

1 - THE BOOK OF THE REVELATION: A BACKGROUND

I. A Realistic Approach

A. A Diversity of Views

- We need to recognize that good Christians have different views concerning this book.

B. Flexibility in Interpretation

- Don't be dogmatic about your interpretations.

The Identity of the Antichrist:

The church has many times tried to identify who the Antichrist is:

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| 1. Nero | 2. Martin Luther | 3. Napoleon |
| 4. Adolf Hitler | 5. Ronald Reagan | 6. Mikhail Gorbachev |
| 7. Pope John Paul II | 8. Bill Clinton | 9. Saddam Hussein |

- Recognize that the church has struggled to understand this book for centuries.

C. Understand the Purpose

- The purpose of the book is to provide hope for believers in the midst of trials.

II. The Author and Occasion (Revelation 1:1,4)

A. The Apostle John

- The author of the book was the beloved disciple, John.

B. The Occasion

- John wrote the book while imprisoned on the island of Patmos.
- It is the final revelation concerning the events surrounding the Second Coming.

III. Key Verse (Revelation 1:19)

A. The Key Verse

- The key to understanding the book is found in verse 19.

B. A Basic Outline

The Prophecy Series: The Book of Revelation

1. What You Have Seen (Chapter 1)
2. What is Now (Chapters 2-3)
3. What will take place later (Chapters 4-22)

IV. Key Phrase Concerning God's Wrath (Revelation 9:20-21; 16:9,11)

- In order to understand God's wrath, you need to understand the key phrase.

Scripture: Revelation 9:20,21; 16:9,11

- The key phrase is that unbelievers "did not repent" in spite of the judgments.