

Revelation: *Apocalypse Wow*

Introduction

I. The Author—The apostle John is the human author of Revelation. Four times the human author of Revelation identifies himself as John (1:1, 4, 9; 22:8).

II. The Audience—John wrote Revelation in about AD 95 near the end of the reign of the Roman emperor Domitian (AD 81-96). At this period of time, the churches in Asia Minor were facing trouble both from without and within. Externally, Domitian proclaimed himself to be God and had a magnificent temple built in his honor in Ephesus. Emperor worship was furthered under Domitian more than any under any other ruler. Therefore, needless to say, Domitian was a virulent opponent of Christianity. Domitian banished John, the last living apostle, to the tiny island of Patmos because of his strong stand and influence in the Christian community in and around Ephesus (Asia Minor). At the time of his exile John was probably about 90 years of age. Internally, the churches were facing the double onslaught of spiritual apathy and false teachers who promoted heretical teachings and immoral living. One Sunday morning (the Lord's Day), probably while John was thinking and praying about the churches of Asia Minor as they were gathered together for worship, the glorified Christ appeared to him with a message for seven of these churches (Rev. 1:9-20). The seven churches Christ singled out are Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea.

III. The Aim—To challenge God's people to endure and live godly lives by giving the advanced history of how Christ, through judgment, becomes King.

IV. The Arrangement—

I. "The things which you have seen" (1:1-20)	<i>The Christ</i>
II. "The things which are" (2-3)	<i>The Churches</i>
III. "The things which will take place after this" (4-22)	<i>The Consummation</i>

4 Ages in Revelation

Chapters 1-3	Church Age	? Years
Chapters 4-19	Tribulation Age	7 Years
Chapter 20	Kingdom Age	1000 Years
Chapters 21-22	Eternal Age	Endless Years

V. The Analysis

- I. “The things which you have seen” (1:1-20) *The Christ*

- II. “The things which are” (2–3) *The Churches*

- III. “The things which will take place after this” (4–22) *The Consummation*
 - A. The Prelude to the Tribulation (chapters 4–5)

 - B. The First Six Seal Judgments (6)
 - C. The 144,000 Witnesses and the Redeemed (7)
 - D. The Final Seal and First Six Trumpet Judgments (8-9)
 - E. The Strong Angel with a Little Scroll (10)
 - F. The Temple, the Two Witnesses, and the Trumpet (11)
 - G. The War of the Ages (12)
 - H. The Two Beasts: the Antichrist and the False Prophet (13)
 - I. Panorama of Coming Events (14)
 - J. Prelude to the Bowls (15)
 - K. The 7 Bowl Judgments (16)
 - L. The Fall of Babylon (17:1–19:6)
 - M. The Marriage of the Lamb (19:7-10)
 - N. The Second Coming of Christ (19)
 - O. The Millennium (20:1-6)
 - P. The Final Revolt of Satan (20:7-10)
 - Q. The Great White Throne Judgment (20:11-15)
 - R. The Eternal State (21:1–22:5)
 - S. The Postlude (22:6-21)

VI. The Application