

Introduction to the Book of Revelation

Sunday, January 29, 2023

What is the book of Revelation?

1. a letter
2. a prophecy
3. a (future) historical narrative
4. a conclusion

Should we be reading the book of Revelation?

1. it is God's Word
2. blessing is promised
3. warnings are given
4. it is "revelation"

How should we read the book of Revelation?

allegory or actual events? if actual events, which ones?

1. preterist
2. historicist
3. idealist
4. futurist
5. all of the above
6. dangerous ways to read Revelation:
 - 6.1. systems over exegesis
 - 6.2. contradiction with other Scriptures
 - 6.3. informational only
 - 6.4. ignore the details
 - 6.5. identify all of the details
 - 6.6. date-setting

What is the structure of Revelation?

Introduction (1:1-8)

1. "the things which you have seen" (1:9-20)
2. "the things which are" (ch2-3)
3. "the things which will take place after these things" (ch4-22)
 - 3.1. scene in heaven and a sealed book (ch4-5)
 - 3.2. the tribulation (6-18)

- 3.2.1. seal judgments (6:1-8:5)
- 3.2.2. trumpet judgments (8:6-11:19)
- 3.2.3. [BREAK: character identification (ch12-14)]
- 3.2.4. bowl judgments (ch15-16)
- 3.2.5. [BREAK: judgment of Babylon (ch17-18)]
- 3.3. the return of Christ (ch19)
- 3.4. Millennial Kingdom and Final Judgment (ch20)
- 3.5. New Heavens and New Earth (21:1-22:5)
- Conclusion (22:6-21)

What should we expect to find in Revelation?

1. much we don't know.
2. symbols
3. the re-reveling of all that was unraveled in Genesis 3.
4. theology
5. worship
6. the Bible's continuity
7. history's darkest hour
8. the end of your Bible
9. humanity's great potential
10. assessment of churches
11. promises fulfilled
12. judgment uncorked
13. home
14. reality
15. Jesus the Christ

How should we expect to benefit from Revelation?

What will Revelation do to/for us?

1. protect us from false teaching
2. fuel our anticipation
3. promote urgent living
4. ignite evangelism
5. recalibrate our perspective
6. loosen our grip on the world
7. help in trials, persecutions, and suffering
8. inform and multiply our affections for God