

The
Revelation
of Jesus Christ



CHAPTER 1

INTRO TO REVELATION

authorship, audience, occasion, genre

- **Author is likely the Apostle John**



INTRO TO REVELATION

authorship, audience, occasion, genre

- He wrote to churches in Minor that he knew personally



INTRO TO REVELATION

authorship, audience, occasion, genre

- He wrote while imprisoned on the isle of Patmos to churches who were persecuted



INTRO TO REVELATION

authorship, audience, occasion, genre

- He wrote an apocalyptic vision of the past, present future.



APOCALYPTIC LITERATURE

a revelation of Jesus

- The Greek word for “revelation” in Revelation 1:1 is *apokalypsis*, which means a divine disclosure or revealing of what was, is and is to come.

APOCALYPTIC LITERATURE

a revelation of Jesus

- **This revelation is given to John by Jesus, who says, “I am the Alpha and the Omega, who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.” (Rev. 1:8)**

APOCALYPTIC LITERATURE

Robert H. Mounce, NICNT Commentary

- **Apocalyptic writings flourished in the Biblical world between 200 BC and AD 100.**
- **Purports to be a divine disclosure, usually through an intermediary, such as an angel or prominent figure in the past.**
- **Promises God's intention in human history to bring times of trouble to an end and to destroy wickedness.**
- **Sees great cosmic forces behind the turmoil of history, portrayed by vivid and often bizarre symbols.**

FIVE INTERPRETATIVE APPROACHES

Zondervan Academic

- **PRETERIST**—emphasizes the historical context of Revelation and tries to understand it the way John's audience would have understood it

FIVE INTERPRATIVE APPROACHES

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- **HISTORICIST**—treats Revelation as a map or outline of what has happened or will happen throughout church history from the first century until the return of Christ

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- **ECLECTIC**—attempts to combine the strengths of several of the other approaches

THE ECLECTIC APPROACH

Zondervan Academic

- **Revelation seems to address the first-century Christians directly, so we should read Revelation the same way that we read every other book of the Bible—by taking its historical context seriously.**

THE ECLECTIC APPROACH

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- **Revelation also presents timeless truths for surviving the struggle between good and evil. The visions of Revelation challenge us to forsake our complacency and stay faithful during times of persecution.**

THE ECLECTIC APPROACH

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- **Revelation also clearly has something to say about events still to come. Some events it describes await future fulfillment (such as the return of Christ, the great white throne judgment, and the arrival of the holy city).**

WHAT CAN WE TAKE AWAY

from the book of Revelation?

- **Jesus is the king of all history and is in constant control of all that happens (Rev. 1:8, 17-19).**
- **He will bring about the end of history as we know it and will inaugurate a new heavens and a new earth (Rev. 21:1).**