

# Revelation

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**Published 1956**

**There are about as  
many different  
views of Revelation  
as there are  
commentators.**

**Our study is intended to simplify.**

- **A study that is concise.**

- **Not intended to chase every theory.**

- **A simple, straight forward study.**

- **Intending to clarify, not mystify.**

**The wonderful book of  
Revelation resembles that of ...**

**Daniel & Ezekiel.**

**It belongs to a type of literature  
known as “Apocalyptic”**

**Or “revelation”.**

- **Revelation means the uncovering of that which is covered...**
- **The unveiling of that which has been veiled.**

# Purpose:

to give to God's suffering  
people the assurance of the  
final overthrow  
of the forces of evil.....

to show that  
Christ is the final victor!

- **The Revelation  
(apokaluyiv).**

- **The Greek word is  
transcribed  
into Apocalypse.**

- **The word Apocalypse occurs only once in the Gospels, Luke 2:32, where to lighten should be rendered for revelation.**
- **It is used there of our Lord, as a light to dispel the darkness under which the heathen were veiled.**



· **Revelations is  
the unveiling of  
something hidden,  
which gives  
light and knowledge  
to those  
who behold it.**

**Christianity itself  
is the revelation of  
a mystery  
(Romans 16:25).**

# Romans 16: 25

the preaching of  
Jesus Christ,  
according to the  
revelation of the mystery  
which hath been  
kept in silence  
through  
times eternal,

- **The participation of the Gentiles in the privileges of the new covenant was made known by revelation (Ephesians 3:3).**

**Paul received the  
Gospel which he  
preached by**

**revelation**

**(Galatians 1:12)**

- **Revelation**

**is Christian insight  
into spiritual truth.**

- **Paul asks for Christians  
the spirit of revelation  
(Ephesians 1:17).**

## Ephesians 1:17

That the God of our  
Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Father of glory,  
may give unto you  
the spirit of  
wisdom and revelation  
in the knowledge of him:

· Revelation is the unveiling of the divine mysteries of Jesus Christ.

• Not the manifestation or disclosure of Jesus Christ, but the revelation given by Him.



**There is no doubt at all  
that emperor worship  
played a main part in the  
persecution of the  
Christians that was the  
occasion for this great  
Christian apocalypse.**

- **The book itself bears ample witness to this fact,**
- **If the two beasts refer to the Roman power as the agent of Satan.**
- **It is not possible to single out each individual emperor in the graphic picture.**

- **Most would take the dragon to be Satan**
- **The first and the second beasts to be the imperial and provincial Roman power.**

**The Roman  
emperors posed  
as gods and  
did the work of  
Satan.**

**In particular there were  
two persecuting emperors  
(Nero and Domitian)  
who were responsible for  
many martyrs for Christ.**

**But emperor worship began  
before Nero.**

- Julius Caesar  
was worshipped  
in the provinces.

- Octavius was called

Augustus

(Σεβαστος, Reverend)<sup>22</sup>

- **The crazy Emperor**

  - **Caius Caligula**

    - **not simply claimed to be divine,**

    - **But actually demanded that his statue be set up for worship in the**

      - **Holy of Holies**

        - **in the Temple in Jerusalem.**

          - **He was killed in January A.D. 41 before he could execute his purpose.**

- Nero

likewise demanded worship  
and blamed in A.D. 64  
the burning of Rome  
on the Christians,  
though guilty of it himself.

- Nero

set the style  
for persecuting Christians.



**Persecution continued  
under the rule of  
Domitian,  
who had himself  
commonly termed  
*Dominus ac Deus noster*  
(**Our Lord and God**).**

**The worship of the emperor did not disturb the worshippers of other gods save the Jews and the Christians, and in particular the Christians were persecuted after the burning of Rome when they were distinguished from the Jews.<sup>26</sup>**

**After Nero it was  
a crime  
to be a Christian  
and all sorts of  
slanders about them  
were circulated.**

# 2Thessalonians 2:3ff.

Identifies the

“*man of sin*”

as one who sets

himself above God as

the object of worship.

**We also learn in**  
**1John 2:18,22; 4:3;**  
**2John 1:7**  
**the term antichrist**  
**is applied apparently to**  
**Gnostic heretics.**

One may wonder if  
in the Apocalypse  
the man of sin and  
the antichrist are  
united in the beast.

- **There is constant use of Old Testament language and imagery**
- **But without a single formal quotation.**

- Each of the messages to the seven churches picks out a metaphor in the first picture of Christ in chapter I
- and there are frequent other allusions to the language in this picture.



**In the visions and all through the book there is constant use of symbols, as is the fashion in apocalypses like the beasts, the scorpions, the horses, etc.**

- These symbols probably were understood by the first readers of the book, though the key to them is lost to us.

- Even the numbers  
in the book

(3 1/2, 7, 3, 4, 12, 24, 1000)

cannot be pressed,

- Though some do so to  
their own confusion.

- This vision of the Reigning Christ in heaven with a constant eye on the suffering saints and martyrs...

- Is a guarantee of certain triumph in heaven and ultimate triumph on earth. <sup>36</sup>

- **The picture of Christ in heaven is a glorious one.**
- **He is the Lamb that was slain,**
- **The Lion of the tribe of Judah,**
  - **The Word of God,**
- **The Victor over his enemies,**
  - **Worshiped in heaven**
  - **And like the Father,**  
**the Light**  
**and Life of men.**

- **Instead of trying to fit the various symbols on particular individuals**
- **One will do better to see the same application to times of persecution from time to time through the ages.**

- **The same Christ who was the Captain of salvation in the time of Domitian...**
  - **is the Pioneer and Perfecter of our faith today.**  
**(Hebrews 12:2)**

- **The Apocalypse of John gives glimpses of heaven**
  - **as well as of hell.**
- **Hope is the word that it brings to God's people at all times.**



Doors of the  
church  
are open.

Spirit & Bride  
Say “**Come**”.



