



THE BOOK CALLED THE APOCALYPSE, OR THE REVELATION

Chapter count: 22
Original language: Greek
Author: John at Patmos
Date written: About A.D. 95
Scope: Entire Biblical narrative

The first three words in this book are “Ἀποκάλυψις Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ,” or *The Revelation of Jesus Christ*. Revelation means *manifestation*, or *unveiling*. The Revelation is a book of prophecy where all the other books of the Bible meet. The apostle John was exiled to Patmos, and there Jesus appeared to him with an important message for Christianity. The Prelude of chapter 1 is followed by a message to the seven churches in Asia Minor—representing the seven Christian periods from John’s generation to the end of time. In Chapter 12, the vision takes John back to an event before Genesis: the first war. The Revelation then continues to the final conflicts on earth until **the final triumph of Christ**, His angels and His people.

THE EXPERIENCES OF THE CHURCH IN HISTORY

7 CHURCHES, 7 SEALS, 7 TRUMPETS

“The Revelation of Jesus Christ” is given to John. The messages to the seven churches are given. The vision then takes John to a throne room, where he sees four living creatures and twenty-four elders around the throne. Then he sees a Lamb—representing Jesus—who opens a book with seven seals. Seven trumpets are also sounded one by one. Then John sees an Angel with a little book open in His hand. Another scene follows: the “two witnesses” are killed, but live again. Then the seventh trumpet is sounded, and John sees the Most Holy Place of the heavenly sanctuary opened.

CHAPTERS 1-11

THE COSMIC CONFLICT

John sees a mystery: a dragon with seven heads, and a woman upon the moon about to give birth to a male Child. The dragon—Satan—stands before the woman, but fails to devour the Child who ascends to heaven. Then the vision takes John to the war in heaven, where Michael and His angels fought against the dragon. It is revealed that the dragon was cast out, and cast down. The woman receives providential help to escape the dragon. The dragon is now angered (or wroth) against the woman, and makes war with the remnant of her seed which keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus.

CHAPTER 12

THE FINAL CONFLICT UP TO ETERNITY

THE FINAL CONFLICT

Two beasts arise—one from the sea, the other from the earth. These are revealed to be enemies of God’s people, and the beasts make an alliance, evidently under the influence of the dragon in chapter 12. A scene follows: three angels proclaim messages from heaven. Seven plagues are poured out. Then there is a great earthquake, and large hailstones fall from the sky. The King of kings returns to earth as a mighty, triumphant Conqueror. The redeemed of God are saved, and Satan is bound a thousand years. After this, John sees the Judgment, and evil is finally destroyed.

CHAPTERS 13-20

THE NEW HEAVEN AND NEW EARTH

John sees a new heaven and the earth made new. He sees the glories of eternity as he beholds the New Jerusalem—the eternal City of God’s people. He also sees the pure river of life and the tree of life. The book closes with an epilogue: Jesus says, “**Behold, I come quickly.**” John hears the words, “Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him who is athirst, come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.” “**Surely I come quickly.**” The prophet responds, “Even so, come, Lord Jesus.”

CHAPTERS 21 & 22