picture is not complete.
- The Lord only allowed us to know of certain events.
- ALL those who predicted the second coming of Christ have failed
 - 1914, ..., 2001, 2005



Spiritual Interpretation

- Benefits all people from all nations at all times
- Our goal is to grow spiritually and come close to Christ.
- These events can happen multiple times in different ways.



How are we going to study

- We will follow the spiritual interpretation.
- References
 - Pope Shenouda Audio Lectures
 - **Father Tadros Malaty's book (English)**
 - Father Antonious Fikry book and audio
 - Father Daoud Lamee, audio lectures
 - Father Daoud Daoud's book (arabic)