

THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

Introduction

Unique Features of the Revelation

1. The opening verses of the book state that “John” wrote it.
2. It is the only prophetic book in the New Testament.
3. There is a special blessing which is promised to the readers of this book.
4. It is not a *sealed* book.
5. It is a series of visions expressed in symbols which deal with *reality*.
6. Of its 404 verses, 278 contain references to the Old Testament.

Overview of the Revelation

1. In chapter 1, we see the glorified Christ.
2. In chapters 2–3 we see the church.
3. In chapters 4–5 we see that the church is in heaven.
4. In chapters 6–18 the Great Tribulation takes place.
5. In chapter 19 Christ returns to the earth and establishes His Kingdom.
6. In chapter 20 we see the thousand–year reign of Christ, the Great White Throne is set up, the place where the lost are judged.
7. In chapters 21–22 eternity begins.

The Message of the Revelation

1. Revelation is a revealing of the person of Jesus Christ.
 - a. He is the same human Jesus Christ who was born on earth at His first coming.
 - b. He is also fully divine, one with the Father.
 - c. He is the eternal God.

“In the Revelation the Lamb is the center around which all else is clustered, the foundation upon which everything lasting is built, the nail on which all hangs, the object to which all points, and the spring from which all blessing proceeds. The Lamb is the light, the glory, the life, the Lord of heaven and earth, from whose face all defilement must flee away, and in whose presence fullness of joy is known. Hence we cannot go far in the study of the Revelation without seeing the Lamb. Like direction posts along the road to remind us that He, who did by Himself purge our sins, is now highly exalted and that to Him every knee must bow and every tongue confess.” Snell

2. The Revelation is a revealing of the power of Jesus Christ.
 - a. He has all personal power.
 - 1) He has inherent power.
 - 2) He has acquired power.
 - b. He has all instrumental power.
 - 1) He has power over all material objects and forces.
 - 2) He has power over all spiritual entities and authorities.
 - c. He has all effectual power.
 - 1) He has all destructive power.
 - 2) He has all constructive power.

3. The Book of Revelation is a revealing of the program of Jesus Christ.
 - a. Christ's immediate purpose is to defeat and destroy Satan and sin.
 - 1) We see Him doing this in the church age.
 - 2) We see Him doing this in the Tribulation.
 - b. Christ's ultimate purpose is to dwell among His people and experience intimate fellowship with them.

Conclusion

The central purpose of the book of Revelation is to reveal Jesus Christ the Son of God in His glorified state. We will see Him in a much different way than we see Him in the Gospels.

We get discouraged when we look at our dark world. We wonder how it is going to work out. Well, we turn to the last book of the Bible and find that it's going to work out all right. God has never lost control—and He is moving to the time when He is going to place His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, upon the throne of His universe. Therefore, I want to be with *Him*. As one ancient commentator put it, "I would rather lose now and win later than to win now and lose later."

Some of the information above is found in Tom Constable's commentary.