



# F. Y. C.

## For Your Consideration

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## The Book of Revelation

“The book of Revelation seems to provoke two responses; obsession or terror. For some, the book is a playground they can never leave, as they find speculative theories about the end of the world and Christ’s second coming. At the other extreme are those so afraid of Revelation’s signs and symbols that they decide to avoid the book entirely.”

UNDERSTANDING APOCALYPTIC LITERATURE - A Guide to the Book of Revelation, Mark Roberts



Revelation is the only book in the New Testament that is mainly prophetic, which makes it unique. The first few chapters are not too difficult to understand. But what is found in the remainder of the book is difficult to grasp.

What is most familiar to many people are: 1,000-year reign, 144,000, four horsemen of the apocalypse, 666, Armageddon (Har-mageddon), Beast, Lake of fire, Lamb of God, new heaven and earth. Without a clear understanding of the time of writing, the structure, the context, and the symbolism, it’s difficult to know what they represent.

One does not need to fully comprehend the book of Revelation to be a disciple. The first converts became disciples years before it was written. All can agree that it was written to encourage the followers of the Lamb to remain faithful during trials and persecution. And that the final outcome is “Jesus wins” and his followers obtain the promised reward. Revelation can be helpful when properly understood. But, unfortunately, it has become the seed bed for fanciful scenarios of the “last days.”

To understand the Revelation letter, it’s helpful to:

- Be familiar with the book by reading it.
- Know the structure of the book. Be aware of the error of separating a verse (or verses) from the context. Ignore chapter breaks and verse numbering.
- Be patient when studying it.
- Have an understanding of apocalyptic literature. There are several books available. One is Mark Roberts book, *Understanding Apocalyptic Literature*.

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### NOTE

On pages 2-3, the **Outline of Revelation** is brief on purpose. It enables one to see the different parts as they appear in the context. It helps to view the book as a whole before dissecting it.

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# REVELATION

**WRITER:** John

DATE: 90-96

**THEME:** *Victory of Christ and His Church*

## PROLOGUE

Revelation of Jesus Christ . . . . .	1:1-3
Salutation . . . . .	1:4-7
John instructed to write by the Alpha and Omega. . . . .	1:8-20

## LETTERS TO THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF ASIA

<b>Ephesus:</b> Left it's first love . . . . .	2:1-7
<b>Smyrna:</b> Persecuted church . . . . .	2:8-11
<b>Pergamum:</b> Over tolerant church . . . . .	2:12-17
<b>Thyatira:</b> Compromising church . . . . .	2:18-29
<b>Sardis:</b> Sleeping church . . . . .	3:1-6
<b>Philadelphia:</b> Church with opportunity . . . . .	3:7-13
<b>Laodicea:</b> Complacent church . . . . .	3:14-22

## HEAVENLY VISIONS

<b>The throne of God</b> . . . . .	4:1-11
<b>Book with seven seals.</b> Opened by the Lamb . . . . .	5:1-8:1
<i>First seal:</i> white horse	
<i>Second seal:</i> red horse	
<i>Third seal:</i> black horse	
<i>Fourth seal:</i> Ashen (pale) horse; followed by Hades	
<i>Fifth seal:</i> Souls of martyrs under the altar	
<i>Sixth seal:</i> great day of wrath has come	

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Harm withheld until the sealing of the bondservants  
Multitudes before the throne

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<i>Seventh seal:</i> silence in heaven	
<b>Seven angels with seven trumpets</b> . . . . .	8:2-11:19
<i>First trumpet:</i> hail, fire mixed with blood thrown to earth	
<i>Second trumpet:</i> [Like] burning mountain thrown into the sea	
<i>Third trumpet:</i> great star (Wormwood) fell upon rivers and springs	
<i>Fourth trumpet:</i> 1/3 of sun, moon and stars smitten	
<i>Fifth trumpet:</i> fallen star opens abyss; plague of locusts	
<i>Sixth trumpet:</i> four angels at Euphrates loosed	

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Angel with little book; two witnesses

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*Seventh trumpet:* loud voice in heaven

<b>Woman with child opposed by dragon</b> . . . . .	12:1-14:20
Dragon thrown down to earth	
Son born; taken to God and His throne	
Woman flees into the wilderness	
Beast comes out of the sea	
Beast comes out of the earth	
Lamb standing on Mount Zion	
The harvest of the earth	
<b>Seven angels with seven plagues</b> . . . . .	15:1-16:21
Song of those who are victorious over the beast	
<i>First bowl</i> poured into earth	
<i>Second bowl</i> poured into the sea	
<i>Third bowl</i> poured into the rivers and springs	
<i>Fourth bowl</i> poured upon the sun	
<i>Fifth bowl</i> poured upon the throne of the beast	
<i>Sixth bowl</i> poured upon the river Euphrates	
<i>Seventh bowl</i> poured upon the air	
<b>Judgment of the great harlot</b> . . . . .	17:1-19:10
Fall of Babylon	
Rejoicing in heaven over the judgment of harlot	
<b>Word of God appears: King of kings</b> . . . . .	19:11-20:15
Beast, false prophet cast into the lake of fire	
Satan bound; unable to deceive nations	
Faithful who persevered live and reign with Christ	
Satan to be released for a short time	
Devil, death, and hades thrown into the lake of fire	
Judgment of all men	
Those not found in Book of Life thrown into the lake of fire	
<b>New heaven and new earth</b> . . . . .	21:1-22:5
All things made new	
Vision of heavenly Jerusalem: bride of Christ	
Measurement of the city	
Splendor of the city's walls	
Almighty God and Lamb are the temple in the city	
River of life with tree of life in the city	
Inhabitants live and reign forever and ever	

<b>EPILOG</b> . . . . .	22:6-21
Final testimony	
Admonition not to seal up the book	
Invitation of Jesus	
Warning against tampering with the contents of the book	
Final words	



## Ponder This

### Afraid of the Light

We can understand why some children are afraid of the dark. They are fearful because they can't see what is there. But why would some adults be afraid of the light? It's because they don't want to see what's there!

*"But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light..."*

Ephesians 5:13

#### Fear of Exposure

*"And this is the judgment, that the light is come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the light; for their deeds were evil. For everyone who does evil hates the light, and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed."*

John 3:19-20

#### Light Versus Darkness

Why all the furor over God, the Bible, and Morality? Why are Christians being criticized for their belief? Why the demand to "turn off the light?" Because darkness conceals, light reveals. Jesus is the light of the world. And his followers are the light of the world.

Christians are to let their light shine to reveal their good works, so that others may glorify their Father who is in heaven (Matthew 5:16); and to expose the evil deeds of darkness.

*Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them; for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret.*

Ephesians 5:11-12

**May our light shine ever so bright!**

## What's Important

Hebrews 10:23-25

Often this passage is used to stress the sin of not assembling. Yes, it's important for Christians to assemble, but the reason to assemble is paramount.

### ONE WAY TO READ IT

(Important part in **bold** face)

*Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, **not forsaking our own assembling together**, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.*

### A BETTER WAY TO READ IT

(Important part in **bold** face)

*Let us hold fast the confession of our hope **without wavering**, for He who promised is faithful and **let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds**, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but **encouraging one another**; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.*

### WHY ASSEMBLING IS IMPORTANT

In order to carry out the admonitions, it's necessary to be in touch with one another, hence, the importance of assembling,

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## AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOADING

### NEW TESTAMENT: BOOK-BY-BOOK

Outlines of all the New Testament books, including an expanded version of Revelation at <http://pdflessons.ra10ar.com>

F.Y.C. is a monthly publication by Ron Adams.

Bible references are from the NASB except where another translation is referenced.

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