

Revelation: It's significance and relevance to the church age believer

Many believers don't approach Revelation, because they believe it to be insignificant and irrelevant to our daily walk.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NKJV)

16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,
17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Suggested memory verse

Revelation

The significance of this book is made clear and should be taken very serious

▼ 1.

The book **Begins** with a promise of blessing:

Revelation 1:1-3 (KJV 1900)

1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John:
2 Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw.

3 **Blessed** is he that readeth, and **they that hear the words of this prophecy**, and keep those things which are written therein: **for the time is at hand.**

The doctrine of imminency

▼ a.

It's not just reading and hearing; but the clear implication is, study for an understanding of the details, so they can be applied in our age.

i. And applied **in preparation** for the sudden return of Christ

2.

The book **Ends** with a caution against cursing:

Revelation 22:18-21 (NKJV)

18 For I testify to everyone who **hears the words of the prophecy of this book**: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book;
19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.
20 He who testifies to these things says, **"Surely I am coming quickly."** Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!
21 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

▼ 3.

The book of Revelation: it's arrangement

▼ a.

Revelation 1:19 (NKJV)

19 Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

i. **Past tense**: chapter 1, those things that he saw before verse 19

ii. **Present tense**: chapters 2 and 3

7 letters to the 7 churches

iii. **Future tense**: chapters 4 through 22

▼ 4.

The church is addressed 19 times in chapters 1, 2 and 3. The church is not referred to again until chapter 22:16

a.

The events (**The Great Tribulation**) taking place in chapters 4 through 22 **are not church age occurrences!**

▼ 5.

Preterist view:

▼ a.

The preterist movement essentially teaches that all the end-times prophecies of the New Testament were fulfilled in A.D. 70 when the Romans attacked and destroyed Jerusalem and Israel.

▼ i.

Revelation was not written until A.D. 95

Extra biblical evidence: Irenaeus (ca. 140–ca. 202) was bishop of Lyons in Gaul in the late 2nd century.

1. **Irenaeus**, who stated that the apostle John "saw the revelation ... at the close of Domitian's reign" (a.d. 81–96).

Now since this is so, and since this number [666] is found in all the good and ancient copies, and since those who have seen John face to face testify, and reason teaches us that the number of the name of the beast appears according to the numeration of the Greeks by the letters in it... "We will not, however, incur the risk of pronouncing positively as to the name of Antichrist; for if it were necessary that his name should be distinctly revealed in this present time, it would have been announced by him who beheld the apocalyptic vision. **For that was seen no very long time since, but almost in our day, towards the end of Domitian's reign."**

Noun: Domitian 🎧

[dɒ'mɪ-ti-ən]

1. Emperor of Rome; son of Vespasian who succeeded his brother Titus; instigated a reign of terror and was assassinated as a tyrant (51-96)
= Titus Flavius Domitianus
≈ Emperor of Rome, Roman Emperor

ii. Not to mention the coherency of Scripture is destroyed with the Preterist approach

▼ 6.

Historicist view:

▼ a.

Those who teach this view believe that God revealed the entire church age in advance through the symbolic visions of the Apocalypse.

i. For example, the breaking of the seven seals (chs. 6-7) is often said to be the barbarian invasions that sacked the western Roman Empire.

The scorpion/locusts that come out of the bottomless pit (ch. 9) are the Arab hordes attacking the eastern Roman Empire, followed by the Turks, represented as the horses with serpents for tails and flame-throwers for mouths.

"The beast" (ch. 13) represents the Roman papacy.

b.

luminaries of the past who took this view would include:

John Wycliffe, John Knox, William Tyndale, Martin Luther, John Calvin, Ulrich Zwingli, Philip Melancthon, Sir Isaac Newton, Jan Huss, John Foxe, John Wesley, Jonathan Edwards, George Whitefield, Charles Finney, C. H. Spurgeon, Matthew Henry, Adam Clarke, Albert Barnes, E. B. Elliott, H. Grattan Guinness, and Bishop Thomas Newton.

7.

Futurist view: these prophecies have not occurred

▼ 8.

Revelation Of what? Future events?

The second coming of Jesus Christ, and all the events and circumstances surrounding it:

a.

Revelation 1:1 (NKJV)

1 **The Revelation of Jesus Christ**, which God gave Him to show His servants—things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John,

▼ 9.

Why study Revelation?

a.

It encourages believers that God is controlling history

▼ b.

It challenges believers to prepare for our future reign with Christ.

▼ i.

That we should not live for just what we can get out of this life, but it presents us with a much higher goal.

It teaches us that we are not growing to spiritual maturity just for this present time

1. Romans 12:1-2 (NKJV)

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.
2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, **that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.**

The will of God does not stop until the last chapter, the last verse, and the last period, Of the book of Revelation

c.

It provides information to the tribulation believers, so they might persevere during those unimaginably dark days

d.

With all that is made known in this book, **we worship** the Lamb of God

▼ 10.

Scripture: John's approach is non-chronological, the scene switches back and forth from heaven to earth. He may first give an overview, and then come back and fill in the details.

The entire book is sandwiched in these thoughts:

1. How we handle its teachings will result in **Blessing or Cursing**

2. Its teachings are critical for us to be adequately equipped, for Christ's second return.