

## Book of Revelation: Confuse You? The Transcript

In this episode, I'll give you four simple truths that will help you unlock the book of Revelation. As we all know, the book of Revelation contains many mysteries.

One of the mysteries involves the number seven, which appears 13 times in the book of Revelation. The number seven appears in Revelation one. There are three of them: the seven spirits of God, the seven golden candlesticks, and seven stars in Christ's hand.

In Revelation chapter five, there's a couple more of them. There's a scroll that appears with seven seals. Then there's a lamb has seven horns and seven eyes.

In Revelation four, we see some different kinds of mysteries. There's the 24 elders: who are they and who do they represent? Four living creatures, full of eyes front and back, circle about the throne. One has the appearance of a lion, one looks like an ox, another one has the face of a man. The fourth one has the appearance of an eagle in flight.

Other mysteries fill the book as well. There's trumpets, bowls, a beast, and many visions.

The writing of the book of Revelation occurred during 60 to 90 AD. Some fluctuations occur among experts as to the exact time that the apostle John wrote this book.

We know it was in this time frame because within the book of Revelation, it describes seven assemblies of believers in seven different cities. This appears in Revelation chapters two and chapter three. These were actual cities in existence during this era and gatherings of believers within those cities. History records the persecutions, trials, temptations, false prophets, and the false doctrines that those believers faced.

All of these occurred during 60 to 90 AD. During this timeframe, Rome ruled the then known world. The extent of its rule spread from Spain and circled east around the Mediterranean Ocean all the way back to the Rock of Gibraltar. Emperors ruled during this time in Rome. One of them was Nero, the other one was Domitian. Both of them were cruel despots, and they forced great persecution upon the believers of that day.

They required a sign upon the right hands of people or a sign on their foreheads before they could transact business. They also had great persecutions. We have read and heard about the horrible persecution that Nero performed during his reign, how he poured oil upon believers and then lit them to serve as torches for his parties and his escapades. He unleashed beasts in a giant amphitheater where they put believers. They covered them with animal skins so that the beasts would attack them and kill them.

The persecution of believers included countless crucifixions of various kinds. Both Domitian and Nero ruled with great cruelty. We know that the inhumane treatment of these despots occurred during this time period. They required that everyone worship them as Lord and God, giving rise to false doctrines and to false prophets. Revelation two and three describe the maelstrom of persecution and uncertainty.

God sent the book of Revelation through the Apostle John to his fellow Christ followers. He was the last living Apostle at that time. He was a superintendent of these groups of believers in these seven cities that resided in and what is now southwest Turkey.

He supervised them as God's instrument on earth. He was a prisoner on the Island of Patmos. Patmos was an island just off of southwest Turkey. It was an exile island where the Roman government would send their exiles and put them into forced labor in their rock quarries. We read in Revelation chapter one that John was the one who whom God chose to author and put into writing the mysteries, visions, and the presentation that God gave to him.

In Revelation chapter one, we read the revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave to John to show to his servants the things that must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant, John.

In Revelation 1.17-20, we read John's description of his seeing the appearance of Christ and describes that vision that he had of Christ. Multiple times throughout the book of Revelation John refers to himself by name, and then he would record a vision.

We have plenty of documentation within the book of Revelation to identify the Apostle John as its author. Further, the writing of this book is very similar to John's other writings: his gospel and his three smaller letters, first, second and third John.

Revelation was divinely inspired. God gave him the message. God gave him the visions that we see within the book. This book harmonizes with the rest of the Scriptures, the Bible. It is God's divinely inspired, sufficient, inerrant, infallible self-revelation to humanity of His existence, person, plans, and purposes.

In this divinely inspired message, God used apocalyptic mysteries to reveal Jesus Christ, the central theme of Revelation. We tend to get all hung up on the mysteries, visions, and symbols, trying to figure them out and forget that Christ is the center and the central theme of the book of Revelation.

In Revelation one, we read very clearly that the book is the revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave to John. So then we know that throughout this book, the mysteries give to us information and insight into the Lord Jesus.

It gives to us and describes for us the nature and manifold powers of Christ. Within the book of Revelation, we see described for us at least 10 of the attributes of Christ. For example, we see His grace, the fact that God gave this inspired book for Christ followers at such a crucial time in history to encourage them.

Further, it describes the consummation of all things, giving to those believers hope and increased faith to trust God and His Savior Jesus Christ in the midst of great difficulty.

Furthermore, it glorifies Christ. It describes for us the glories of Christ that we cannot see. We will not observe them and experience them until we are translated into the heavenly realm where He exists.

But throughout the book of Revelation, there are visions and descriptions of the glories of Christ and how all of the myriads of angels fall down and worship Christ ascribing to Him glory, honor, and praise. It describes visions of Christ and unspeakably hard to imagine aspects of His nature: blinding whiteness, and commanding presence.

We also read about the justice of Christ. Revelation Chapter Twenty describes an awful day, a day of judgment when Christ, the persecuted One, the crucified One, will serve as the Judge of all the earth. He will judge all peoples from all generations without exception.

As part of His judgment, He will assign condemnation to those who rejected Christ and consign them to eternal damnation. To others, He will say, "Come and join Me and everlasting eternity with Me." He will appear as the Judge and execute true justice.

In our day and age, we have very little justice. We have a lot of cooperation and we have a lot of mixing together, but we have very little true justice. That day Christ will rule and govern with true justice.

We also see displayed in the book of Revelation, the sovereignty of Christ, that He controls all things. He controls all nations from past history into our day, and to the days that lie ahead of us. He controls nations. He controls the events. He controls peoples and ultimately every nation, every ruler, every dignitary, all peoples from all history of all generations. People of all nations, of every tongue, tribe and nation will bow before this sovereign Lord and ascribe and declare Him as Lord and King.

The book of Revelation also reveals to us some of the works of Christ: The Redeemer and Savior of sinners. In Revelation Chapter Five for example, it presents the lamb, a spotless lamb as one slain.

Who is that lamb? That lamb pictures for us the Lord Jesus. God in His great grace made provision whereby we sinners, sinners like you and like me, could find and experience reconciliation back to God.

He provided a Redeemer, a Savior, a Substitute Who would satisfy God on the behalf of others, not Himself, but others like you and me. He would make atonement for our sin, and He would declare victory over the evil one as prophesied in Genesis Chapter Three. This same Christ as described in the book of Revelation existed from all eternity past unto all eternity future.

We also read confirmation of key Biblical doctrines. We find described there the fulfillment of God's redemptive plan, the consummation of the Meta narrative of the Bible that begins with creation.

The fall of man in Genesis Chapter Three, redemption as described about Christ in the New Testament, and the consummation of all things (described in Revelation chapters 21 and 22) are described for us. These key biblical doctrines, especially of God's redemptive plan for sinners like you and like me we find described for us in this book.

Further, it shows the reality of Heaven and hell. We find described the reality of Christ's kingdom and His certain return at an unknown time in the future when He will come as Judge. He will separate His followers from those condemned to hell, and He will join with His followers.

The book of Revelation also provides strengthening and encouragement for Christ followers. We read in Revelation two and three of the great persecution and the confusion that those believers experienced. Sometimes they fell into sin because of their confusion. They compromised with the culture around them. They tried to merge together all of the false doctrines and false gods of that day into one God.

It wasn't the true and living God. It was a false god. We also see their temptation to follow false prophets and to believe false doctrines. We find also a pluralism that crept into the churches. Some of them in that day worshiped many gods. They believed that it didn't matter which god you worshiped. All gods are the same, they believed. They had an apathy toward the True and Living God. Chapters two and three of Revelation describe some very dire circumstances that those believers experienced.

As you can see from just a brief discussion that the book of Revelation correlates to you and me today. We experience similar circumstances that those believers faced in 60-90 AD.

There's persecution of believers. Many believers throughout the world experience extreme persecution for their faith in Jesus Christ.

We also find that in some nations they demand that everyone worship a certain god other than the God Who has revealed Himself in creation and the Scriptures. Believers in those lands face great difficulty.

We find also that in that day there was false doctrine. There were false prophets. Today we have a multitude of false prophets and false doctrines abound in our day, just like in that day.

The book of Revelation not only confirms key biblical doctrines, not only presents to us Jesus Christ, but it also strengthens His followers. The believers in that day received warnings from the Lord Jesus against their sins. We would experience the same thing today by reading the book of Revelation because many of those same things that they experienced we face as well.

The purposes that God intended in providing the book of Revelation through the Apostle John in that day fits our day as well, for you and me.

Therefore, these truths bring implications. They reveal our need of the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

I pray that the Holy Spirit will take these truths just presented so briefly in this episode to help you recognize the value of the book of Revelation.

I pray that He would encourage you to read it. There's a blessing described in chapter one, In fact, for those who read it.

I pray that the spirit of God would encourage you to rely upon its truths and to trust them.

I pray that the Spirit of God would work in your life if you have yet to come to faith and trust upon Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior.

I pray that the Spirit of God would open your eyes to see your true condition in need of a savior. You are separated from God. There is a chasm between you and God, which you cannot bridge. The only bridge that provides reconciliation between you and God is the Lord Jesus. God has provided salvation through faith in Jesus Christ for people like you and like me.

I pray that the Spirit of God will open your eyes to see your need of this Substitute, this Provision of God on behalf of sinners like you and like me, the Lord Jesus Christ, the Savior of sinners.

I pray that the Spirit of God will give to you a new heart, give to you a new spirit within you that will enable you to call upon the Lord Jesus in faith and trust as your Lord and Savior.

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