

Behind the Scenes of History

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Revelation 1:1-20.
- B. Natural disaster can change our attitudes toward life.

II. Introduction to the book.

- A. Revelation is hard to understand but hard to forget.
- B. Revelation complements Genesis with themes such as judgment and discernment.
- C. Revelation reveals many of the mysteries of life and it predicts what is to come.
- D. It is a book of symbols. Almost all the symbols in Revelation are given previously in the Bible.
- E. The author is God.
- F. A blessing is promised through the one attentive to the book.

III. Introduction to the characters of the book.

- A. John writes this around 96 AD.
- B. It is written to the seven churches in the province of Asia in modern Turkey.
- C. Jesus is the central figure of the book, and He is absolute basic reality—He is the truth teller, lawgiver and life maker.
 - 1. Everything we are ought to be based on the love of the Lord Jesus—He has freed us from our own sin and made us a kingdom of priests.
 - 2. The central event in history will be the return of Jesus. (Matthew 24, Zechariah 12)
 - 3. Jesus refers to Himself as the Alpha and the Omega.
 - 4. Jesus is described in symbolic terms.

IV. Jesus described.

- A. He is characterized by judgment and virtue.
- B. At the transfiguration, there is a similar preview of the coming of Jesus.

C. He appears as a lamb, lion, a rider, and a bridegroom coming for His bride, all describing Jesus' various ministries.

V. John's commission is to write the book, and he falls as if struck dead when God appears.

A. Jesus touches John.

B. Jesus tells him to write what is now and what will take place.

C. John fulfills his purpose in elevating the Person of Jesus.

Application questions:

1. How would you describe the book of Revelation broadly?

2. Why might Jesus be so central to the book of Revelation in light of the message?

3. How does the book of Revelation characterize Jesus? What strikes you about this?
