

# Introduction to



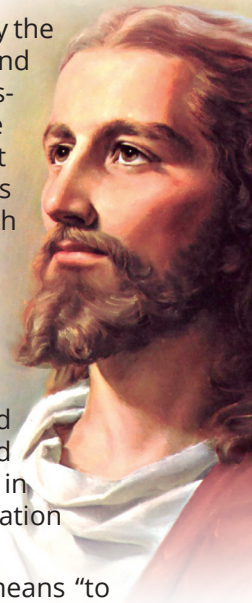
# REVELATION

Let us imagine just for a second the amount of people who would like to know the future! Now, let us imagine an old man who was exiled to a deserted island because the emperor was afraid of him. Let us also imagine that the old man has come to that place because, in order to close his mouth, they threw him into a pot of boiling oil and God worked a miracle so that he came out of it alive to the amazement of the emperor's court in Rome.

It was in the year 100 of our era. The emperor was bothered by the presence of Apostle John. We are actually speaking about him and his influence that was very important for the propagation of Christianity. He was a witness of the miracles, deeds, and words of the Master of masters, Jesus Christ. He was present at the judgment of Jesus by the Jewish Sanhedrin. He was at the foot of the cross when Jesus was in agony. He was the one who ran, together with Apostle Peter, to the empty grave, and he was the first one to see the linen clothes set in order because Christ had resurrected. That is why he wrote, *"That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled..."* 1 John 1:1.

Now, he was in the sunset of life. It seemed that the world had forgotten him. His voice seemed to have been silenced and nobody could be influenced by the words of the old apostle. But in the loneliness of the island of Patmos, he wrote the book of Revelation which is the greatest work. This book is what we shall study.

Its name comes from the Greek term Apokalupsis, which means "to reveal or to withdraw the veil." The Lord Jesus, in His mercy, has withdrawn the veil that covered the eyes of humanity, in order to show the future just as it was going to develop. That is what the book of Revelation is, history written beforehand. We invite you to enjoy this fascinating book: **Revelation**.



## He who studies it, obtains a broad panorama of:

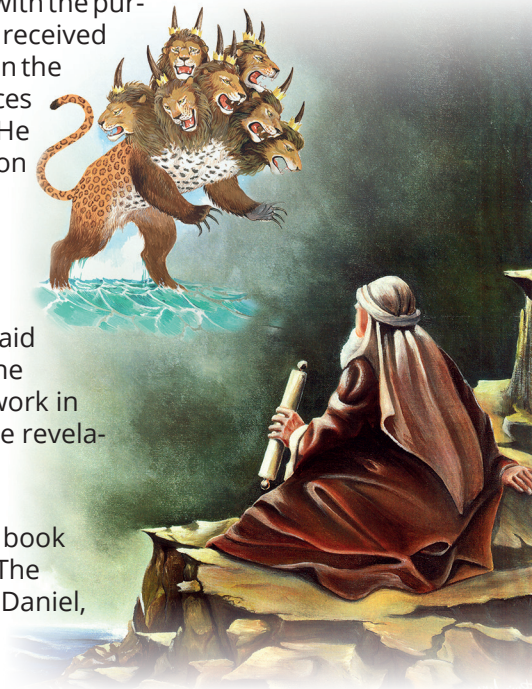
- The history of our era
- The meaning of present events
- The future (through the study of its wonderful prophecies)
- The universal war between good and evil
- The arising of the Antichrist (666) and its work
- ✓ Practically all Bible truths are treated in the book of Revelation
- ✓ It explains in depth the prophecies found in the book of Daniel that were written in 600 B. C.
- ✓ It consoles us and gives us hope since it presents the vision of a better world.
- ✓ It speaks about the author of life. It introduces Jesus Christ in different ways.
- ✓ The word Apocalypses means "Revelation". Revelation 1:1.

## I. HISTORICAL FRAME OF ITS ORIGIN

The book of Revelation was written by John, the theologian of the island of Patmos.

Christians refused to worship the emperor as if he were a king. This brought up persecutions and serious problems within the first church. The apostle John was exiled to the barren island of Patmos, with the purpose of making him stop talking. There, he received the most important prophetic revelations in the New Testament. The author simply introduces himself as "your brother" Revelation 1:9. He is the apostle John, James' brother, the son of Zebedee.

- ✓ The book was written about the year 96, at the end of the reign of emperor Domitianus, between 81- 96.
- ✓ Policarpus declares that: "When John said these things on the island of Patmos, he was condemned by Domitianus to work in the mines. There is where he had these revelations." Revelation 1:9.
- ✓ Besides being one of the books of the Bible, at the time of ancient Israel, the book of Revelation was a kind of literature. The first book of this kind was the book of Daniel, written in the VI century A.D.



## II. How to understand the book of Revelation

1. Most of the revelations were given by means of visions and dreams. The prophet was taken in spirit to a certain scene and the angel explained it to him. 73 times, he says: "I saw", "I looked", "I heard". What command did the Lord give John?

*Revelation 1:11 .....*

2. He uses an allegoric and symbolic language:

*In order to understand it we must let the Bible show us the meaning of the symbols.*



### THE SEVEN CLUES OF PROPHECY

- a) What do water and wind symbolize in prophecy?
  - ✓ Winds symbolize wars, Jeremiah 49:36-37.
  - ✓ Waters symbolize ...multitudes... , Revelation 17:15
- b) What do beasts, heads, horns and wings symbolize?
  - ✓ Beasts symbolize kingdoms, (Daniel 7:23).
  - ✓ Heads and horns symbolize division of kingdoms, (Daniel 7:24).
  - ✓ Wings symbolize speed, (Habakkuk 1:8).
  - ✓ Many nations are still represented by similar symbols: USA has the eagle as a symbol; Great Britain has the lion; Russia has the bear; China has a dragon and France a rooster.
  - ✓ In prophecy, a day stays for a year. (Ezekiel 4:6; Numbers 14:34)
- c) The number that is mostly used is N° 7, which represents plenitude.

### 3. The main division or prophetic lines are four:

1. 7 churches
2. 7 seals
3. 7 trumpets
4. The final events of the great conflict are described in chapters 12 to 22.

4. Many things that were sealed in the book of Daniel were revealed in the book of Revelation
5. This book has a total of 505 references to texts in other books of the Bible, 325 times is the Old Testament referred to.

*In order to understand the book of Revelation, we should use quotations from the whole Bible. Thus, we can discover the deepest truths that will help us live with that glorious hope and certainty that God gives us, and to understand our Creator's plan and find the way of life and salvation.*

6. What stages did the message of Revelation go through before it reached us? Revelation 1:1-5, 19.

- a) God Father      b) Jesus Christ      c) Through an .....
- d) To His servant ..... who had to write it and
- e) Send it to .....

7. Why did God use parables and symbols to communicate the message? Luke 8:10.

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8. What does God prohibit regarding the prophetic word? Revelation 22:18-19.

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9. Who is the real author of the whole Bible? 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21.

*All Scripture is* .....

10. What is the prophetic word compared to? 2 Peter 1:19.

*To a* ..... *that* .....

11. What promises does God give to him who reads, listens to and keeps the things written in this book?

- a) Revelation 1:3. He calls him .....
- b) Revelation 3:10. He will keep him from the hour of .....

***My decision:*** *I ask God to enlighten me to understand this book and want to respect the advice he gives me and apply them in my life.*

Name: .....

Address: .....