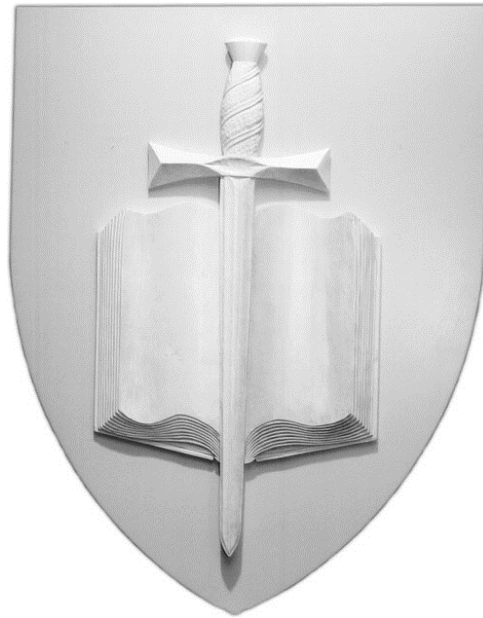


Hope in the

Kingdom Of Christ



A Study of the

Book of Revelation

Introduction

Author

- The Author is identified as “John”

Throughout History, most have viewed this as the apostle John

- Evidence for Johannine Authorship:
 - Authority in writing to the seven churches
 - Quotation and Allusions to the OT
 - The Author received direct Revelation from Christ
 - Consensus of Church Father’s is that John is the author

Date

- Dating the book of Revelation will, in a large part, determine how you approach its interpretation.
- There are two dates that have been suggested:
 - AD 64
 - AD 95
- The Early Date (AD 64):
 - A lynchpin date for the Preterist Position
 - Focuses on similarities between some of the events described in Revelation and historical events that took place under Nero’s reign in Rome
 - Much of Revelation has been fulfilled in the destruction of Jerusalem
- The Late Date (AD 95):
 - Most popular view among scholars today
 - John wrote from Patmos, having been exiled there by emperor Domitian
 - The description of the 7 churches matches this date
 - Nearly every church father attests to John writing during Domitian’s reign

Location and Recipients

- All of the 7 churches would have suffered greatly under Domitian’s persecution
- These are literal, local congregations located in Asia Minor
 - They are not representative of the “7 Periods of Church History”

Genre

- Is Revelation Apocalyptic Literature?
 - Characteristics of Apocalyptic Literature
 - Pseudonymity
 - No Claim to a Prophetic Nature
 - Historical Introduction before Future Predictions

- A General Tenor of Pessimism
- Ethical Passivism
- Revelation is Apocalyptically Styled Prophetic Literature in Epistolary Form
 - Revelation is Primarily a Letter (1:4)
 - John refers to himself as a prophet and to his writings as prophecy (1:3)
 - It does share similarities with Jewish Apocalyptic Literature
 - It is extremely prophetic
 - 278 of the 404 verses reference the OT
 - It is closely linked with other OT prophetic books (Daniel, Ezekiel, Zechariah, etc.)
- Revelation's primary function as prophecy shows:
 - The Unity of the Entire Bible
 - The Authority of the Book of Revelation for Believers
 - The God of the OT is the God of the NT

Structure

- Revelation 1:19 reveals the structure for the entire book
 - "The Things Which You Have Seen": The Sovereign and Glorious Christ (Chapter 1)
 - "The Things Which Are": The Seven Churches (Chapters 2-3)
 - "The Things Which Shall Take Place": The Coming Kingdom (Chapters 4-22)

Purpose

- A 4 Fold Purpose
 - To Reveal the Glory of God in Christ (1:1)
 - To Encourage Suffering Believers (1:3)
 - To Explain God's Sovereignty over the Future (1:4a, 8)
 - To Produce Hope in Christ's Kingdom (1:5-7)

Hope in Christ's Kingdom

- Hope in Christ's Kingdom Work
- Hope in Our Kingdom Citizenship
- Hope in the Completion of Christ's Kingdom Work