

REVELATION: THE END OF THE BEGINNING

A. AUTHOR: John

B. BACKGROUND: John, an elderly man and former pastor in Ephesus, was exiled on the island of Patmos, where an ordinary day of worship turned into a vision of the end of the beginning.

C. THEME: Jesus Christ will return to earth a second time, but this time He will not be a suffering servant but a conquering King! Three views of Revelation:

1. **Futurist:** The events of Revelation describe future events leading to the return of Christ.
2. **Historicist:** The events of Revelation describe periods of history in the early church and beyond.
3. **Preterist:** The events of Revelation describe the time of writing of the author but in coded language.

D. OUTLINE:

1. **Introduction (1:1-8)**
2. **Jesus and the Seven Churches of Asia Minor (1:9-3:22)**
 - a. A Vision of Jesus (1:9-20)
 - b. Letters to Seven Churches (2:1-3:22)
 - Ephesus (2:1-7) - Lost its first love
 - Smyrna (2:8-11) - The Poor, Rich Church
 - Pergamum (2:12-17) - The Church at Satan's Throne
 - Thyatira (2:18-29) - Jezebel's Church
 - Sardis (3:1-6) - The Dead Church
 - Philadelphia (3:7-13) - The Church of Brotherly Love
 - Laodicea (3:14-22) - The Lukewarm Church
3. **Vision of Heaven & the Future (4:1-19:10)**
 - a. Heavenly Calm (4:1-5:14)
 - b. Opening of the 7 Seals (6:1-8:1)
 1. White Horse - Religious Deception
 2. Red Horse - War
 3. Black Horse - Famine
 4. Pale Horse - Pestilence
 5. Slain Souls under the Altar
 6. Cosmic Disasters
 7. Seven Angels with Seven Trumpets

c. **Blasting of the 7 Trumpets (8:2-11:19)**

1. Hail and Fire
2. Mountain in the Sea
3. Star in the Rivers
4. A third of the Sun and Stars
5. Fallen Star and the Key to the Abyss
6. Death of a Third of Mankind
7. Seven Bowls

d. **Cosmic Battle (12:1-14:20)**

1. The woman and the dragon (12:1-17)
2. The two Beasts (13:1-18)
3. The rise of the lamb's army (14:1-20)

e. **The Seven Bowls (15:1-19:10)**

1. Sores
2. Sea Turned to Blood
3. Rivers Turned to Blood
4. Sun Scorched People with Fire
5. Darkness
6. Rivers dried up preparing for War
7. Rumbings from the Throne

4. **Vision of the Return of Christ (19:11-20:15)**

- a. The Rider on the White Horse (19:11-21)
- b. Binding of Satan & the Millennium (20:1-6)
- c. Release and End of Satan (20:7-10)
- d. Great White Throne Judgment (20:11-15)

5. **Vision of the New Heaven and the New Earth (21:1-22:21)**

- a. The New Jerusalem (21:1-27)
- b. The River of Life and the Tree of Life (22:1-5)
- c. Conclusion (22:6-21)

E. REAL LIFE LESSONS FROM REVELATION

1. The Risen Jesus is the key to the future.
2. Churches must remain faithful to Christ no matter what happens.
3. History is progressing toward the return of Christ.
4. Things will get worse before they get better.
5. Christ will rule for eternity and we'll join Him in heaven.