

# Week 11 Introduction to the Book of Revelation

## 1. The Position and Importance of Revelation

- 1) The final book of the New Testament.
- 2) The fulfillment of all Old and New Testament prophecies and promises.
- 3) Provides a message of hope and victory to the early church.

## 2. Authorship and Historical Background

- 1) Author: The Apostle John (generally believed to be the same author as the Gospel of John and the Johannine Epistles).
- 2) Date: Around A.D. 95, during the reign of Emperor Domitian(81–96 A.D.).
- 3) Location: Island of Patmos.

## 3. Literary Characteristics

- 1) Written in the style of apocalyptic literature.
- 2) Heavy use of symbols and metaphors(numbers, colors, animals, figures, etc.).

## 4. Major Themes

- 1) The final victory of Christ and the defeat of Satan.
- 2) A call for the Church to remain pure and persevere.
- 3) God's judgment and the coming of the new heaven and new earth.
- 4) Assurance that all history is under God's sovereign control, and ultimately righteousness and life will prevail.

## 5. Structure and Overview

### 1) Prologue(Chapter 1)

Introduction to John's vision, letters to the seven churches.

### 2) Messages to the Seven Churches(Chapters 2–3)

Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, Laodicea.

### 3) Vision of the Heavenly Throne and the Sealed Scroll(Chapters 4–5)

God's throne and the appearance of the Lamb (Jesus Christ).

### 4) Judgments: Seven Seals, Seven Trumpets, Seven Bowls(Chapters 6–16)

Unfolding of divine judgments and the revelation of the world's corruption.

### 5) The Fall of Babylon(Chapters 17–18)

Destruction of worldly powers and the corrupt system.

### 6) Christ's Second Coming and the Millennial Kingdom(Chapters 19–20)

Binding of Satan, victory of the saints, final judgment.

### 7) The New Heaven and New Earth(Chapters 21–22)

New Jerusalem, eternal life, and the presence of God with His people.

## 6. Interpretive Approaches

### 1) Dispensational (Futurist) Interpretation:

Views Revelation as a prophecy divided into historical eras.

### 2) Historicist Interpretation:

Focuses on past historical events, especially those affecting the early church.

### 3) Symbolic (Idealist) Interpretation:

Understands the visions symbolically as spiritual truths.

### 4) Preterist Interpretation:

Interprets the visions as referring mainly to the events of the first century.

## 7. Core Message

1) "To him who overcomes...": Promises to those who endure persecution and remain faithful.

2) "Behold, I am coming soon.": Assurance of Christ's imminent return.