

General Introduction

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Because of the nature of the book of Revelation as well as the controversy that surrounds it, perhaps it needs a longer and more detailed introduction than would be necessary with other books of the Bible.
- B. In terms of its position and location in the canon, Revelation is the last book of the New Testament (27th) and last book of the entire Bible (66th).
- C. In terms of its writing, Revelation is the very last of all the books of the Bible to have been written.
- D. It is the only book of prophecy in the New Testament.
- E. The book of Revelation is one of the most controversial of all the books in the Bible.
- F. Revelation is neglected, misunderstood, and perverted.
 - 1. Perhaps Revelation and Romans are the two most neglected books for study in the New Testament. Revelation is considered by many Christians to be too difficult to understand.
 - 2. However, a knowledge and understanding of the Revelation letter will strengthen the Christian's faith and give him the power to endure whatever may come.
 - 3. Revelation will give an insight, unobtainable from any other source, into the things that are to come, and will arm Christians against the deceptions of Satan and his ministers.
- G. There are two general attitudes toward the Revelation letter.
 - 1. Some find help in the messages to the seven churches of Asia in the opening chapters. And in time of sorrow they find comfort in the beautiful language of chapters 21 - 22. But, from the 4th chapter through the 20th, there is the attitude "no one understands it anyway;" so they are content to pass it by. (Not a proper attitude in God's sight).
 - 2. In sharp contrast, others have been fascinated particularly by chapters 4-20. They have found that they could prove almost anything by manipulation of the various symbols contained in them. (Not a proper attitude in God's sight).
- H. The Holy Spirit not only inspired the writings of the books of the Bible, but He has also preserved them for the use of men in all
 - 1. Revelation should not be abandoned nor perverted. Though we may not understand everything in the book, we should be familiar with the words of the book.
 - 2. It is our duty before God and a confused world to seek earnestly to find the true meaning of Revelation.
- I. Two major sections in the Book of the Revelation:

1. **The OUTER Struggle - The Church and the Roman Empire. Chapters 1-11**
2. **The INNER Struggle - Christ and Satan. Chapters 12-22**