

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for January 7-8, 2006

“The Unveiling”
Revelation 1:1-3

By way of introduction, John provides five characteristics which are essential for us to know in order to accurately understand this marvelous book.

I. Characteristic #1–We must understand the subject of Revelation (Revelation 1:1).

A. The subject of Revelation is evident in the title of the book.

The Greek name of the book is APOCALYPSE, which is translated “*Revelation*” and literally means, “an uncovering,” “a laying bare,” or “to become visible.”

Some have suggested that since it is “the Revelation of Jesus Christ” that it is an unveiling of Christ, but upon closer examination of the title, Jesus is not the one being revealed, He is functioning in the role of revealer.

B. The subject of Revelation is evident in the topic of the book.

Revelation 1:19 provides the overall structure or outline of the book of Revelation.

II. Characteristic #2–We must understand the scribe of Revelation (Revelation 1:1-2).

A. We must recognize the heavenly avenue of Revelation.

It originated with God the Father, was given to Jesus Christ, who communicated it by His angel to His bond servant John, who in turn penned the book of Revelation in order to show Christ’s bond-servants what must soon take place.

B. We must recognize the human author of Revelation. The Apostle John was the human author of the book of Revelation.

1. John’s authorship is attested to by the direct statement of Scripture (Revelation 1:1, 4, 9; 22:8).
2. John’s authorship is attested to by the historical record.
3. John’s authorship is attested to by linguistic similarities to his other writings.

C. We must recognize the honest audience of Revelation.

John not only indicates that he himself is the human author of Revelation, but he also identifies himself as an eyewitness to what he wrote.

John personally witnessed in a series of visions “*the things which must soon take place.*”

III. Characteristic #3–We must understand the special blessing of Revelation.

A. This special blessing is recognized as a beatitude (cf. Matthew 5:3-12; Revelation 14:13; 16:15; 19:9; 20:6; 22:7; 22:14).

B. This special blessing requires obedience (cf. James 1:22-25).

C. This special blessing recalls the practice of the early church (cf. Luke 4:16-20).

D. This special blessing relates its purpose (cf. Luke 12:35-40).

Are you ready for the future? Are you ready for Christ’s return? What in your life needs to change, so that you are ready when Christ returns?