

## REVELATION -- INTRODUCTORY NOTES

1. Revelation, not Revelations. It is a singular revelation which God gave Christ to show unto his servants.

2. **THEME:** Victory of Christ and his church over Satan and his allies, 17:14 (Rom. 8:37)

3. **PURPOSE:** Impart consolation to the militant church of Christ in its fight against the forces of evil.

a. It is not a prophecy of world-wide events in the 20th century! What purpose would such serve to the suffering, persecuted, disciples of the first centuries, etc.?

4. Seven times two matters are mentioned in chap. 1-3:

a. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith to the churches. The Spirit speaks through revealed messages, the written word (1:3; 2:2). Everyone, who has an ear, is responsible.

b. To him that overcometh, (a promise). See I John 5:4. All of God's promises are made to overcomers! Salvation is conditional, Calvinism to the contrary.

5. Verse one gives the key to the proper interpretation of Revelation. ASV, "signifies" (*sign - a - fied*). See John 12:33 (18:32; Matt.: 20:17-19); 21:18,19.

a. *A big mistake of many: literalizing the figurative (the sign)!*

b. A "sign" can't stand for itself. A lion does not represent a lion, nor a virgin a virgin, nor 1000 one thousand!

6. Its a revelation, not an unrevealed mystery. Many never venture beyond the first three chapters! The peculiarity of Revelation is that the message revealed is revealed in sign language, but the symbols employed in this book are used in the O.T. already.

7. Three apocalyptic, or apocalyptic, (symbolic imagery) books of the O.T.: Ezekiel, Daniel, Zechariah.

a. *Note: Do not confuse apocalyptic with apocryphal = hide away; therefore false, fictitious, not canonical, dubious. The Apocrypha are the additional books found in the Septuagint and the Vulgate (Catholic), but not in the Hebrew nor Protestant versions of the Bible.*

8. Date: most likely cir. 96 A.D., during the reign of Domitian.

**9. Rules for interpretation:**

*a. What did the book mean for the people of that time?*

- 1. Understanding the conditions of the day**
- 2. The spiritual need of the hour: encouragement, consolation.**
- 3. Understanding of O.T. prophets and their use of symbols.**
- 4. All interpretation must not contradict plain N.T. teaching.**