

APOCALYPSE OF JOHN

Session 6: Structure of the Revelation

REVIEW

- A. Author?
- B. Where?
- C. For whom?
- D. When?
- E. Circumstances?

THE STRUCTURE OF JOHN'S APOCALYPSE

A. The Hellenistic Letter Form in Revelation:

1. The Standard American Letter Form:

2. The Standard Hellenistic Letter Form Illustrated by Paul's Letter to Philemon:

- a. _____ (v.1a): ^{1a} Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,
- b. _____ (vv.1b-2): ^{1b} To Philemon our dear friend and fellow worker—
² also to Apphia our sister and Archippus our fellow soldier—and to the church that meets in your home:
- c. _____ (v.3): ³ Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- d. _____ (vv.4-7): ⁴ I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers, ⁵ because I hear about your love for all his holy people and your faith in the Lord Jesus. ⁶ I pray that your partnership with us in the faith may be effective in deepening your understanding of every good thing we share for the sake of Christ. ⁷ Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the Lord's people.

- e. _____ (vv.8-9a): ⁸ Therefore, although in Christ I could be bold and order you to do what you ought to do, ^{9a} yet I prefer to appeal to you on the basis of love.
- f. _____ (vv.9b-22): ^{9b} It is as none other than Paul—an old man and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus—¹⁰ that I appeal to you for my son Onesimus
- g. _____ (vv.23-24): ²³ Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends you greetings. ²⁴ And so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas and Luke, my fellow workers.
- h. _____ (v.25): ²⁵ The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.
3. The Standard Hellenistic Letter form in John's Apocalypse:
- a. _____ (1:4a): John,
- b. _____ (1:4b): To the seven churches in the province of Asia:
- c. _____ (1:4c-5a): Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come
- d. _____ (1:5b-6): To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood . . . be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.
- e. _____ (1:9): I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.
- f. _____ (1:10 – 22:20): On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet, which said: Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches
- g. _____ (N/A)
- h. _____ (22:21): The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen.

B. The Structure of John's Revelation:

"Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later." (Rev 1:19)

"After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, 'Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.'" (Rev 4:1)

"The angel said to me, 'These words are trustworthy and true. The Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, sent his angel to show his servants the things that must soon take place.'" (Rev 22:6)

1. _____ (Rev. 1:1-20)
2. Part I: The Revelation of "_____" (Rev. 2:1-3:22)
3. Part II: The Revelation of "_____" (Rev. 4:1-22:6)
 - a. _____: John's _____ Vantage Point (Rev. 4:1-5:14)
 - b. First Vision of the _____ (Rev. 6:1-8:1)
 - c. Second Vision of the _____ (Rev. 8:2-11:19)
 - d. Third Vision of the _____ (Rev. 12:1-22:6)
4. _____ (Rev. 22:7-21)