

## Revelation: Introduction — Part 1

Greek word 'apocalypsis'

- 19 times as a noun meaning 'revelation' or 'unveiling'.
- 26 times as a verb, meaning "to unveil".

NOT 21 epistles in the NT, there are 7 in Revelation!

Why these specific churches?

### Genre

What genre is the Book of Revelation?

Book focuses on the rule and reign of Jesus Christ in glory.

"Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this **prophecy**, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near." (Vs. 3)

To whom is this book given?

"The revelation of Jesus Christ which God gave unto *him*..." (Vs. 1)

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfil them. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished." Matthew 5.17-18

"one jot or one tittle" (KJV)

"They were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily *to find out* whether these things were so." Acts 17.11

Who wrote the Book?

Where did he write it?

### Second Coming of Christ

Look, he is coming with the clouds," and "every eye will see him, even those who pierced him"; and all peoples on earth "will mourn because of him." So shall it be! Amen. (Vs. 7)

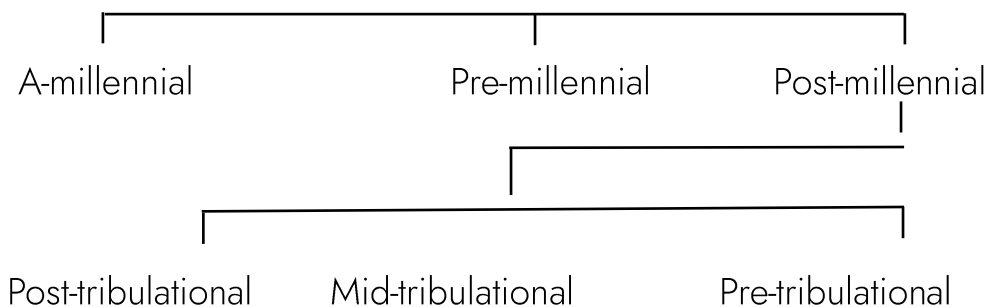
Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns." The world is firmly established, it cannot be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity. <sup>11</sup> Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let the sea resound, and all that is in it. <sup>12</sup> Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them; let all the trees of the forest sing for joy. <sup>13</sup> Let all creation rejoice before the LORD, for he comes, he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in his faithfulness. (Psalm 96)

“Second Coming” - originated with Justin Martyr in the 2nd century.

## Interpretation

- i. The book was written only for those in the first century.
- ii. The book is historical, it is a recap of history, albeit in symbolic language.
- iii. Idealistic view - entire book is strictly allegorical, Christ reigns in our hearts and not literally on earth.
- iv. Prophetic
  - ~ 1800 references to Christ's rule on the earth
  - 216 chapters in the NT, 318 references to Second Coming; mentioned in 23 of the 27 books.
  - For every prophecy of Christ's first coming there are between 7-8 prophecies of his second coming.

## Eschatology



## Structure

### Seven fold structure

- Seven Churches 1:4,11,20; 2; 3
- Seven Seals 5; 6
- Seven Trumpets 8, 9
- Seven Bowls 15; 16; 17:1; 21:9
- Seven Lampstands 1:12, 13, 20; 2:1
- Seven Spirits 1:4; 3:1; 4:5; 5:6
- Seven Stars 1:16, 20; 2:1; 3:1
- Seven Lamps 4; 5
- Seven “Title-pairs” 2; 3
- Seven Promises to the Overcomer 2;3
- Seven Horns 5:6
- Seven Eyes 5:6
- Seven Angels 8:2,6; 15:1,6,7,8; 16:1; 17:1;21:9

- Seven Thunders 10:3, 4
- Seven Thousand 11:13
- Seven Heads 12:3; 13:1; 17:3, 7, 9
- Seven Crowns 12:3
- Seven Plagues 15:1, 6, 8; 21:9
- Seven Mountains 17:9
- Seven Kings 17:10,11

The NT is in the OT concealed and the OT is in the NT revealed.