

## Purpose

To reveal the full identity of Christ and to give warning and hope to believers

## Author

John, the disciples of Jesus

## To Whom Written

The seven churches in Asia and all believers

## Date Written

Approximately 95 AD from the island of Patmos

## Setting

The Roman authorities had exiled John to the island of Patmos, which is off the coast of Asia.

## Key Verse

"God blesses the one who reads this prophecy..., and He blesses all who listen to it and obey what it says..."

*Revelation 1:3*

## Special Features

*Revelation* is written in "apocalyptic" form — a type of Jewish literature that uses symbolic imagery to communicate hope to those in the midst of persecution.

## An Overview (22 Chapters)

- Letters to the Churches (1:1-3:22)
- Message for the Church (4:1-22:21)

## Major Themes

- *Christ's Return:* Christ came to earth as a "Lamb," the symbol of His perfect sacrifice for our sin. He will return as the triumphant "Lion," the spiritual ruler and conqueror. He will defeat Satan, settle accounts with all those who reject Him, and bring His faithful people into eternity. Assurance of Christ's return gives suffering Christians the strength to endure.
- *God's Faithful People:* John wrote to encourage the church to resist the demands to worship the Roman emperor. He warns all God's faithful people to be devoted only to Christ. *Revelation* identified who the faithful people are and what they should be doing until Christ returns.
- *Judgment:* One day God's anger toward sin will be completely unleashed. Satan will be defeated with all of his agents. False religion will be destroyed. God will reward the faithful with eternal life, but all who refuse to believe in Him will face eternal punishment. Evil and injustice will not prevail forever. God's final judgment will put an end to these.
- *Hope:* One day God will create a new heaven and a new earth. All believers will live with Him forever in perfect peace and security. Those who have already died will be raised to life. These promises for the future bring us hope.