

INTRODUCTION

The Book of Revelation both fascinates and confounds, with its reputed revealing of the end times and heavy use of Old Testament imagery to veil its message from the casual reader. Perhaps no book in the Bible has engendered more discussion and disagreement than these 22 chapters.

DATE AND AUTHOR

The Apostle John, while exiled on Patmos prior to A.D. 96, although some dispute this, arguing either for an earlier or later date, or for different authorship.

THEME

In the face of troubled times, for the church as a whole and individual believers in particular, Revelation describes the (coming) ultimate triumph of Christ and his church. John is concerned with an apparent paradox between God as the Almighty, sovereign Lord, and God's people being oppressed by evil forces. The latter seems to negate the former. In the visions received, John answers this paradox as follows:

1. Evil may appear to be strong, and the church helpless before it. But in reality, evil can do no more than operate within the sphere that God permits it to exist. (*Why this is so is one of the mysteries of the intersection of God's sovereignty and human free will.*)
2. In the end, evil will be completely overthrown.

DAY AND TIME

- Tuesday morning, 11:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall
- Tuesday evening, 7:00 p.m. in the Lucille Sanger Classroom
- Exceptions:
 - ▶ There will be no Bible Study on Tuesday, October 6, due to the pastor being away.
 - ▶ The morning study will meet on Wednesday, November 11, due to a meeting of Shenandoah Presbytery on Tuesday, November 10.

SCHEDULE

DATE	SUBJECT	SYMBOL	TEXT
September 8	Introduction to Revelation	Seven Stars/Lampstands	1:1-20
September 15	The Christ-indwelt Church in the World	Seven Lampstands	2:1 - 3:22
September 22	The Church suffering trial and persecution	Seven Seals	4:1 - 7:17
September 29	[Continued]		
October 6	[No Bible Study this week]		
October 13	The Church: avenged, protected, victorious	Seven Trumpets	8:1- 11:19
October 20	[Continued]		
October 27	Christ opposed by the Dragon and his helpers	Dragon, 2 Beasts	12:1 - 13:10
November 3	[Continued]	Lamb + 144,000	13:11 - 14:20
November 10/11	Final wrath on the impenitent	Seven bowls	15:1 - 16:21
November 17	Fall of Babylon and the Beast	Babylon + Beast	17:1 - 18:24
November 24	[Continued]	Rider on White Horse	19:1-21
December 1	Christ and Church victorious	1,000 Years	20:1 - 21:27
December 8	Conclusion	River of Life	22:1-21
