

Truth Triumphant
Dr. J.G. Sahl

THE BOOK OF THE REVELATION

I. The Basics of the Book

- A. This book derives its name from the opening words “The Revelation” and the recognized human author, John (Rev. 1:1; 1:4; 1:9; 22:8-9). The style and the evidence both internally and externally, indicate that this John was the beloved apostle who also wrote the gospel and the three epistles.
- B. This book was written by the Apostle John.
1. He is the son of Zebedee and Salome (Mark 1:19-20; Matt. 27:56 with Mark 15:40).
 2. He is the brother of James and most likely the younger of the two (Matt. 4:21; Mark 1:19).
 3. He appears to be from a fairly well-to-do family from Bethsaida of Galilee (Mark 1:19-20; Matt. 27:55-56; John 1:44).
 4. He was a fisherman by trade as part of his father’s business (Mark 1:19-20).
 5. He was a disciple of John the Baptist (John 1:35-40).
 6. He was called by the Savior to be one of the twelve apostles (Luke 6:13-14).
 7. He and his brother James were called “the sons of thunder” by the Savior (Mark 3:17).
 8. He was known as “the disciple whom Jesus loved” (John 13:23; John 19:26; John 21:7; John 21:20-23).
 9. He was known by the high priest in Jerusalem (John 18:15-16).
 10. He was the human author of five books of the New Testament.
 11. He was a leader in the church in Jerusalem (Acts 3:1; Acts 8:14; Gal. 2:9).
 12. He was exiled to Patmos after a ministry in Ephesus (Rev. 1:9).
 13. He returned to Ephesus after being released from his exile on Patmos according to extra-biblical writings of his disciples.
 14. He died in old age while at Ephesus during the reign of Trajan according to extra-biblical sources.
- C. This book was written by the Apostle John while he was exiled on the Island of Patmos at approximately 96 A.D.
- D. This book was written by the man known as the “Apostle of Love” even as Paul was known as the “Apostle of Faith” and Peter known as the “Apostle of Hope”.
- E. This book was written as a message from the Lord Jesus to the saints of God (Rev. 1:1).
- F. This book was written primarily for the benefit of the church of the Lord Jesus Christ, particularly to the local churches in Asia Minor (Rev. 1:11; 22:16).
- G. This book was written during the rule of Emperor Domitian as an encouragement to the Christians who were suffering persecution at his hand.
- H. This book was written as a pastoral message of exhortation and encouragement for God’s people to remain faithful to the Lord during their trials and tribulations while in this world.

Page 2 – The Book of The Revelation – Sahl

- I. This book was written with the inclusion of the apocalyptic visions that John was shown by the Lord Jesus.
- J. This book must be understood with normative hermeneutic principles of interpretation of the symbols used to disclose the events that the Lord will yet bring to pass as He accomplishes His plan of redemption.
- K. This book covers the historical period of the apostolic age of the church unto the establishment of the eternal kingdom of the Lord in the new heaven and the new earth.
- L. This book provides a clear depiction of the Lord’s righteous wrath upon sinful men for their rebellion against the Lord and His Christ.
- M. This book provides significant detail of the Great Tribulation and the outpouring of God’s judgment upon men.
- N. This book demonstrates the character of the saints as “overcomers” who persevere in the faith regardless of the personal cost.
- O. This book provides detailed revelation of the end of this present age and the return of the Lord Jesus Christ to establish His kingdom and fulfill His covenant promises to the nation of Israel.
- P. This book will focus upon the Lord Jesus Christ and His preminent glory.

II. The Structure of the Book

- A. The Key Verse: Rev. 1:1-3; 19
- B. The Key Terms: bondservants, God, Lamb (29 times), overcomers, perseverance, prophesy, repent, Spirit, testimony, throne (44 times), witness, Word, worship, worthy, wrath, write.
- C. The Key Divisions:
 - 1. The Introduction Rev. 1:1-8
 - 2. The Things Which You Have Seen Rev. 1:9-20
 - 3. The Things Which Are Rev. 2:1-3:22
 - a. The Church at Ephesus Rev. 2:1-7
 - b. The Church at Smyrna Rev. 2:8-11
 - c. The Church at Pergamum Rev. 2:12-17
 - d. The Church at Thyatira Rev. 2:18-29
 - e. The Church at Sardis Rev. 3:1-6
 - f. The Church at Philadelphia Rev. 3:7-13
 - g. The Church at Laodicea Rev. 3:14-22

Page 3 – The Book of The Revelation – Sahl

- | | | |
|----|--|-----------------|
| 4. | The Things Which Shall Take Place | Rev. 4:1-22:5 |
| a. | The Throne Room Vision | Rev. 4:1-5:14 |
| b. | The Tribulation | Rev. 6:1-18:24 |
| | (1) The Seven Seals | Rev. 6:1-8:1 |
| | (2) The Seven Trumpets | Rev. 8:2-11:19 |
| | (3) The First Explanatory Parenthesis | Rev. 12:1-14:20 |
| | (4) The Seven Bowls | Rev. 15:1-16:21 |
| | (5) The Second Explanatory Parenthesis | Rev. 17:1-18:24 |
| c. | The Triumphant Return of Christ | Rev. 19:1-21 |
| d. | The Thousand Year Rule of Christ | Rev. 20:1-15 |
| e. | The New Heaven and New Earth | Rev. 21:1-22:5 |
| 5. | The Conclusion | Rev. 22:6-21 |

III. The Theme of the Book

- A. The Human Perspective: the faithful overcoming of evil and adherence to God's Truth while in the world and awaiting the culmination of God's program of redemption.
- B. The Divine Perspective: the subjection of all things to the sovereign rule of the Lamb by the judgment of evil and the establishment of the kingdom of righteousness for the people of God.
- C. The Authorial Purpose: to produce perseverance and faithfulness to the Lord in the people of God as they await the certain completion of God's removal of wickedness and evil when He establishes His eternal kingdom of righteousness and blessing through the enthronement of the Lord Jesus Christ.