

Revelation Introduction

MacArthur: Revelation is a book that promises a blessing to those who diligently read it.

Introduction:

Ogilvie;

Choral-symphonic nature about the Book of Revelation, stirs feelings and ideas. It must be felt as well as read. This book is solidly anchored into the OT. More allusions to the OT than any other NT book. Mac- 278 of its 404 verses allude to the inspired OT Scriptures. Linski – there is no book in the NT for which we have so clear, ample, and numerous testimonies in the 2nd century as we have for the Apocalypse.

Linski- Revelation is prophecy, a mystery. It is both the act of unveiling a mystery and the result of such an act – the Kingdom of God and the triumph of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The human mind is unable to penetrate into this mystery; yet we are to know this mystery, hence God himself comes and withdraws the veil.

:: The aim of revelation is to unveil the mystery so that what is revealed may redound to our salvation. Morbid minds seek for more.—linski

Paul alone saw Paradise and then could not tell what his spirit had seen 2 cor 12:1... 1 cor 13:9, 12. We know only in part, we prophesy only in part; we see through a glass darkly.

Revelation is a book of Promise and Judgment. Promise for those who are sealed, Judgment for Satan and for all who are allied with him.

Mac- one out of every 4 reference to angles is in Revelation.

7 churches received the letter soon after it was written... they all testify the apostle John was the author.

Up until ad 500 it was not included in the Syriac version of the NT (Linski – Peshito, the oldest Syriac version of the NT did not include Revelation nor 2 Peter, 2 and 3 John and Jude.) , yet it is attested to by more sources in the ancient church than any other NT book.

Why left out? Probably the Peshito did not have it at this time... hard to understand.. Reasons why others give to it being left out of other versions.

Council of Laodicea 343-381 and council of Carthage 397 place Revelation in the canon... and it have remained since.

Luther in 1522 “my spirit cannot adjust itself to the book... James and Revelation. He wanted plain language. Zwingli “not a Biblical book” 1545

About: the victory of the Word of God in the very face of terror.

Unique in several ways:

1. Greek usage and vocabulary are so different than any other NT book. Written in Hebraic Greek. Striking linguistic similarities to the Johannine books.

Linski – Luke wrote in two styles... 1st in his own words (his Greek formation) and then the words from his source (he used the source’s Greek formations) John’s words and visions did not come from his thoughts, but from God – God’s formations of the words and their structure.

2. The name Jesus only appears in the book 8 places.... In Philemon, the briefest letter 9 times. Holy Spirit appears in chapter 1 – 3 and 22 only. John used the word Spirit, more than Holy Spirit in I John.

Apocalypse
Prophecy

Is ranked in the same class with
Book of Enoch
Book of the Twelve Patriarchs
Book of Jubilees
IV Ezra
The Apocalypse of Baruch
The Sibylline Oracles
The Ascension of Moses
Ascension of Isaiah.

How ever Daniel, Ezekiel, Zechariah, and John received their visions from God; the other Jewish writers composed their own or drew from false sources.

John speaks of pagan customs and ideas in his writing, which the Asiatic Christians were well acquainted.

Linski

AUTHOR;

Barclay – John the Divine... 250 ad Dionysius the great scholar who was head of the Christian school at Alexandria. The different Greek writing much more crude. He

stressed that he was a prophet, so he must not have been the apostle. Lived in Asia and called himself a brother to those he was writing. He knew the OT very well.

The presbyter John who lived in Ephesus and was contemporaneous with the apostle John...John Mark – the writer of the 2nd gospel.... A second John (Cerinthus) 250 ad Dionysius made the discovery....

Question? When was the apostle John martyred? Some have it in 44 with his brother James. Or with the other James (the Just) in 62 or 66.

Sunday in the year 95 Apostle John wrote from the small island Patmos opposite the southern coast of Asia. Strong feels that his was his last writing. Linski

Domitian died September 18, 96

Domitian did not exile John, but the proconsul of Asia.

John was released after Domitian's death and died during Trajan's reign 98-117

John wrote this at one time... during the vision on the island. (Some attribute to the writing when he went back to Ephesus.

Palmer/Ogilvie 69-72 ad written during the reign of Nero.

Mac—Mid 90's it eliminates the possibility that the prophecies in Revelation were fulfilled in the destruction of Jerusalem in a.d. 70.

Barclay – 95 ad

Divisions of Revelation

7 different places Revelation reaches the end of the world.

6:12-17; 7:9-17; 11:18; 14:4-20; 16:17-21; 19:11-21; 20:7-15

Ordinary way... 1:9-3:22 ----- lies in between ----- chapters 21 & 22

John does not use ordinary blocks in his writing. He uses an upward and ever-widening spiraling until the end is reached. Linski

Mac-

The things which you have seen 1:1-20

The things which are 2:1-3:22

Letters to the seven churches

The things which will take place after this 4:1-22:21

Duck

The church Age—1-3

From the Rapture to the Second Coming—4-19

The Millennium and Beyond—20-22