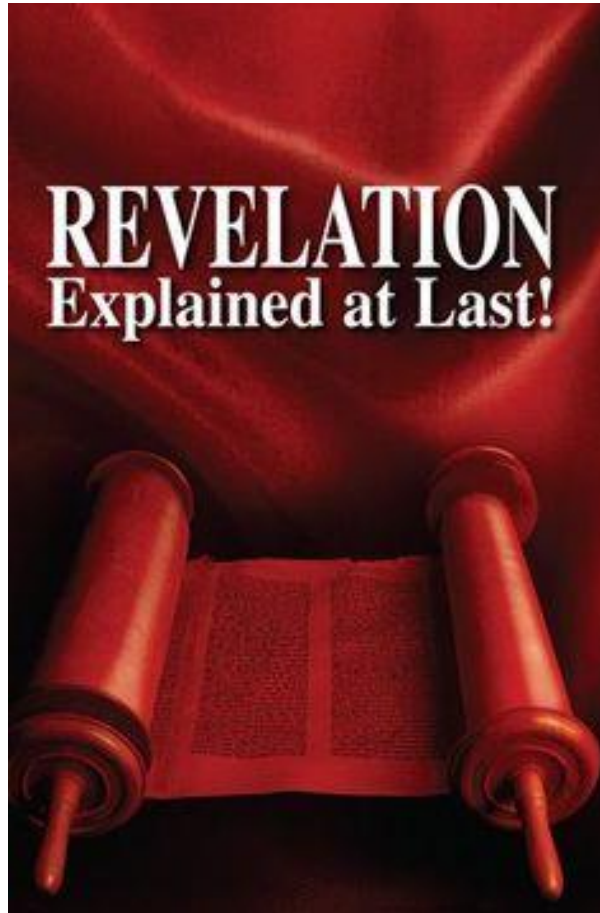


# Questions and Answers about Revelation

by Charles S. Meek



## **When was Revelation written?**

ANSWER: Contrary to popular opinion, the evidence is strong that the book was written in the mid-60's AD, prior to the fall of Jerusalem in AD 70. Here are some important clues, among MANY others: It was written during the reign of Nero, the sixth emperor of Rome (Revelation 17:10 "now is") who ruled from AD 54 to AD 68. It was written during the tribulation (Revelation 1:9; 2:9), which Jesus time-restricted to HIS OWN GENERATION (Matthew 24:9, 21, 29, 34). (Note: The same Greek word for tribulation, "*thlipsis*," is used in Matthew 24 and Revelation.) Revelation was written while the temple was still standing (Revelation 11:1). There is no mention in the book of the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70 as a past event, so it must have been written before AD 70. (*Kenneth Gentry—book below— identified over 130 theologians as holding to this early dating of Revelation.*)

## **When was Revelation fulfilled?**

ANSWER: While Revelation is a timeless book with universal application (Revelation 5:9; 7:9; 10:11; 13:7; 14:6), over 30 passages demand its imminent fulfillment. Our interpretation is arbitrary and inconsistent if we ignore the time statements given in the book itself. From the very beginning to the very end we see such statements as “MUST SHORTLY TAKE PLACE,” “SOON,” “NEAR,” and “ABOUT TO HAPPEN.” So, if Revelation is an inspired book, we must look for first-century solutions to its fulfillment. God can tell time. He does not deceive. Here’s a list of all 30 passages that directly or indirectly point to a first-century fulfillment:

Revelation 1:1; 1:3; 1:7; 1:9-10; 1:19; 2:10; 2:16; 2:25; 3:10; 3:11; 4:1; 6:12-7; 8:13; 10:6-7; 11:2; 11:8; 11:15-19; 12:5; 14:7; 14:14-20; 15:5-8; 16:6; 16:19; 17:8; 18:19, 24; 20:7-10; 20:11-15; 22:6; 22:7; 22:10; 22:12; 22:20.

## **Who is the Harlot Babylon?**

ANSWER: Scholars agree that the major theme of Revelation is the judgment of “Babylon,” but disagree on what Babylon represents. Babylon was an historic enemy of God’s people, and it is used symbolically in Revelation to represent Old Covenant Israel/Jerusalem who had become unfaithful. This is prominent in chapters 16-19. Jesus’ wrath, promised in Revelation, would come against “the great city Babylon” (Revelation 18:21-24; cf. Matthew 23:29-39) which is clearly identified as the “city where the Lord was slain” (Revelation 11:8-9). This unambiguously confirms that the Great Judgment was against Jerusalem. Just as God judged nations in the Old Testament by sending opposing armies to execute his justice, God sent the Roman army to judge apostate Jerusalem in AD 70.

## **What are the 7 judgments (seals, trumpets, plagues, bowls)—Revelation 6, 8, 11, 16?**

ANSWER: Notice that there are 4 sets of 7 judgments. This is a reflection of Leviticus 26:14-33, where there are 4 sets of 7 judgments which God would levy against the Israelites if they disobeyed. The number 7 is often used in the Bible for completion. The Revelation judgment was extracted against Old Covenant Israel in AD 70, ending once for all the Judaistic system of the Old Covenant.

## **What was the Great White Throne Judgment (Revelation 20:11-15)?**

ANSWER: If the above is correct, then this passage also has to be about judgment on Old Covenant Israel. We will all be judged when we die per Hebrews 9:27, but the context demands that the Great White Throne Judgment of Revelation is about God’s judgment on apostate Israel in AD 70.

### **Who are the two witnesses (Revelation 11:1-14)?**

ANSWER: Jewish law from Deuteronomy 17:6 taught that on the testimony of two or three witnesses, a person can be put to death. Revelation is about legal judgment against Old Covenant Israel. While various people have been suggested (Moses/Elijah, etc.), the two witnesses are probably not literal, but rather a Jewish symbol of the covenant lawsuit.

### **What is the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:2, 9-27)?**

ANSWER: Contrary to what dispensationalists think, the New Jerusalem is not a spaceship! Revelation 21:2, 9 tells us that the New Jerusalem is the wife of the Lamb. The overarching theme of Revelation is God divorcing Old Covenant Israel (“Babylon”) for her apostasy and unfaithfulness, taking a new bride. Most Christians will acknowledge that the church is the bride of Christ. Hebrews 12:22 confirms that the heavenly Jerusalem was already a present reality for the first-century Christians. Further confirmation comes from Revelation 21:14, where the New Jerusalem is described as being built on the foundation of the twelve apostles! Who else could this be but the church?



Hopefully now, in your studies, you can begin to fill in the blanks about the wonderful book of Revelation. For more about Revelation, see the articles in section B of my website:

<https://prophecyquestions.com/2016/02/01/articles-by-charles-meek/>

Recommended books for further study:

- DAYS OF VENGEANCE by David Chilton
- BEFORE JERUSALEM FELL by Kenneth Gentry