**The Book of**

 **Revelation**

Lesson Number One

 **“Walk Through the Bible” Series**

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***Note: I typically prepare more material than which I have time to present. In order to get the most out of this study, or any of my studies, I highly recommend downloading my notes along with watching the video or listening to the podcast, whichever is available for that particular series.***

In this study, I will be using the **New Living Translation** for most of the reading of the Book of Revelation. Where deeper study is warranted, I will refer to the **King James Version** and to the original Greek in which the book was written.

The book of Revelation is just that. It is a **REVELATION**, **not REVELATIONS** (plural). It is NO MISTAKE that the book of Revelation is in the Bible and it is no mistake that it is where it is in the Bible.

**About:** The book has 404 verses in twenty-two chapters. Fifty-four verses are history and 350 verses are prophecy. Ten of these 350 verses have been fulfilled, but the rest remain to be fulfilled.

Revelation is just as important as any other book in the Bible and we need to read it and study it just like any other book in the Bible.

**2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NLT)**

16 All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. 17 God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

Many times we are intimidated by the book of Revelation. This could be because of various things:

1. Erroneous teaching
	1. Mixing up the timeline thereby causing confusion.
		1. The book of Revelation is written in **chronological order**. It is important to remember this. There are some parenthetical passages that will **jump out of order** while explaining something that is in chronological order.
	2. Taking things out of context.

**Revelation 12:4 (NLT)**
4 His tail swept away one-third of the stars in the sky, and he threw them to the earth. He stood in front of the woman as she was about to give birth, ready to devour her baby as soon as it was born.

Many, many preachers have used this passage of scripture to say that one third of the angels fell with Satan at the beginning of time. They are wrong. This is an event that will take place during the Great Tribulation. Stars are symbols for angels. Job 38:2; 38:7;

* 1. By trying to make every modern calamity fit into eschatology.
		1. I have seen MANY teachers do this throughout the years. They will try to set a date of Christ’s return. They said Gorbechev was the anti-christ because of the birth mark on his head. They have said Obama is the anti-christ.
		2. They say America is Babylon even though the United States is never mentioned in the Book of Revelation.
		3. They (Jehovah’s Witnesses) say the 144,000 have already gone to Heaven.
		4. Etc.
1. By simply believing Satan’s lie that Revelation cannot be understood by most Christians.
2. Not understanding that **ALL scripture is given by God** and that God will **“hasten His Word to perform it!”**
	1. God WANTS you to understand His Word!

**Isaiah 55:10-11 (KJV)**

10 For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: 11 So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper *in the thing* whereto I sent it.

**Revelation CAN be understood by Christians just like the rest of God’s Word but we must let God teach us, not being tossed to and from by every wind of doctrine!**

**\*Ephesians 4:14 (KJV) \*READ VERSES 11 – 16 FROM NLT**

14 That we *henceforth* be no more children, **tossed to and fro**, and **carried about with every wind of doctrine**, **by the sleight of men**, *and* **cunning craftiness**, whereby **they lie in wait to deceive**;

**Ephesians 1:16-18 (NLT)**

16 I have not stopped thanking God for you. I pray for you constantly, 17 asking God, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you spiritual wisdom and insight so that you might grow in your knowledge of God. 18 I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope he has given to those he called—his holy people who are his rich and glorious inheritance.

**Jesus IS the Word (John 1:1) and He wants to “abide” in you and you in Him!**

**John 15:7 (KJV)**

7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

**THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL ENLIGHTEN THE EYES OF YOUR UNDERSTANDING SO THAT YOU CAN UNDERSTAND HIS WORD!**

**It is important that we learn to *really HEAR* God’s Word and we need to pay attention to HOW we hear God’s Word!**

**Luke 8:18 (NLT)**

18  “So pay attention to **how you hear**. To those who listen to my teaching, more understanding will be given. But for those who are not listening, even what they think they understand will be taken away from them.”

**Written by:** John, the disciple of Jesus Christ.

This the only one of the five books authored by John in the Bible that mention his name as the author.

**When:** it was written: **95-96 AD**. Approximately 63 years after Christ was crucified and ascended to Heaven.

**Where:** On the island of Patmos after John had been exiled there for his service for the Lord. Many prisoners were exiled to this small island (about one mile long and very narrow). They were dropped off by boat and had no way to get back to the mainland.

**Why:** For God the Father to show us the things that will come to pass and the timeline in which they will occur. It was also given to us to encourage us. We see that finally, all rebellion is destroyed, sin is eternally judged and we (the Church) are made to rule and reign with Christ throughout eternity.

**What:** A revelation for God’s people, the Church, so that we may know the outcome of this fallen world, what will happen to the righteous and the unrighteous and how “eternity future” will be.

**Revelation 1:1 (NLT)**

1 This is a revelation from Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants the events that must soon take place. He sent an angel to present this revelation to his servant John,

In this study, I will lean heavily on *Revelation Expounded*, written by Finis Jennings Dake in 1926. I will also share things from other ministers such as Hilton Sutton and others. I will share things I believe God has revealed to me about the times that are soon to come to pass.

The events in Revelation are **literal** but many **signs** and **symbols** are used to help us understand what will take place, more so than any other book in the Bible. Where we can, we should always take the Bible literally. If a passage cannot be taken literally, then we must use the Bible to determine what point is being made by a sign or symbol.

We are surrounded by symbols in our culture. When we drive, if we see a yellow “Yield” sign, we know to slow down and to be cautious. If we see the red octagonal “Stop” sign, we know that we need to stop. We are so accustomed to these symbols that we do not have a need to stop and read what is written on them. We know simply by their color and shape as to what they mean.

Examples of symbols in Revelation:

1. The number seven (7) – denotes completeness or fullness. Always has a positive connotation.
2. The **seven** Churches of Asia.
3. A book with **seven** seals – only one appointed by God could open the book.
4. When the last seal is broken, **seven** trumpets make certain announcements.
5. At the sounding of the **seventh** trumpet John sees **seven** bowls of wrath.
	1. God’s disfavor with the wicked is displayed through those **seven** bowls of wrath.
6. The number six (6) and multiples such as 666 show incompleteness.
7. The Manchild – 144,000 young Jewish virgin men who come to know Jesus as Savior and evangelize the world.
8. There are many more and we will talk about them as we come to them in our study.

Question – On a scale from 1 to 10, 1 being the easiest and 10 being the hardest; How hard do you think it is to understand the book of Revelation?

Question - What is the first thing you think of when you think of the book of Revelation?

 Do you think of evil?

 Do you think of good?

The Bible would be incomplete without the book of Revelation. Without Revelation, it would be like watching your favorite football team playing a game but you turn the television off with only two minutes left in the game and you never see the outcome.

The book of Revelation completes the Bible and it answers all the questions that have arisen throughout the ages.

Will sin be judged?

 Will Satan and his evil spirits be judged?

 Will our good works be rewarded?

 Will the earth be destroyed and how?

 How will God draw the Hebrew people back to Him?

 Will we be with God forever in Heaven?

Just as Genesis is absolutely important to show how everything began, Revelation is also absolutely important to show us how things (this current dispensation or age) will end and how the next dispensation will enter in!

**About the Author**

John was brother to **James the Great** (sons of **Zebedee**, the **Sons of Thunder**) and referred to himself as “the disciple Jesus loved (**John 13:23**).” John’s mother tried to make a deal with Jesus so that her sons would sit next to Jesus, one on the left and one on the right, in the kingdom of Heaven.

John was the **only disciple who was present** when Jesus was crucified. He also, was the only disciple who did not die a violent death. I believe there is a correlation there!

The "beloved disciple," was brother to James the Great. The churches of Smyrna, Pergamos, Sardis, Philadelphia, Laodicea, and Thyatira, were founded by him. From Ephesus he was ordered to be sent to Rome, where it is affirmed he was cast into a cauldron of boiling oil. He escaped by miracle, without injury. Domitian after wards banished him to the Isle of Patmos, where he wrote the Book of Revelation. Nerva, the successor of Domitian, recalled him. He was the only apostle who escaped a violent death.

Foxe's Book of Martyrs

John had been exiled to the island of **Patmos** and it may be that the Romans did not know what else to do with him. What would you do with someone you could not kill? John was getting old by this time. Some believe that John was **90 years old** when he was exiled to Patmos.

**Start Here for Lesson 1 Part B**

[**Revelation**] Greek: *apokalupsis* (GSN-<G602>), to **unveil** or **uncover**. It implies the lifting up of a curtain so that all can see alike what is uncovered. When used of writing, it means to reveal or make clear (Eph. 3:3; Gal. 1:12); when used of a person, it denotes visible presence (Rev. 1:1; 2Th. 1:7; 1Pet. 1:7,13). Here it refers to both the book and the person of Christ.

Dake's Annotated Reference Bible: Containing the Old and New Testaments of the Authorized or King James Version Text.

Revelation and Apocalypse mean the same thing. The Catholic Bible uses the word Apocalypse but it means the same thing as Revelation and is the same book.

The revelation was first given to **Christ** and then Jesus gave it to His angel who gave it to John, who, in turn gave it to us so that we may know what is going to take place as this age ends. Jesus wanted to uncover, or unveil what will happen at the end of this age.

The revelation was not given to Christ until after he was resurrected and exalted. Jesus walked this earth strictly as a man. He stripped His deity off and did everything through the anointing of the Holy Spirit just like we can. Phil 2:6-8; 1 Jn 4:2; 2 Jn 1:7

**Question – Will the world come to an end and what does that mean?**

The end of this **age** or **dispensation** will take place as the events in Revelation begin but the end of the world will not be destroyed until **at least one thousand years later**.

**How many of you have heard people talk about, and you may have talked about, the “end of the world?”**

**How many of you have heard and thought that, as Believers, we will be with Jesus in Heaven forever?**

**There have been so many things taught in the church that are completely wrong!**

**Tradition is alive and well in the church today!**

Tradition does the following things:

* + 1. Takes all the **power** out of the Word of God!

**Mark 7:13 (KJV)**

13  Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye.

1. Tradition being taught in the church leads to Christianity which has no power!
2. There are many, many churches like this.
	1. Many pastors are not even born again. The blind lead the blind!
		1. They may be great orators, have great personalities, they may be extremely handsome but DO NOT KNOW THE WORD OF GOD!
	2. They look at ministry as a “profession” rather than a calling.
	3. In their sermons, they teach a lesson on philosophy sprinkled with a couple of scriptures.
	4. **These churches are FULL of people** who are being led down a slippery slope to hell!

**2 Timothy 3:1-5 (KJV)**

1  This know also, that in the last days perilous ***(difficult, dangerous, furious)*** times shall come. 2  For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3  Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, 4  Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; 5  **Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.**

* 1. **Know those who labor among you!**

**1 Thessalonians 5:11-15 (KJV)**

11  Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do. 12  And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; 13  And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. *And* be at peace among yourselves. 14  Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all *men*. 15  See that none render evil for evil unto any *man*; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all *men*.

● Comfort yourselves together – We can’t do that if we aren’t in church. Make a commitment to be here every week!

● Comfort and edify (be a house builder not a house destroyer) one another. Encourage each other!

● Know (*intimately*) those who are over you – Pastors, Sunday School teachers, etc.

● Esteem (*respect and admire*) them highly for the work they do FOR YOU!

● Warn those that are unruly *(insubordinate; those who are out of step and not performing their duty in the church)* – stop those who gossip, those that say bad things about anyone else. Nip those things in the bud! DO NOT be a part of it!

● Comfort the feebleminded (little-spirited ; those who lose heart in every battle).

● **In every situation**, ask yourself, “Is this following after that which is good” and “Will this bring glory to God?”

* + 1. Leads people into **false** **doctrine**.
1. We must **TEST** the spirits.

**1 John 4:1-3 (GW)**

1  Dear friends, don't believe all people who say that they have the Spirit. Instead, test them. See whether the spirit they have is from God, because there are many false prophets in the world. 2  This is how you can recognize God's Spirit: Every person who declares that Jesus Christ has come as a human has the Spirit that is from God. 3  But every person who doesn't declare that Jesus Christ has come as a human has a spirit that isn't from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist that you have heard is coming. That spirit is already in the world.

We also test them by seeing if what they teach is really from God’s Word!

1. Do not just take for granted, everything you hear!

**Acts 17:11 (BBE)**

11  Now these were more noble than the Jews of Thessalonica, for they gave serious attention to the word, searching in the holy Writings every day, to see if these things were so.

1. Be a “Berean” at heart!

**2 Timothy 3:16-17 (KJV)**

16  All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17  That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

* + 1. This leads people to the destruction of their spirit and soul!
1. In other words, eternity in hell, separated from God forever and ever!

There was a certain evening, in my home, when the Lord spoke to me and revealed the calling on my life. As the Lord spoke to me that evening, He led me to several scriptures. This is one of them.

**1 Timothy 4:16 (WEY)**

16  Be on your guard (pay close attention) as to yourself and your teaching. Persevere in these things; for by doing this you will make certain your own salvation and that of your hearers.

At the time of the writing of Revelation, the Church was under heavy persecution from the Romans. Paul had been beheaded in Rome between 64 and 68 A.D., years before this and all the other apostles had been martyred.

**Revelation 1:1-3 (NLT)**

This is a revelation from Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants the events that must soon take place. He sent an angel to present this revelation to his servant John, 2who faithfully reported everything he saw. This is his report of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. 3God blesses the one who reads the words of this prophecy to the church, and he blesses all who listen to its message and obey what it says, for the time is near.

We are told that we will be blessed by **listening** to the book of Revelation and **doing** what it says. Also, whoever reads this and teaches it to the Church.

**Luke 6:46 (NLT)**
46 “So why do you keep calling me ‘Lord, Lord!’ when you don’t do what I say?

**James 1:22 (NLT)**

22 But don’t just listen to God’s word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves.

It is my belief that John saw these things in “real time” and as if he was seeing it much more clearly than he would have on a television or in a movie.

Bear in mind that John had to describe things he saw in terms that he was familiar with. In his day, how would you describe a car, a motorcycle or a cell phone, having never seen them before?

I was talking to my maternal grandmother several years ago about Christ’s return. I told her that I believed Jesus would return in my lifetime. She said, “I have heard that all my life.” She was born in 1907, the same year Indian Territory (where she was born) became the State of Oklahoma. John said the time was near for all of the events in Revelation to take place. Well, time is relative and we should live every day as if Jesus will return that day. The difference between those generations and our generation is one huge prophecy that has been fulfilled. That is the restoration of the nation of Israel in May 1948. There are, literally, no more Biblical prophecies that must take place before the rapture of the Church will occur!

**Rules for Interpretation**

When reading the scriptures, always see if the literal meaning of a word fits. If it doesn’t, then look to see if what is written is symbolic. Revelation is more literal than symbolic.

In the Book of Revelation we will see both **literal** and **symbolic** meanings but the book itself is literal. It uses more symbolism than any other book in the Bible so it is extremely important to understand the symbols it contains.

*“When the language of a passage cannot possibly be literal, then it is clear from the passage itself, as well as from other Scriptures, that it is figurative. It must be remembered, however, that all figurative language conveys literal truth.”*

Revelation Expounded by Finis Jennings Dake.

There are four different ways that people have viewed eschatology (the study of end time events):

1. The **Preterist School** claims that the Revelation was fulfilled in the struggles of the Jews and early Christians and in the conquests of Greece and Rome.
	1. Preterists believe that all Biblical prophecy has already taken place.
	2. There are “Partial” preterists and “Full” preterists.
2. The **Historical School** insists that the prophecies herein are being progressively fulfilled and that the greater part has been fulfilled since Christ.
3. The **Spiritual School** believes that the Revelation depicts the spiritual conflict between Christ and Satan, between good and evil.
4. The **Futurist School** believes that the Revelation is yet future; that is, the first three chapters describe the present Church Age and that the remainder of the prophecy will be fulfilled after the rapture of the Church. This is the most logical and Scriptural method of interpretation of the book as it holds to the literal meaning of the language of Scripture with due consideration to grammatical construction.

*Revelation Expounded – F.J. Dake*

We will study the book of Revelation from the perspective of the **Futurist School.**

Revelation can be broken down into four sections:

1. Rev. 1-3 deals primarily with the **Church on Earth**.
2. Rev. 4-5 pictures the Church and the Old Testament saints with God in **Heaven** after the **rapture**, represented by the twenty-four elders.
3. Rev. 6-19 deals primarily with **Israel** under the last oppression by the Gentiles in fulfillment to the prophecy of Daniel’s Seventieth Week after the rapture of the Church.
4. Rev. 20-22 relates to all three classes, the Church, the Jews and the Gentiles. The earthly Jews will be the head of all earthly Gentiles and the **Church** with **Christ** will reign over both forever and ever.