**Revelation**

1. *Introduction*:

In the earliest manuscripts of the New Testament the last book of the Bible is entitled *Apocalypse* or *Revelation of John*. Perhaps a better title comes from verse 1, *The Revelation of Jesus Christ*. Just as Genesis is the book of beginnings, Revelation is the book of endings or consummation. This book is all about demonstrating how God’s program for His people will come to a happy ending in spite of all the fury of Satan and the world.

2. *Authorship*:

The author of Revelation is John the apostle (Revelation 1:1, 4, 9; 22:8).

3. *Situation*:

John presumably was ministering at Ephesus when the local Roman authorities banished him to the island of Patmos. The exact date of this exile is uncertain. A date of about AD 96 would not be far off. At this time the churches were experiencing an intense persecution at the hands of the Roman emperor, Domitian. The immediate purpose of Revelation is to encourage persecuted Christians to persevere with the assurance that adversaries will be judged. The deeper purpose of the book is to assure believers of the ultimate triumph in Christ.

4. *Of Special Interest*:

--Revelation is full of allusions to the Old Testament. Nearly 300 of the approximately 404 verses have some connection to the Old Testament.

--Revelation is the only biblical book that begins by promising a special blessing on those who study it, and ends by promising a special curse on those who add to it or take away from it.

--The book lists more titles for Christ than any other book of the Bible.

5. *Brief Outline*:

1 Introduction: John’s vision of Christ

2-3 Special letters to the seven congregations in Asia

4-5 Christ the Lord and Ruler of all

6-11 Judgment: opening of seven seals, and sound of seven trumpets

12-14 Enemies of the faithful

15-16 Judgment and wrath poured out

17-20 Overthrow of the enemies and of Satan

21-22 Eternal glory of heaven

6. *October Reading Guide*

Week of Sep 26-Oct 2 Revelation 1-3

Week of Oct 3-9 Revelation 4-5

Week of Oct 10-16 Revelation 6-11

Week of Oct 17-23 Revelation 12-18

Week of Oct 24-30 Revelation 19-22