



A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF  
**REVELATION**



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# DISCUSSION GROUPS

- Have you studied Revelation before? Why or why not?

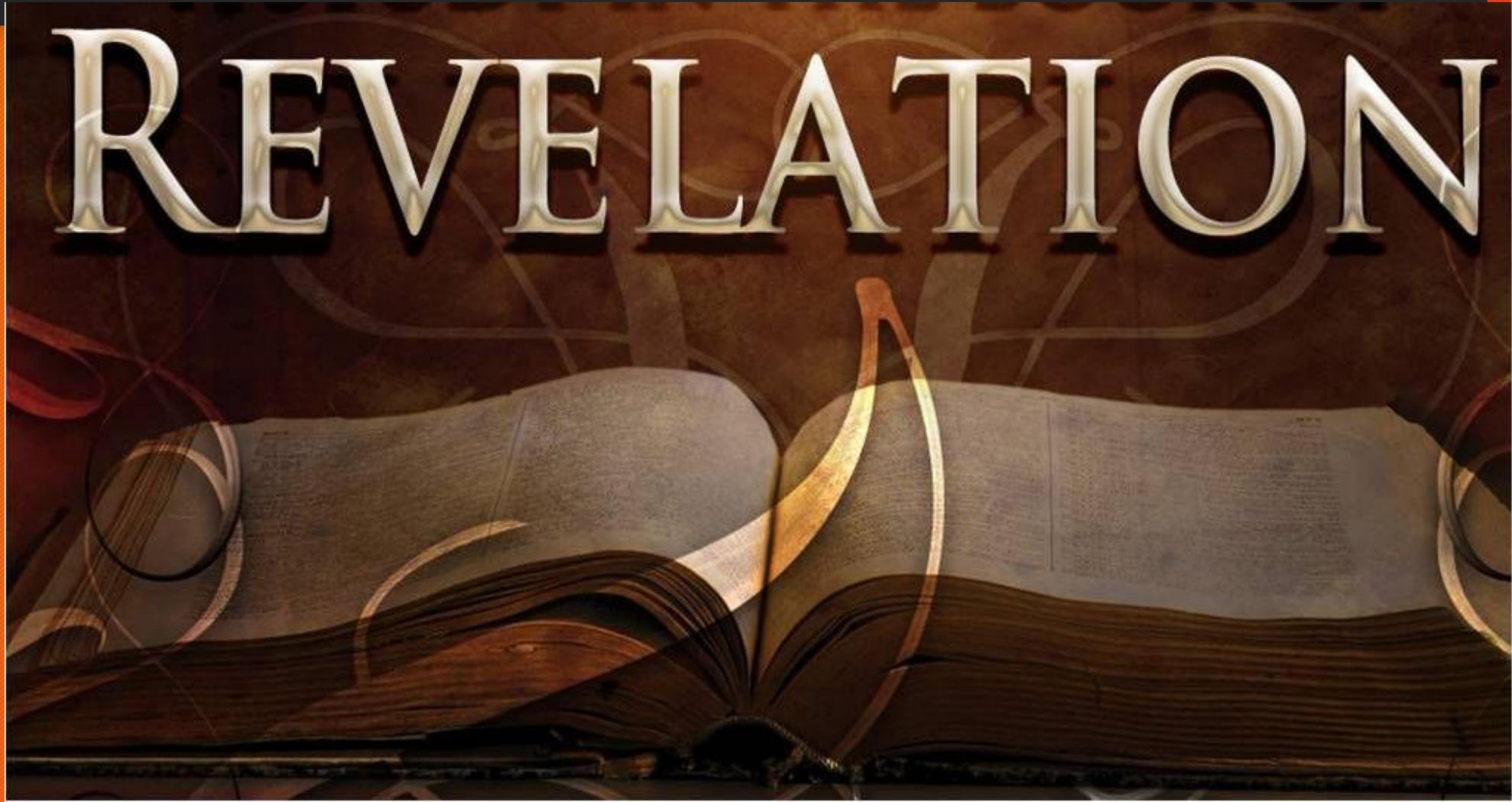
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- How would you sum up the message of Revelation in one to three words?

# First Read-through



## First Read-through - 2020

- God is in control. He never leaves His Throne. No matter what is happening. And He is always surrounded by Glory and Worship. Everything unfolds (unseals) according to His plans. Everything is already written out and will go His way.

## First Read-through - 2020

- We are called to faithfulness. If we are martyred, He rewards and honors us.
- Our prayers are the incense for God's throne.
- worldly powers will come and go and look strong, but will fall at His Word.

## First Read-through - 2020

- Jesus is faithful and True.  
He is the Lion of Judah who is worthy to open the scroll, but when he steps forward his appearance is a Lamb who was slain - until its not (Son of Man with giant sickle, then victorious conqueror) Amen! Maranatha!

# First Read-through 2020

- James Smith
- Mike Pope

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# First Read-through 2026

- Rae Lynn Anthony

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# First Read-through 2026

- If your name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life, you will be protected from the worst here on earth and welcomed into God's eternal city.
- Even in the darkest turmoil on earth, heaven is a place of peace and worship.
- Trials come; we overcome.
- Things will be bad for those who oppose God, but His wrath is always righteous. And God's wrath will avenge the blood of the righteous.

# First Read-through 2026

- Our message is always: “Come.” *To those who are thirsty for life, the Spirit and the Bride say “come.” To our bridegroom, we say “Come, Lord Jesus.”*
- There’s power in Jesus... John wanted to worship the angel but was told not to do so... If the angel was so awesome that an apostle who walked with Jesus thought the angel was worthy of worship, how awesome must Christ be since He commands the whole host of angels!

# Purpose of Revelation

## **Revelation Completes the Gospel ...**

**Devotional By Michael Youssef, Ph.D.**

- Revelation completes our understanding of God's purpose for history and for our future.
- Revelation shows us the danger of compromise and the ultimate destruction of Satan and those who reject Christ.
- Revelation gives us an awe-inspiring portrait of the glorified, soon-coming King Jesus.

# Revelation - Introduction - Revelation 1:1-3

## The Revelation of Jesus Christ

*1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must soon take place; and He sent and communicated it by His angel to His bond-servant John, <sup>2</sup> who testified to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw. <sup>3</sup> Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near.*

1:1

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**NOT REVELATION-S**

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- *to show His bond servants* = believers then or always?
  - must *soon take place* = necessity
- *by His angel to John* = the “Apostle whom Jesus loved”

1:2

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- μαρτυρίαν = martyrian = testimony
- λόγον = logon (logos) = Word

# Author and Background

## Who Wrote Revelation? (Halley)

God himself wrote Revelation, according to the book's first statement. God dictated it, through Christ, by an angel, to John, who wrote it down and sent the completed book to the seven churches (1:1, 4).

When Was It Written? John had been banished to the island of Patmos (1:9; see on 1:9). This happened, according to apostolic tradition, during the persecution of Christians under Emperor Domitian, around A.D. 95. The next year John was released and permitted to return to Ephesus. The use of the past tense (“[I] was on the island of Patmos”) may indicate that he saw the visions on Patmos but wrote the book after his release and his return to Ephesus, around A.D. 96. Others believe that John transcribed the visions immediately while on Patmos, in response to Jesus' command to “write” (9:11, 19).

## The Historical Background of Revelation (*Halley*)

These visions were given, and the book was written, in the lurid light of burning martyrs. The church was 66 years old. It had grown enormously. It had suffered, and was suffering, terrific persecutions.

1. The first imperial persecution of Christians, 30 years before this book was written, was instigated by Emperor Nero in A.D. 64–67. In that persecution many Christians were crucified, or thrown to wild beasts, or wrapped in combustible garments and burned to death while Nero laughed at the pitiful shrieks of burning men and women. Paul and Peter suffered martyrdom in Nero's persecution.
2. The second imperial persecution was under Emperor Domitian (A.D. 95). It was short but extremely severe. More than 40,000 Christians were tortured and killed. It was during this period of persecution in which John was banished to the island of Patmos.

## The Historical Background of Revelation (*Halley*)

3. The third imperial persecution, that of Trajan, was soon to begin (A.D. 98).

John had lived through the first two and was now about to enter the third of Rome's efforts to blot out the Christian faith. Those were dark days for the church. And still darker days were coming.

But persecution from without was not the only problem. The church itself, from within, was beginning to show signs of corruption and apostasy. God gave these visions, evidently, to help prepare and steady the church for the awful days ahead, and to comfort the church with the certainty that He stands at the beginning as well as at the end of history.

Why should we study Revelation?

1:3

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- One of the only books in the Bible that promise a blessing just for reading, hearing and heeding it.

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- *Blessed = Read, Hear, Heed*
- One of the only books in the Bible that promise a blessing just for reading, hearing and heeding it.
- **One of the only books that carries a curse as well...**

## Revelation 22:18-21

*18 I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues which are written in this book; 19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book.*

*20 He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming quickly." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.*

*21 The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.*

# Recipients

## Revelation 1:4-6

*<sup>4</sup> John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace, from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, <sup>5</sup> and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood— <sup>6</sup> and He has made us to be a kingdom, priests to His God and Father—to Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.*

**1:4**

***the seven churches that are in Asia:***





Pergamum (2:12-17)

Thyatira (2:18-29)

Sardis (3:1-6)

Philadelphia (3:7-13)

Laodicea (3:14-22)

ASIA

Smyrna (2:8-11)

Ephesus (2:1-7)

Miletus

Colossae

Attalia

Perga

LYCIA

Patmos (1:9)

Samos

Mitylene

Assos

AEGEAN SEA

GAL

# The True Author of the Revelation v 4-8

“The Revelation of Jesus Christ”  
(1:1)

1:4-5

*Grace to you and peace, from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, <sup>5</sup> and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.*

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- **Doctrine of the Trinity**

1:4-5

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  - **Yahweh = “I Am” (is, was, will be)**

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- **Doctrine of the Trinity**
  - **Yahweh = “I Am” (is, was, is coming)**
  - **Seven Spirits = “seven-fold Spirit”**
    - **“seven” = used 53 times in Revelation**
    - **Divine number of completion or perfection**

1:4-5

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- **Doctrine of the Trinity**
  - **Yahweh = “I Am” (is, was, is coming)**
  - **Seven Spirits = “seven-fold Spirit”**
  - **Jesus Christ =**
    - *The faithful witness*
    - *The firstborn of the dead*
    - *The ruler of the kings of the earth*

1:5-6

<sup>5</sup> and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him (Jesus Christ) who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood—

- **Jesus Christ =**
  - *The faithful witness = Messiah, Teacher, Prophet*
  - *The firstborn of the dead = Risen Life-giver*
  - *The ruler of the kings of the earth = Lord, King*
  - *Loved us = Beloved Friend, Priest*
  - *Released us from our sins = Savior*

1:6

*<sup>6</sup> and He has made us to be a kingdom, priests to His God and Father—to Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.*

- **Kingdom**
- **Priests**

1:6

*<sup>6</sup> and He has made us to be a kingdom, priests to His God and Father—to Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.*

- **Kingdom = Royal Privilege**
- **Priests = Pastoral Responsibility**

## Revelation 1:7

*<sup>7</sup> BEHOLD, HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. So it is to be. Amen.*

## Revelation 1:7 The Second Coming

*<sup>7</sup> BEHOLD, HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. So it is to be. Amen.*

**We won't miss the RETURN  
of Jesus!**

### **Daniel 7:13**

In my vision in the night I continued to watch, and I saw One like a Son of Man coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into His presence.

### **Zechariah 12:10**

Then I will pour out on the house of David and on the residents of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and prayer, and they will look on Me, the One they have pierced. They will mourn for Him as one mourns an only child, and weep bitterly for Him as one grieves a firstborn son.

### **Matthew 24:30**

At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and all the tribes of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory.

### **Mark 13:26**

At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory.

### **Luke 21:27**

At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

**We won't miss the return of Jesus!**

1:8

<sup>8</sup> “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”



Παντοκράτωρ **Definition:** “almighty”

**Usage:** ruler of all, ruler of the universe, the almighty. **HELPS Word-studies**

**3841** *pantokrátōr* (from 3956 /*pás*, "all" and 2902 /*kratéō*, "prevail") – properly, *almighty*; unrestricted power exercising absolute dominion.

## 1:9-11 -- The Patmos Vision

<sup>9</sup> I, John, your brother and fellow partaker in the **tribulation and kingdom and perseverance** which are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. <sup>10</sup> I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like the sound of a trumpet, <sup>11</sup> saying, "Write in a book what you see, and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea."

## 1:9-11 -- The Patmos Vision

- *on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.*
- *in the Spirit*
- *on the Lord's day*
- *"Write in a book what you see*
- *send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea."*

**1:4**

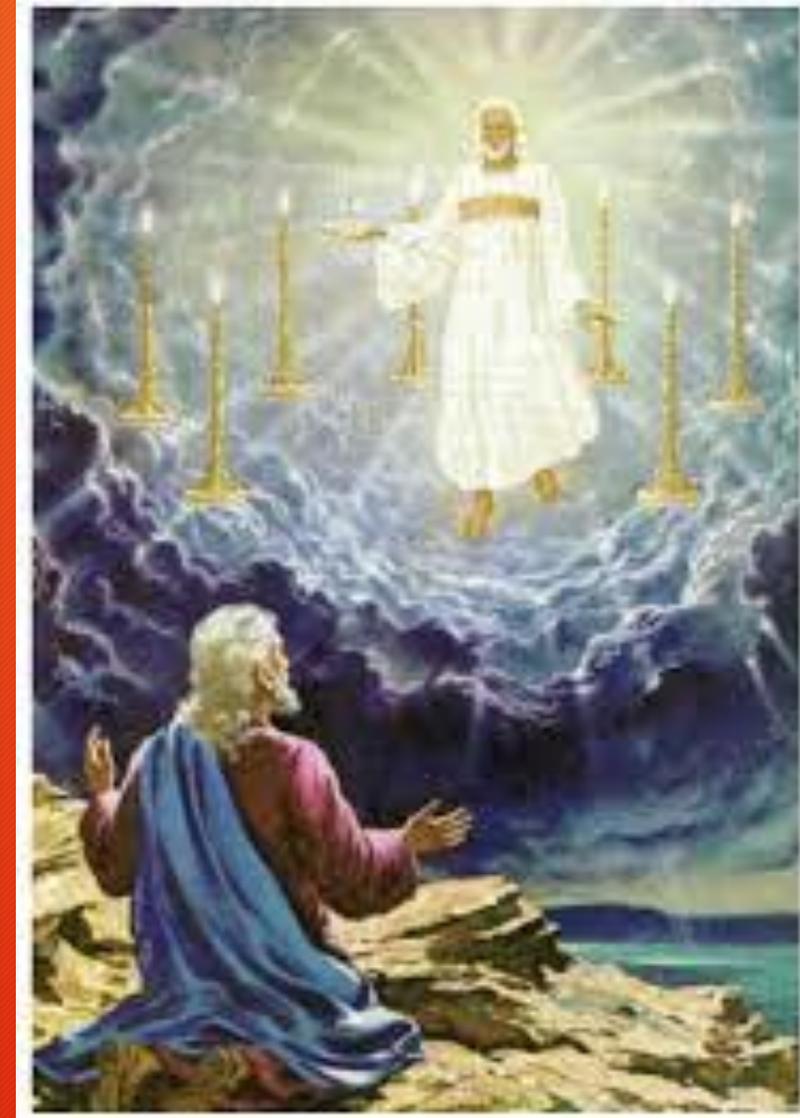
***the seven churches that are in Asia:***



## 1:12-16

*<sup>12</sup> Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands; <sup>13</sup> and in the middle of the lampstands I saw one like a son of man, clothed in a robe reaching to the feet, and girded across His chest with a golden sash. <sup>14</sup> His head and His hair were white like white wool, like snow; and His eyes were like a flame of fire. <sup>15</sup> His feet were like burnished bronze, when it has been made to glow in a furnace, and His voice was like the sound of many waters. <sup>16</sup> In His right hand He held seven stars, and out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword; and His face was like the sun shining in its strength.*

# 1:12-16 “one like a son of man”





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