

# Midweek Bible Study

## An Exposition of the Book of Revelation Background and Interpretation

### Introduction

#### Why teach through Revelation?

#### Four challenges of reading and interpreting the Book of Revelation

#### The Genres of Revelation

1. It is apocalyptic
2. It is a prophecy
3. It is an epistle

#### The Authorship and Date of Revelation

1. Authorship  
John (Rev. 1:1, 9)
2. Date
  - a) Early date, prior to AD 70, shortly after the death of Nero
  - b) Late date, c. AD 95, under the reign of Domitian
  - c) Does the date matter?

#### The Interpretive Views of Revelation

1. Preterism
  - Early date
  - Late date



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2. Futurism
  - Dispensational Premillennial
  - Historic Premillennial
3. Historicism
4. Idealism or Spiritual
5. Eclecticism or Redemptive-Historical (Modified) Idealism

## My View and Approach

### The Purpose of Revelation

1. Just like other apocalyptic works, works of prophecy, and even epistles, the main purpose of Revelation is not to unlock secret codes or predict events, but to challenge and encourage God's people in times of crisis.
2. To "Resist worldly compromise, spiritual complacency, and false teaching." Brian Tabb
3. To encourage the church to stay faithful in the battle, to persevere in the midst of persecution; to maintain a prophetic witness in the world for the Lamb and against the world (religious and political systems).
4. The challenge and encouragement come through helping the church to see things as they really are, not as they appear to be; through confidence in the victory of the Lamb and triumph of God's kingdom.

### The Structure of Revelation

1. Heavy symbolism and the use of numbers
2. OT passages and themes
3. Contrasts, reversals, counterfeits
4. Structure: Progressive parallelism



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- a. Cyclical or repetitive patterns, where there is both thematic overlap and progression.
- b. This kind of structure finds parallels in Daniel, Ezekiel and even 1 Jn.
- c. The seals, the trumpets and the bowls run parallel with each other, not successively. They span the time between the first and second advents.
- d. The judgment/salvation cycles reveal the parallelism
- e. The nature of the scroll reveals the parallelism
- f. The “time” language reveals the parallelism
- g. The progressive parallelism helps us see the troublesome time element (1:1,3; 22:6-7, 10)

## **The Theological Themes of Revelation**

1. The sovereignty of God
2. The victorious Lamb
3. Suffering and spiritual warfare
4. The perseverance of the true church
5. God’s victory over evil in Christ
6. God’s glory and His worship is central from beginning to end

