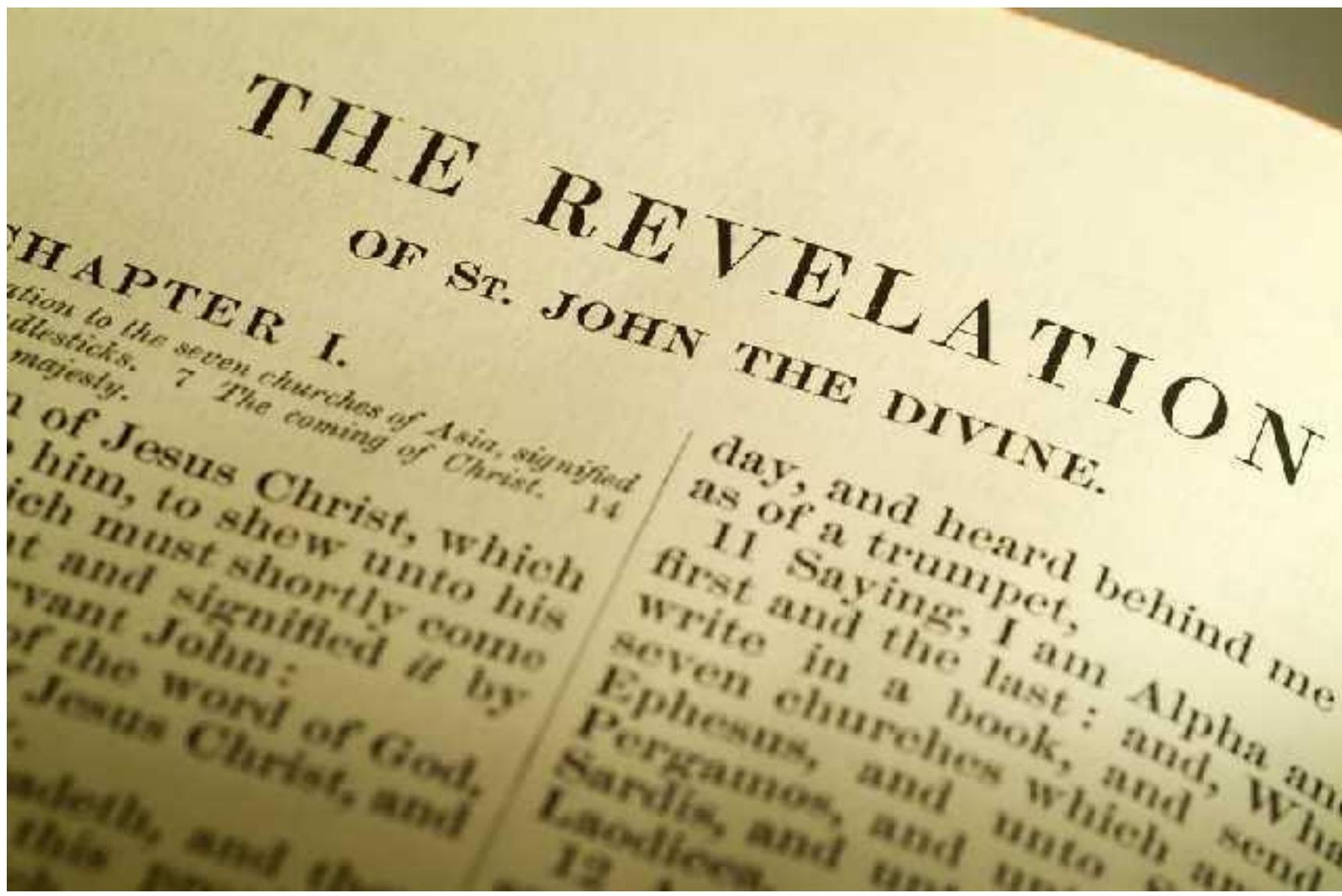


Revelation – An Introduction



The New Testament Book of Revelation

1. One of the strangest and most difficult to understand books of the Bible.
2. Written sometime in the second half of the first century B.C.E. in or near the Roman province of Asia – what is today is Western Turkey.
3. Romans ruled and regulated life – the gigantic and powerful Roman military machine could never be far from the people's attention.
4. John of Patmos is the author of Revelation: a seer, saw visions from God on the island of Patmos.
5. Revelation is a letter written to be circulated to seven churches in important cities near the coast of western Asian Minor.
6. The contents are cryptic and at times bizarre, involving disapproval of the Roman Empire and its political and religious claims.



MACEDONIA

Black Sea

BITHYNIA

PONTUS

THRACE

Constantinople

Macedonia

GALATIA

**Turkey
(Asia Minor)**

Caesarea

Aegean Sea

ASIA

3 Pergamos

4 Thyatira

5 Sardis

2 Smyrna

1 Ephesus

6 Philadelphia

7 Laodicea

Mausoleum of Halicarnassus

CILICIA

Tarsus

Greece

Temple of Artemis

Athens

Statue of Zeus

Sparta

Patmos

Rhodes

Colossus of Rhodes

LYCIA

Antioch

Damascus

Syria

Crete

Lebanon

**Mediterranean Sea
(the Great Sea)**

**Cyprus
(Kittim)**

Hanging Gardens of Babylon



Sidon Tyre

SAMARIA

Mt. Tabor

Acre

Caesarea

Joppa

Gaza

Cyrene

Libya

Pharos Lighthouse

Abukir Bay

Rosetta

Damietta

Alexandria

El Arish

ISRAEL

JORDAN

Egypt



Pyramid of Giza

CAIRO

Four Views of Revelation

1. The idealist view teaches that Revelation describes in symbolic language the battle throughout the ages between God and Satan and good against evil.
2. The preterist view teaches that the events recorded in the book of Revelation were largely fulfilled in AD 70 with the fall of the Jerusalem Temple.
3. The historicist view teaches that the book of Revelation is a symbolic presentation of church history beginning in the first century AD through the end of age. The prophecies of Revelation are fulfilled in various historic events such as the fall of the Roman Empire, the Protestant Reformation, and the French Revolution.
4. The futurist view teaches that Revelation prophesies events that will take place in the future. These events include the rapture of the church, seven years of tribulation, and a millennial rule of Christ upon the earth. “Left Behind” series of books would be a futurist view.

Break up into groups with three or four persons in the group and discuss the following questions:

1. Why did you decide to study Revelation?
2. What confuses you the most about the book of Revelation?
3. What do you want to learn about Revelation?
4. Do you hold an idealist, preterist, historicist, or futurist view of Revelation?

Assignment for Next Week

1. Read chapters 1-4 in the New Testament book of Revelation.
2. Make notes about what you are reading asking the questions who, what, when, where, and why. Make notes about what John is saying to the seven churches he is writing to in his letter of “Revelation”.
3. Pray each day for at least 5 minutes.