

Introduction to NT Books

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XXVII. The Book of Revelation

A. The Authorship of Revelation

1. External Evidence: Justin Martyr, Irenaeus, Tertullian, and Origen attested to the authenticity and Johannine authorship.
2. Internal Evidence: He claimed to be John (1:1, 4, 9; 21:2; 22:8) and a servant of Christ exiled on Patmos. Although his writing style is different from the Gospel, he was writing apocalyptic literature.

B. The Audience of Revelation

1. He wrote to the angel of each of seven immersionist churches in Asia, namely the assembly at Ephesus, at Smyrna, at Pergamos, at Thyatira, at Sardis, at Philadelphia, and at Laodicea.
 - a. They were literal churches.
 - b. They were Baptist churches.
 - c. They typical churches representing NT churches in any age.
 - d. They in no way represent a parable of “seven church ages” of Romish-Protestant history, extending down to the so-called “Laodicean church age” of the 19th and 20th centuries.¹
2. The church members were to hear what the Spirit said to the pastors and take heed.

C. The Date of Revelation

1. Irenaeus said John wrote the apocalyptic book at the end of Domitian’s reign (AD 95-96).
2. Presumably, some time was needed for the Ephesian church to lose its first love, and historically, the earthquake that devastated Laodicea (AD 60-61) would require ample time for the city to recover.

D. The Outline of Revelation

1. *“the things which thou hast seen”* (1:1-20)

¹The seven church age heresy undermines the imminent return of Christ doctrine by positing the false teaching that each of the seven ages must occur before the Rapture.

2. *“the things which are”* (2:1-3:22)

3. *“the things which shall be hereafter”* (4:1-22:21)

E. Characteristics of the Book of Revelation

1. John was told to write 12 times (1:11, 19; 2:1, 8, 12, 18; 3:1, 7, 14; 14:13; 19:9; and 21:5) and once not to write (10:4).
2. The book is replete with “sevens” (churches, candlesticks, stars, spirits, seals, trumpets, vials, thunders, heads, mountains, and beatitudes).
3. The Lord Jesus affirmed that Daniel’s reference to the mid-point of the Tribulation would be key to understanding the times (Mt. 24:15).
4. The Seven Seal Judgments open up to the Seven Trumpet Judgments which open up to the Seven Vial Judgments and the ultimate coming of Christ.
5. The Antichrist will make a peace treaty with Israel allowing them to build the third Jewish Temple, which Temple will be protected by the two witnesses until they are killed by the back-to-life Beast. From the midpoint of the Tribulation, Satan will persecute the Jews culminating in the battle of Armageddon at which time Christ will destroy the world’s armies and cast the Antichrist and False Prophet into the Lake of Fire.
6. Christ will dismantle Satan’s domain and dwell with the saints in the Millennium and Eternity.