

# LESSON 1

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## INTRODUCTION (PART 1)

Many people “do not care for” the Book of Revelation. Though many avoid the book, few thoughts are more comforting than its message: *If we stay with God, our victory is assured!*

1. Why is the Book of Revelation not a favorite among Christians?
2. What things will one miss out on if he neglects the book?

### BACKGROUND ISSUES

In some editions of the KJV, the title given for the book is “The Revelation of St. John the Divine.” However, the first words of the book tell us that the volume is not the revelation of John, but rather “The Revelation of Jesus Christ.” John was simply Jesus’ witness and secretary.

3. Why do we think that the apostle John wrote Revelation?
4. According to early church leaders, what did John do in his later years?
5. What explanations could be given for the difference in style between Revelation and the other books John wrote?
6. What is the traditional view for the date of the writing of Revelation, and what evidence supports this view?
7. What was life probably like for John while exiled to Patmos?
8. What are the specific and general audiences of the book?
9. What three literary genres does the Book of Revelation combine?
10. What does the term “apocalyptic” refer to, and what does its root word, “apocalypse,” mean?

11. How would the response of early Christians to the grotesque symbols have differed from ours?
12. Why was the apocalyptic approach used for this message?
13. Does God expect us to understand Revelation? Explain.
14. Why can we be confident that the Book of Revelation belongs in the biblical canon?

### **APPROACHES OF INTERPRETATION**

The approach an individual takes to the book affects his interpretation of almost every detail in the Book of Revelation. Those who believe the Bible to be verbally inspired take four approaches to Revelation, although there are countless variations and combinations.

15. What are two essential keys to interpreting Revelation?
16. What is the futurist approach, and what are its strengths and weaknesses?
17. What is the continuous-historical approach, and what are its strengths and weaknesses?
18. What is the preterist approach, and what are its strengths and weaknesses?
19. What is the symbolic approach, and what are its strengths and weaknesses?
20. What is the “select-wisely” approach?