

# The Revelation

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"Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time *is* near." Revelation 1:3

## **Chapter 1:**

"The things you have seen ..." – John sees the Lord Jesus

## **Chapters 2 and 3:**

"... and the things which are ..."

The letters to the seven churches

## **Chapter 4-22:**

"... and the things which will take place after this."

The future:

- **Chapter 4-5:**
  - A view into heaven
- **Chapter 6:1-8:5:**
  - The seven seal judgments
- **Chapter 8:6-11:18:**
  - The seven trumpet judgments
- **Chapter 11:19-14:20:**
  - The dragon and the Lamb
- **Chapter 15:1-16:21:**
  - The seven vial judgments
- **Chapter 17:1-19:5:**
  - Judgment over Babylon
- **Chapter 19:6-22:21:**
  - God reaches His goal

**How it started:** At the time of persecution of the Christians under the Roman emperor Domitian, John, the disciple of the Lord Jesus, was in exile on the island of Patmos. There he received prophetic

visions which he had to write in a book and send as a kind of circular letter to the seven churches in Asia Minor.

**What it is all about:** The key to this book is to be found in chapter 1:19. This verse shows that the Revelation can be divided into three parts. Everything recorded in chapters 4 to 22 - after the introductory chapters - is still future. It will only take place after the Lord Jesus has taken His bride (the church) to Himself into heaven. This book describes:

- God's judgments which are to come over the earth
- God's three great adversaries – Satan, the ruler of the revived Roman Empire, and the Antichrist – and their fate
- The end of apostate Christendom (Babylon);
- The Lord's 1000 year reign and ....
- ... eternity with new heaven and new earth

**How about today?** God wants to show you what will happen in the future. This is on the one hand very serious – if you think of the judgments. Serious for you if you are not saved yet. But if you are saved, then remember the many people round about you who are going to have to face these judgments. The book of Revelation is a book that should motivate you to reach out with the gospel. On the other hand, this book also gives much joy because it tells of the glorious future of the Christians. Jesus is coming again!