

There are four clues to be used in dating Revelation. The struggle between Christianity and emperor worship seems to be in the historical background of much of revelation. This may point to a date during Domitian's reign (AD 81-96) but some scholars say that this could have arisen earlier (especially during the Neronian persecutions, AD 64-68). The persecutions in Revelation may also point to the time of Domitian. The conditions described in the letters to the seven churches seem to require that some time had passed since the establishment of Christianity in those cities (this would allow time for the heresies and other problems to spring up). This too seems to point to a date late in the first century. The best evidence, however, is again a strong tradition that revelation was seen "no such long time ago, but almost in our own generation, at the end of the reign of Domitian." (Irenaeus, AD 130-202).

Revelation was written to the seven churches to challenge them and rebuke them while calling to repentance and perseverance. It also encouraged them in the face of coming and present persecutions and warned those who were not prepared of the judgment and trials to come.

#### Outline:

- I. Prologue 1:1-8
- II. Vision of the Son of Man 1:9-20
- III. Letters to the Seven Churches 2:1-3:22
- IV. Heavenly worship 4-5:14
- V. Seven seals 6:1-8:5
- VI. Seven Trumpets 8:6--11:19
- VII. Wonders in Heaven 12:1--14:20
- VIII. Seven bowls 15:1--16:21
- IX. Fall of Babylon 17:1-19:10
- X. The New World 21:1-22:5
- XI. The New World 21:1-22:5
- XII. Epilogue 22:6-21

Simpler without going into such exactness is this short form

- I. The things seen 1
- II. The things that are 2-3
- III. The things to come 4-22

And rather simple yet is this one:

- I. Christ as Head of the Church 1-3
- II. Christ as Lord of the earth 4-18
- III. Christ as Coming King 19-22

#### History of Redemption:

Revelation portrays God as the sovereign Lord, reigning over and controlling all events from his heavenly throne (4:3-5). He is also the creator and sustainer of all things (4:11; 10:6). As their creator he is their judge (15:3-4). With complete freedom and responsibility to judge the sinfulness of men and the spirit world even though this judgment will eventually require the destruction of the world which he has made (20:11-15).