

## **Revelation 1 Part 1**

The Book of Revelation overview.

Hi, I'm Richard Oliver.

We're going to have a quick look at the overall picture of the book of Revelation, what it's doing, what it's about, and then we will look more precisely at each chapter and what's really going on.

The Book of Revelation was written by the apostle John. He was one of the original disciples with Jesus and at a very ancient age he got into trouble with the Roman authorities for spreading the Christian message. Such a thing demanded his death, they tried to boil him in oil for twenty-four hours and he came out as good as gold. This was of course annoying for the Roman authorities so they did the only thing they could do, they packed him off to the barren, rock-strewn and scorpion infested island of Patmos. They had there a prison and it was there that John received the vision that became the Book of Revelation. It tells the past, the present and the future.

The book is often headed 'The Revelation of St John the Divine', but really the first verse – the first and second verse – tell us what it's all about. It says 'The Revelation of Jesus Christ which God gave unto Him to show unto His servants things which must shortly come to pass, and He sent and signified it by His angel unto His servant John.' The book then is a revelation of Jesus Christ, who He is, what He has done, what He's doing right now and what He's going to do in the future.

Chapter one of the Book of Revelation lays the groundwork, the background for chapters two and three. It explains Christ's position, it introduces the seven churches which are in chapters two and three.

Chapter four introduces or sets the scene for the seven seals. Now they follow in chapters five, six, seven and eight.

Chapter nine continues with a description of the judgement on the earth.

Chapter ten breaks new ground and introduces the Christ's secret return and the seventh angel and the message of the hour.

Chapter eleven deals with the Jews. There are two witnesses, both turn out to be Moses and Elijah, and they bring in the hundred-and-forty-four thousand Jews to the Christian message.

Chapter twelve does a bit of a review of the overall picture. Chapter thirteen continues that into the end times, and from verse eleven of that chapter thirteen we have the USA and what it does.

Chapter fourteen concentrates on the end times and includes that famous section about the mark of the beast and not being able to buy or sell. But it also goes on to describe – to begin to describe – the judgements that will fall upon the earth.

Chapters fifteen and sixteen give a description of the final judgements that result in the end of the world as we know it. And chapter seventeen we see the destruction of the mystery Babylon the Great, the mother of harlots and abominations of the earth.

In chapter eighteen we have another picture of the destruction of Babylon the Great but there is two Babylon the Greats, one is centred on a city of seven hills, and the other is the worldwide centre for entertainment and that city goes under the sea.

Chapters nineteen and twenty deal with the finishing up of times. There is a period where Satan is held, bound for a thousand years, and then, while Christ rules, and then another Armageddon.

Final two chapters, chapters twenty-one and twenty-two describe the new heavens and the new earth. The old earth, as we understood it, is gone, the planet itself is still there but not in the form that we know it. And finally the Bride of Christ, which is represented by a pyramid shaped city, the new Jerusalem comes down out of heaven and rests on this new, refurbished earth with no evil, no thorns, no thistles, nothing, everything is to be absolutely perfect.

And that, in short, is the book of Revelation in a quick overview. Next session we will start on chapter one.