

# Bereans Bible Institute

## Module XI – Revelation

### Lesson 1 – Introduction

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- I. Author: John (author of Gospel, 3 Epistles after deaths of other Apostles & destruction of Jerusalem)
- A. One of Jesus' youngest Apostles (early 20's), older brother was James
  - B. Never mentioned himself by name ex. in Revelation; used vague terms: *"the disciple whom Jesus loved"* (6 times); *"the other disciple"* (5 times).
  - C. He stood with Jesus when all of the rest fled (**Mk. 14:50, Jn. 18:10-17**)
  - D. Jesus entrusted the care of His widowed mother to John (**Jn. 19:25-27**)
  - E. Lived well into his 90's, and died about AD 100 (70 yrs. after crucifixion).
    - 1. Jesus' statement about John's long life (**John 21:17-24**)
  - F. John's main emphasis in his Gospel and Epistles is carried into Revelation – WHO Jesus really is – "Logos," the "only-begotten Son," and the "Messenger of YHVH!"
- II. Circumstances:
- A. The other Apostles were dead; false teachers, false apostles, and false prophets were invading the assemblies and leading many away from **the REAL Jesus**.
  - B. John took over the care of assemblies established by Paul
    - 1. John's writings provide eyewitness support for Paul's theology concerning the REAL Jesus.
    - 2. John was entrusted by Peter and Paul to close out the NT Canon.
  - C. With Jerusalem destroyed (as the capitol of Christianity), John had become the last "eyewitness" to whom the assemblies could appeal for clarification.
  - D. John spent his last decades living in Ephesus, and personally disciplined several younger men until his death.
    - 1. Polycarp, whom John ordained as pastor in the assembly at Smyrna, Papias, Ignatius (of Antioch – Paul's former home assembly).
  - E. During his last decade, John was arrested, tortured (but survived), and was then banished to Patmos by Domitian where he saw his visions.
  - F. John was released after Domitian's death, and returned to Ephesus, and died.
- III. Understanding Revelation
- A. Not a shortcut to understanding Bible Prophecy, advanced crescendo
  - B. A riddle to be solved, using symbols that must be understood from great familiarity with the OT Scriptures.
  - C. Paul often directly quoted the OT, using the "rabbinic" style of teaching.
  - D. John was more subtle, using short phrases from the OT and allegorical imagery primarily from the following prophets: Isaiah; Ezekiel; Zechariah.
    - 1. Those prophets prophesied about events current to them.
    - 2. Understanding what their prophecies meant in their historical setting provides the keys to understanding what the same symbols mean in the end-time setting.
    - 3. Understanding Israel's HISTORY & Prophets are essential to interpreting Revelation.
  - E. Revelation is the "Capstone" of Bible Prophecy & revelation about who Jesus is.
  - F. Revelation is a communication from Jesus, from the Father's side, to His assemblies, giving His assessment of their progress (66 yrs. after Pentecost), and urging them to persevere.
  - G. The human Jesus was now in the middle of His 100<sup>th</sup> year (99.5), on the anniversary of His resurrection.