

Intro

Interpretations

- *Allegorical* – a spiritual meaning
- *Literal* – it is what it says
 - Interpreted literally by church fathers up until around AD390

Approaches

- *Historic* – book surveys the whole of Church history. The entire Church Age is revealed in advance
- *Preterist* – fulfillment happened in the past shortly after the writing
 - Destruction of Jerusalem – 70AD; Destruction of Rome 476AD
- *Futurist* – everything after **chapter 3** is yet to be fulfilled
- *Spiritual* – no single fulfillment; only spiritual lessons and principles; age old conflict between good and evil

Future views – with regard to the timeline...

- **Pre-Tribulation** – Rapture occurs before Day of the Lord
 - **Mid-Tribulation** – Rapture occurs midway during the Day of the Lord
 - **Post-Tribulation** – Rapture occurs at the end of Day of the Lord
- **My belief**
- Literal interpretation
 - Futuristic approach – events yet to occur beginning with **4:1**
 - Pre-Tribulation position
 - I believe this sits well with the chronology of the entire book

Author – Apostle John

- * All of the other apostles had long since been martyred
- * He is the last remaining of the original 12

Date written – AD 95 or 96

Setting – Island of Patmos

Off the western coast of Asia Minor (MAP)

Purpose

- * To strengthen faith and courage of John's fellow believers
- * To prepare them for battle against antichristian forces
- * To help them bear witness to the one true Lord and Savior of the world

Key theme

- * *Jesus Christ is Victor!*

Key verses

* **Revelation 1:19** – “Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later.”

* **Revelation 17:14** – “They will make war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome them because He is Lord of lords and King of kings – and with Him will be His called, chosen and faithful followers.”

A. WHAT YOU HAVE SEEN – Chapter 1

- a. John’s vision of the exalted Christ

B. WHAT IS NOW – Chapters 2–3

- a. The messages to the seven churches
 - i. The letter to the church in Ephesus (2:1-7)
 - ii. The letter to the church in Smyrna (2:8-11)
 - iii. The letter to the church in Pergamum (2:12-17)
 - iv. The letter to the church in Thyatira (2:18-29)
 - v. The letter to the church in Sardis (3:1-6)
 - vi. The letter to the church in Philadelphia (3:7-13)
 - vii. The letter to the church in Laodicea (3:14-22)

C. WHAT WILL TAKE PLACE LATER – Chapters 4–22

- a. The vision of the heavenly throne (4)
- b. The seven-sealed scroll (5)
- c. **First half**
 - i. The opening of the six seals: the time of divine wrath (6)
 - ii. Those who will be saved in the Great Tribulation (7)
 - iii. The opening of the seventh seal and the introduction of the seven trumpets (8,9)
- d. **Second half**
 - i. The mighty angel and the little scroll (10)
 - ii. The two witnesses (11:1-14)
 - iii. The sounding of the seventh trumpet (11:15-19) **OVERLAPPING**
 - iv. The seven great personages of the end times (12-15)
- e. **Last Half**
 - i. The bowls of divine wrath (16)
 - ii. The fall of Babylon (17-18)
 - iii. The song of hallelujah in heaven (19:1-10)
 - iv. The second coming of Christ (19:11-21)
- f. **Kingdom of Christ**
 - i. The millennial reign of Christ (20:1-10)
 - ii. The judgment of the great white throne (20:11-15)
- g. **All things new**
 - i. The new heaven and the new earth (21:1-22:5)
 - ii. The final word from God (22:6-21)