

Revelation Facts

Revelation is the only prophetic book in the New Testament (in contrast to seventeen books in the Old Testament).

Revelation is the only book in the entire Bible which begins by promising a special blessing on those who study it, and ends by promising a special curse on those who add or take away from it.

It was written by John the apostle, who had already written four other New Testament books. They are: The Gospel of John, 1 John, 2 John, and 3 John. The author had previously reached farther back into eternity than any other Bible writer (see John 1:1-3). In Revelation he reaches farther on into eternity than any other writer (see Revelation 21:22).

A. Revelation may be compared to the book of Daniel.

1. Concerning the indestructible Jewish nation (Daniel 3, 6, cf. Revelation 12).
2. Concerning the ministry of the antichrist (Daniel 3:1-7; 7:7, 8, 24, 25; 8:9-12, 23, 24, 25, 9:27; 11:36-45; cf. Revelation 13).
3. Concerning the length of the tribulation (Daniel 9:24-27; cf. Revelation 11:2; 12:6, 14; 13:5).

Note, however that Daniel was a sealed book (Daniel 12:9) whereas Revelation is not (Revelation 22:10).

B. Revelation may be compared to the book of Genesis.

- In Genesis we are told, “And the gathering of the waters called he sea” (1:10). In Revelation we are told: “And there was no more sea” (21:1).
- In Genesis is described the first Adam with his wife Eve in the Garden of Eden, reigning over the earth (1:27-28). In Revelation is described the last Adam with his wife, the Church, in the City of God, reigning over the entire universe (22:9).
- In Genesis God created the sun and moon, the day and the night (1:5, 16). In Revelation we are told, “There shall be no night there” (22:5) “And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof” (21:23).

- In Genesis the tree of life is denied to sinful man (3:22). In Revelation the tree of life “yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations” (22:2).
- In Genesis man hears God say, “Cursed is the ground for thy sake” (3:7). In Revelation man will hear God say “And there shall be no more curse” (22:3).
- In Genesis Satan appears to torment man for a while (3:1). In Revelation Satan disappears, himself to be tormented forever (20:10).
- In Genesis the old earth was punished through a flood (7:12). In Revelation the new earth shall be purified through a fire (2 Peter 3:6-12); Revelation 21:1).
- In Genesis, man’s early home was beside a river (2:10). In Revelation, man’s eternal home will be beside a river: “And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb” (22:1).
- In Genesis the Patriarch Abraham goes to weep for Sarah (23:2). In Revelation the children of Abraham will have God himself wipe away all tears from their eyes (21:4).
- In Genesis God destroys an earthly city, wicked Sodom, from the sands (Genesis 19). In Revelation God presents a heavenly city, New Jerusalem, from the skies (Revelation 21:1).
- Genesis ends with a believer in Egypt, lying in a coffin (50:1-3). Revelation ends with all believers in eternity, reigning forever (21:4).

C. Some of the great subjects of prophecy which find their consummation here are:

1. The Lord Jesus Christ (Genesis 3:15; cf. Revelation 1:13; 12:5).
2. The church (Matthew 16:18; cf. Revelation 19:7-9).
3. The resurrection of saints (Daniel 12:2, 3; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 Corinthians 15:51—52; Revelation 20:4-6).
4. The great tribulation (Deuteronomy 4:30-31; Isaiah 24: cf. Revelation 6-18).
5. Satan (Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:11-19; cf. Revelation 20:1-10).
6. The man of sin (2 Thessalonians 2:1; cf. Revelation 19:19-21).
7. False religion (Genesis 11:1-9; Matthew 13; cf. Revelation 17).
8. The times of the Gentiles (Daniel 2:37; Luke 21:24; cf. Revelation 18).
9. The Second Coming of Christ (Jude 1:14-15; cf. Revelation 19:11-16).

D. There are at least four main interpretations to this last book in the Bible.

1. It is pure fiction: This is the view of the agnostics.
2. It is allegorical. This says no part of the book may be taken literally.
3. It is historical , both past and continuous history
4. It is prophetic. This view sees those events from chapter 4 onward as yet to be fulfilled. This view alone does justice to the book. Revelation, like all other books in the Bible, is to be taken in the plain, normal sense of the word. To do otherwise is to dishonor Christ, the dive Author. Dr. Dave L. Cooper once suggested: “When the plain sense of Scripture makes common sense, seek no other sense.”

E. This book lists more titles for the Savior than does any other book in the Bible. Note but some of them:

1. ...Jesus Christ (1:1)
2. ...the faithful Witness (1:5)
3. ...the first Begotten of the dead (1:5)
4. ...the Prince of kings of the earth (1:5)
5. ...the Alpha and Omega (1:8)
6. ...the First and the Last (1:17)
7. ...the Son of man (1:13)
8. ...the Son of God (2:18)
9. ...the Keeper of David’s keys (3:7)
- 10....the Keeper of the keys of hell and death (1:18)
- 11....the Lion of the tribe of Judah (5:5)
- 12....the root of David (5:5)
- 13....the slain Lamb (5:6)
- 14....the angry Lamb (6:16-17)
- 15....the tender Lamb (7:170)
- 16....our Lord (11:8)
- 17....the man Child (12:5)
- 18....the King of saints (15:3)
- 19....the Faithful and True (19:13)
- 20....the Word of God (19:13)
- 21....the King of Kings (19:16)
- 22....the Lord of lords (19:16)
- 23....the Beginning and the End (22:13)
- 24....the Bright and Morning Star (22:16)

Source: Willmington’s Guide to the Bible