

# Three Things About John's Revelation

(Revelation 1:1-3)

- Introduction:
1. The book of Revelation is without a doubt the most misunderstood book in the Bible.
  2. No book contains as many fanciful interpretations as this book.
  3. But according to Revelation 1:3, it is intended to be understood.
  4. Let's address three things about the book of Revelation this evening.

## I. It is Largely History for Us Today

- A. (Revelation 1:1-3).
- B. Failing to respect the time frame John placed on his book has resulted in endless wild theories and interpretations.
- C. The book is a book of war and death, and its pages are stained with the blood of martyred Christians.
- D. (Revelation 1:9; 2:8-11,13; 17:6).
- E. It was written to give hope and encouragement to early Christians.

## II. It is a Book of Symbolic Language

- A. (Revelation 1:1).
- B. "Apocalyptic Literature" – is a genre of highly symbolic prophetic literature foretelling God's intervention and judgment upon nations.
- C. This literature is also used in Daniel, Ezekiel, Isaiah, and Matthew to name a few.
- D. Our challenge in reading this genre of literature is to understand the symbols thousands of years after they were employed.

## III. The Identity of the Antagonists & Outcome

- A. There are four major antagonists in the book.
  1. The Devil/Dragon (Revelation 12:9).
  2. The Roman Empire/Beast of the Sea (Revelation 13:1-10).
  3. The Religion of Rome/ Beast of the Sea (Revelation 13:11-18).
  4. The City of Rome/Mother of Harlots (Revelation 17:3-5, 18).
- B. The outcome of this great conflict.
  1. Christians are victorious (Revelation 12:11).
  2. Even though they might die in the conflict, they will be victorious (Revelation 20:4).

- Conclusion:
1. The book of Revelation predicted a tragic period in the church's history.
  2. To our brothers and sisters who went through this persecution, the message of Revelation was full of comfort and encouragement.
  3. It also reminds us that our eternal well-being is far more important than our temporal well-being.
  4. (Revelation 14:13).