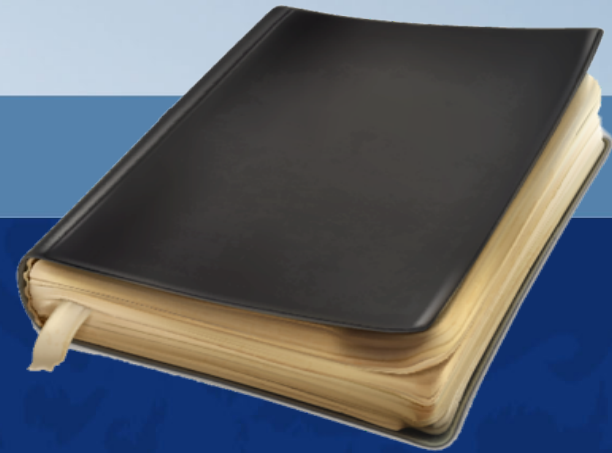


# ***REVELATION MADE RELEVANT!***

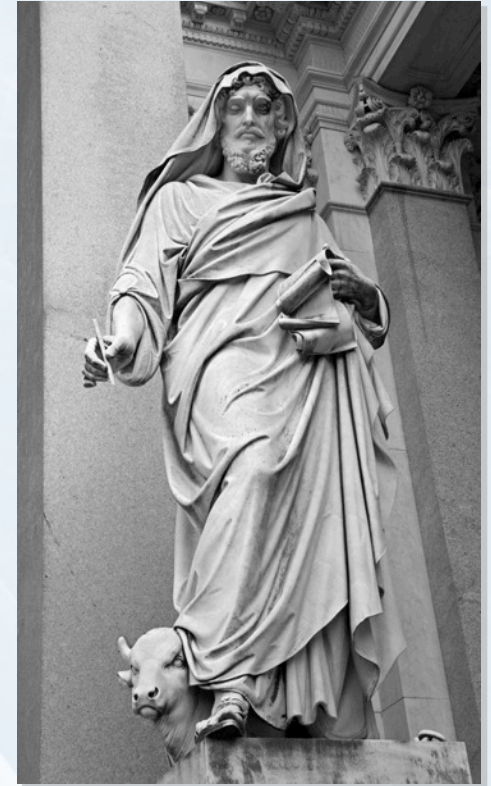
Friday Night Bible Study with Fr. Ward



# Introduction

## Author

- the early well documented tradition among the church fathers was that John the beloved apostle, the author of the Gospel of John and the three letters of John, wrote Revelation



Apostle John

# Introduction

## Audience

- Revelation describes the vision that the apostle John had while on the island of Patmos in the Aegean Sea.
- First sent to the seven churches on Asia Minor or the western part of modern day Turkey. Since these churches were located by widely traveled roads that connected them, Revelation was meant to be a circular letter.
- Its use spread throughout the Roman Empire until it was universally recognized as God's Word.



Island of Patmos today



† Cities of the seven churches  
— Major travel route



# Introduction

## Audience

- Revelation describes the vision that the apostle John had while on the island of Patmos in the Aegean Sea.
- Its message was to give hope to first century Christians who were or would be going through persecution. Ultimately, however, its purpose was to give hope and insight to believers of all ages of the future plan of salvation for our world and the unseen spiritual realities that pervade our natural world.



Island of Patmos today

# Introduction

## Date

- The content of Revelation suggests it was written during a time of severe persecution.
- There are two possible periods when Christians suffered persecution under the Roman Empire:
  - The reign of Emperor Nero (AD 54–68)
  - The reign of Emperor Domitian (AD 81–96)

# Introduction

## Purpose

- It first served to encourage and challenge believers living in Asia Minor during a time of persecution. The Church not only faced persecution but false teachers, the temptations of immorality, idolatry, and spiritual complacency both within the Church and society! It eventually became accepted as God's Word for the Church for all ages.
- Revelation is meant to instruct, guide, comfort, and reassure Christians in their spiritual journey and point the world to the coming Day of the Lord and Return of the King!



# Introduction

## Revelation: An Outline

- **Prologue (1:1–3)**
  1. *Seven Messages to Seven Churches* (1:4–3:22)
  2. *Seven Seals* (4:1–8:5)
  3. *Seven Trumpets* (8:2–11:19)
  4. *Seven Symbolic Histories* (12:1–14:20)
  5. *Seven Bowls* (15:1–16:21)
  6. *Seven Messages of Judgment* (17:1–19:10)
  7. *Seven Visions* (19:11–22:5)
- **Epilogue (22:6–21)**

# Introduction

## Therefore, the Book of Revelation

- is not just a book of prophecy
- It is a book of...
  - *worship*
  - *discipleship*
  - *evangelism*
  - *salvation*
  - *judgment*
  - *history*
  - *hope*
  - *but ultimately it is the book of Jesus Christ!*



# FOUR VIEWS ON THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Preterist, Historicist, Futurist, Idealist



# Four Interpretive Views

## 1. PRETERIST

- Think “PRE” or before/early on! **Preterists** see Revelation as prophecy that was fulfilled primarily in **the first century AD**.
- **Partial Preterists** understand most of Revelation as prophecy fulfilled in the first century AD, though the final chapters describe future events at the end of time.
- **Full Preterists** contend that the return of Jesus described in Revelation 19 was spiritual and occurred in AD 70. This would be an unorthodox view and contrary to the Apostle’s and Nicene Creed.



# Four Interpretive Views

## 2. HISTORICIST

- Think “History!” - **Historicists** see Revelation as prophecy about church history from the time of John to the end of the world.
- Revelation is like a history textbook for the past, present, and future.
- The events in Revelation are symbolic descriptions of historical events throughout church history culminating in the return of Jesus Christ and the establishment of God’s Kingdom.



# Four Interpretive Views

## 3. FUTURIST

- Think “Future!” **Futurists** see Revelation as prophecy primarily about the future end of the world.
- In the futurist view, all Revelation after chapter 3 is yet to occur. Those who believe in the pre-tribulation rapture believe the rapture occurs *before* chapter 4.
- Revelation is a prophecy that describes the end of time and the years leading immediately to the end (tribulation period).
- Some futurists understand the Seven Churches similarly to the historicist view: *the churches represent eras in church history.*



# Four Interpretive Views

## 4. IDEALIST

- Can you say, “Drama?” **Idealists** see Revelation as a non-historical and non-prophetic drama about spiritual realities.
- The images, visions, and dreams are symbolic expressions of struggles between good and evil throughout time.
- They represent the struggle between the kingdom of God and the powers of evil.
- This view originated among ancient Alexandrian theologians who frequently spiritualized and allegorized biblical texts.
- It’s an allegory for all times and places.



# Introduction

## Revelation 1:1-2:

**“The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His bond-servants what must shortly take place; and He sent and communicated it by His angel to His bond-servant John, who testifies to everything he saw—that is, the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ.”**

**—Revelation 1:1–2**



# Introduction

## Revelation 1:3:

***“Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near.”***

***Revelation 1:3***

# Greeting and Doxology

## Revelation 1:4-6:

***“John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace, from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, 5and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood— 6and He has made us to be a kingdom, priests to His God and Father—to Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.”*”**

# Greeting and Doxology

## Revelation 1:7-8:

***“7BEHOLD, HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. Even so. Amen.***

***8“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”***

# Introduction

## Revelation: Major Themes set forth in Ch. 1

### ▪ **GOD'S Eternal Nature**

- 1. He Who is, and Who was, and Who is to come (1:4)**
- 2. "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, who was and who is to come." (1:8)**
- 3. Him who lives for ever and ever. (4:10)**
- 4. Christ's Words in Rev. 1:17, 18 and Rev. 21:6; 22:13**

# Introduction

## Revelation: Major Themes set forth in Ch. 1

- **Christ is Ruler of the kings of the earth Rev. 17:14; 19:11-22.**
- **He who released us from our sins by His blood (1:5)**
- **Rev. 5:9, 7:14; 12:11; 22:14**

# Introduction

## Revelation: Major Themes set forth in Ch. 1

- **Doxologies of Praise to God**
- **To Him be glory and power forever and ever (1:6)**
- **Rev. 4:11; 5:12-13; 7:10,12**
- **Rev. 15:2-3**
- **Rev. 19:1-7**

# Introduction

## Revelation: Major Themes set forth in Ch. 1

- He is Coming with the Clouds (1:7)
- Rev. 2:25 – “Hold on...until I come.”
- Rev. 3:3/16:15 – “I will come like a thief”
- Rev. 3:11/22:7, 12 – “I am coming soon!” Hold onto what you have. My reward is with Me.
- Rev. 20:20 – “Yes, I am coming soon.” “Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!”