

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introductory Materials		i
Preface (2018 Reprint)	i	
To the Reader (1997 Original)	iii	
1 Revelation: What Shall We Do With It?		1
Modern Fascination and Abuse	2	
A Neglected Book	3	
The Importance of a Solid Foundation	3	
Working Bibliography	5	
2 Setting the Context		7
Literary and Historical Interpretation in General	7	
The Intertestamental Context for Revelation	10	
3 Understanding Apocalyptic		17
Meaning and Overview of Literature in Which Apocalyptic Appears	18	
Most Important Characteristics	21	
Implications of Apocalyptic for a Study of Revelation	24	
4 Introduction to Revelation I: Authorship and Approaches		25
Authorship	25	
Prominent Methods of Interpreting Revelation	29	
Millennial View of Revelation -- Approaches Continued	30	
5 Introduction to Revelation II: The Date of the Writing		33
Overview	33	
Arguments in Favor of a Neronian Date (54-68)	33	
Arguments in Favor of a Domitian Date (81-96)	35	

6	Introduction to Revelation III: Recipients, Symbols and Structure	39
	General Information on the Book's Recipients	39
	The Significance of the Symbols	40
	A Suggested Structure	43
7	A Message for Troubled Churches from the Glorified Revealer (1:1-20)	45
	Prologue	
	John's Title (1:1-3)	45
	John's Address (1:4-8)	50
	John's Commission to Write (1:9-20)	57
	An Experience in Exile (1:9-11)	
	The Glorious Son of Man (1:12-16)	
	Reaction and Reassurance (1:17-20)	
8	The Church in Imperfection (2:1-3:22)	61
	The Seven Churches	61
	To the Church in Ephesus (2:1-7)	62
	To the Church in Smyrna (2:8-11)	64
	To the Church in Pergamum (2:12-17)	65
	To the Church in Thyatira (2:18-29)	68
	To the Church in Sardis (3:1-6)	70
	To the Church in Philadelphia (3:7-13)	72
	To the Church in Laodicea (3:14-22)	73
	Summary and Lessons	75
9	The Authority of God Over Evil Explained — The Seven Seals (4:1-8:6)	77
	Introduction (4:1)	77
	The Creator in Control (4:2-11)	78
	The Lamb Who Is Worthy (5:1-14)	79
	The Scroll with Seven Seals (5:1-4)	
	Worthy the Lamb That Was Slain (5:5-14)	
	Six Terrifying Seals (6:1-17)	81
	“Who Is Able to Stand?” — A Temporary Reprieve (7:1-17)	85
	The Restraining Angels (7:1-3)	
	The 144,000 Who Are Sealed (On Earth) (7:4-8)	
	A Vision of Heavenly Triumph (7:9-17)	
	The Seventh Seal Is Broken (8:1-6)	90

10	The Warning Judgments: Seven Trumpets (8:7-11:19)	93
	Trumpets 1-4: The Natural Plagues (8:7-12)	93
	Trumpet 5: The First Woe (8:13-9:12)	96
	Trumpet 6: The Second Woe (9:13-21)	99
	Interlude, Part 1: A Strong Angel and a Little Scroll (10:1-11)	100
	Interlude, Part 2: A Temple and Two Witnesses (11:1-14)	106
	Trumpet 7: The Third Woe (11:15-19)	113
11	The Lamb: God's Answer to Evil (12:1-14:20)	117
	The Woman, Dragon, and Child — Reasons for the War (12:1-17)	117
	Context and Overview	
	The Woman, Dragon, and Child (12:1-6)	
	A Heavenly War and Satan's Defeat (12:7-12)	
	Residual Warfare (12:13-17)	
	Two Beasts with Evil on Their Minds (13:1-18)	124
	Overview	
	The Beast from the Sea (13:1-10)	
	The Beast from the Earth (13:11-18)	
	The Lamb Triumphant (14:1-20)	136
	Overview	
	The Lamb on Mount Zion: Conquest (14:1-5)	
	Saints in Safety and Sinners in Peril (14:6-13)	
	A Harvest of Consequences (14:14-20)	
12	Consummated Judgments — Seven Bowls of Wrath (15:1-16:21)	143
	The Beginning of the End (15:1-8)	143
	Context and Overview	
	Glory to the Lord from Whom the Plagues Come (15:1-8)	
	God Pours Forth His Wrath (16:1-21)	146
	Context and Overview (16:1)	
	The First Six Bowls of Wrath (16:2-12)	
	Battle of Armageddon (16:13-16)	
	The Seventh Bowl (16:17-21)	
	Summary and Preview	151
13	The Triumph of Almighty God (17:1-20:15)	153
	Judgment on a Seductive Power (17:1-18)	153
	Context and Overview	
	Babylon's Doom, Part One (17:1-18)	
	Judgment on a Seductive Power [Again] (18:1-24)	157
	Context and Overview	
	The Fall of Babylon (18:1-3)	
	Judgment Worth Avoiding (18:4-8)	
	Mourning Over Rome: Right Reaction, Wrong Reasons (18:9-20)	

	The Final Statement of Destructions (18:21-24)	
	Celebrating the Victory(19:1-16)	161
	Context and Overview	
	Thanksgiving and a Feast (19:1-10)	
	The Triumphal Procession (19:11-16)	
	Evil’s Resounding Defeat (19:17-20:15)	166
	Preliminary Considerations	
	Final Defeat of the Beast and False Prophet (19:17-21)	
	The Binding of the Dragon in the Abyss (20:1-3)	
	The Co-Regency of the Martyrs (20:4-6)	
	Satan’s Temporary Release and Final Defeat (20:7-10)	
	A Scene of Judgment: Settling All Accounts (20:11-15)	
	Excursus: Some Thoughts on The New Testament’s Use of “Hades”	174
14	A New City for a Victorious People (21:1-22:5)	177
	Context and Overview	177
	A New Existence (21:1-8)	177
	The New Jerusalem (21:9-22:5)	181
15	Epilogue (22:6-21)	187
	Overview	187
	Final Testimony to the Truth of the Revelation (22:6-9)	187
	A Final Distinction and Exhortation (22:10-15)	188
	An Open Invitation and Benediction (22:16-21)	188
	Postscript	191
	History Matters	191
	The Big Picture — In Context	192
	Leave the Secret Things to God — The Right Kind of Curiosity	193
	Revelation Is Good Theology — Victory Is In Jesus	194