

## Revelation

For many of us we avoid the book of Revelation because it is unlike any book we have ever read other than a Science Fiction book and since we know the Word of God certainly isn't fiction, we leave the book unread.

One thing to keep in mind when reading this book is that it is written in apocalyptic style. It does not read like a normal narrative book, such as a gospel or even a letter which is designed to tell a story or teach us about the ways of Christ like men and women.

In an attempt to tell other believers, without naming the evil villains, John takes us, his readers, back into the treasure vault of the OT, using the signs, symbols and numbers of the OT, to give a coded message to the believers about the present dangers of their world.

Revelation does not contain the date of when Jesus will return, rather it is the attempt of the Apostle John to warn the believers of their present darkness and situation caused by the enemy of God, Satan the evil one, and those who would support his dynasty.

The letter was written we believe near the end of the first century from John, the last of the twelve Apostles to the believers of Asia Minor, and more specifically the believers at Ephesus, where John ministered for a number of years.

He begins with seven messages to the local churches of Asia Minor in chapter 1-3. In chapter 4 we see a picture of God's throne and in chapter 5 we see Jesus the Lamb of God coming to take the hidden scroll and now revealing or pulling back the curtain on the final events that are to be played out in this cosmic battle between God and Satan.

Note Revelation is not a number of different pictures, but it's the same picture being showed from a number of different perspectives with seals, trumpets, and bowls containing the wrath of God that is to be poured out on God's enemies. I hope you will see the major theme, as it is always the same, good will finally triumph over evil.

The saints under the Altar, or the fallen Christians, will continue to ask of the Lord how long before you return to the earth and put to an end all the evil or corrupt behavior and thinking.

In chapter 20 you will see an angel coming from heaven to seize the dragon (Satan) and bind him. Then he will be released for a little while, but Satan is no match for the power of God. This battle was settled before it began [Rev. 20:10].

The New Jerusalem (Heaven) comes down to a restored earth in chapter 21 and we believers will worship and serve together forever.