

## ACTS BIBLE STUDY - THE BOOK OF REVELATION - AUTUMN, 2019 PART ONE

The Book of Revelation is written in a style known as apocalyptic literature. It declares itself to be material that reveals truth behind appearances and, as such, is it challenging for people to read and understand. Yet, it has always been an intriguing book for faithful Christians and continues to be so.

### The Setting of the Book of Revelation

John is the author, but what John of the early Christian community is not clear. He is likely not the John of the first disciples, but probably a later individual who was known and respected. The book was written from the island of Patmos, south-west of Ephesus near Greece, around 95 AD, It was written to the Seven Churches of Asia Minor (modern Turkey) classically believed to have been founded by Saint Paul. John, writing in exile under persecution, communicates to the churches living in a climate of great fear and uncertainty, attempts to give the people cause for hope in the midst of tribulation.

### The Nature of the Book of Revelation

Much symbolism, open to various interpretations appears in the book. This suggests that we not take literally most of what we read and discuss. Still, there is much to be learned from a mature engagement with the text as well as awareness of how the material has gone through a great deal of different explanation over the years. The book needs to be engaged as a whole with a solid understanding of the context within which it first appeared. A book like this is best studied by a group, with different opinions expressed, rather than read by a person reading alone.

Reading Assignments (Part One) Sessions one through five - using guidance provided by our DK Study article on the Book of Revelation, pages 468-469. Other articles will also be suggested.

### Key Themes of the Book of Revelation

Maintaining Faith in Spite of Temporary Suffering  
Believing that the Final Victory Belongs to God  
Jesus will then Return to take His Own to Heaven with Him

### Study Schedule

September 26th (Revelation chapters 1-3) Messages to the Seven Churches  
October 3rd (Revelation chapters 4-5) Introducing God and the Lamb of God  
October 10th (Revelation chapters 6-7) Seals are Opened, 144,000 Elect are Named  
October 17th (Revelation chapters 8-9) The Seventh Seal, Idolaters are Exposed  
October 24th (Revelation chapters 10-12) Woman and Dragon, War in Heaven

This schedule may be adjusted.

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