

Apocalypse Now: The Challenge of Revelation
Week 1, Revelation 1:1-20

I. Introductory matters

A. Themes of the Book.

1. God is in Control and will have the final victory.
2. The Christian life is one of conflict.
3. Christians will face suffering and/or temptation.
4. Hope leads to perseverance. Faithful endurance is worth the price.
5. The Lamb is on the throne: God is victorious.

II. The Genre of the book of Revelation

A. What is a literary genre?

B. Apocalyptic.

1. *Apocalypsis* = to reveal what is hidden or mysterious.
2. E.g., Isaiah 24-27; Zechariah 12-14; Joel; Daniel.
3. Characteristics of Apocalyptic important for Revelation.
 - Metaphor, Numbers, Visionary language
4. Apocalyptic literature is largely unknown to us.

C. Prophecy.

D. Letter.

III. Outlines of Revelation.

A. The City

1. God Speaks to the Church in the City 1:1-3:22
2. God Judges the “Great City” Revelation 4:1-18-24
3. God Redeems the “Holy City” 19:1-22:21

B. Literary Structure

1. Prologue and Introduction (1:1-22)
2. Seven letters to churches (2:1-3:22)
3. 3 sets of 7 judgment visions with interludes (4:1-19:10)

- Seals, Trumpets, Bowls

4. Concluding Visions (19:11-22:5) and closing (22:6-21).

IV. Forward or Prologue: Revelation 1:1-3

- A. What is the book about?
- B. What do we learn about the recipients?

V. Epistolary (letter) Opening: Revelation 1:4-8

- A. To “the” Seven Churches in the province of Asia.
- B. How is God described? What titles are given to God?
- C. How is Jesus Christ described? What titles?
- D. What did Jesus do?

VI. Commissioning Vision: Revelation 1:9-20

- A. Who is the author and what do we know about him?
- B. The seven churches have
- C. In verses 12-16, How is Jesus dressed?
- D. In verses 17 & 18, what does Jesus say?
- E. In verse 19 what instruction does Jesus give to John? What explanation?

VII. Looking Ahead: