

A Study in Revelation

Week One (4/15/2018)

- I. What words come to mind when someone mentions the book *Revelation*?

- II. Why do you think many people do not read Revelation as often as the other books of the Bible?

- III. What makes reading *Revelation* difficult?

Genre of Revelation

- I. Epistle
 - A. Rev. 1:3
 - B. Rev. 1: 4-6
 - C. Rev. 22:17-21

- II. Prophecy
 - A. John refers to the content of his letter as prophecy 7 times.

 - B. What is biblical prophecy?

- III. Apocalyptic
 - A. Apocalyptic literature is a sub-genre of prophetic literature.

 - B. Features:
 1. Divine disclosure about the sinful state of the world
 2. Identification of God's elect
 3. Communicated through visions or an angel, sometimes both
 4. Describes the end of this age and the coming of a new better age
 5. Includes a cataclysmic and final judgment against the wicked
 - C. Well known to biblical authors and quoted in the NT

D. Several proto-apocalyptic passages in OT:

1. Ezekiel 37-48
2. Daniel 7-10
3. Isaiah 56-66

E. Christian

1. Shephard of Hermas
2. Apocalypse of Peter
3. *Revelation*, Apocalypse of John

Symbolic Reading

I. Options

A. Continuum

B. Symbolic reading

II. Symbols

A. Are figures of speech, very similar to metaphor

B. Sharpest knife

C. Interpretive keys