

SUMMARY
 REVELATION
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	GENERAL
Date of writing:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Around 68 (persecution of Nero – Rome). • Around 70 (fall and destruction of Jerusalem). • Around 92 (persecution of Domitian – Asia). • Other scholars make other suggestions.
Author:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The apostle John. • Although some scholars are searching for an other John. This search is in vain.
Source:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Revelation God has given to his apostel (1:1).
Character:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is a letter and a book written to the seven churches in Asia = a Roman province. • It is a liturgical book, because of the many songs, prayers, acclamations. • It is a prophetic book, because of the prophecies.

	LANGUAGE
Greek:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Greek is strongly influenced by the Aramaic.
Figurative language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John makes use of highly figurative language. This means: there are many images. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Simile = “like” and “as”: he is like a lion. ◦ Metaphor = does not make use of “like” and “as”: the lion, whereby not the animal is meant, but a strong person, or something else. ◦ Symbol = a special case of metaphor. A Christian symbol is the CROSS. In Revelation the LAMB is a symbolic designation of Jesus Christ. • The reader should be aware of the manifold use of these images and use of language.

NUMERICAL SYMBOLS	
Introduction:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John did make use of numbers, these numbers have foremost a symbolic meaning.
Basic numbers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ the vertical axis: heaven, earth, waters ◦ the number of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit ◦ (this is a triangle number) • 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ the horizontal axis: the four corners of the earth ◦ (this is a square number)
Derived numbers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • $1/3$ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ meaning: coming from heaven (vertical axis) • $1/4$ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ meaning: coming from earth (horizontal axis) • $7 (3 + 4)$ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ meaning: completeness, totality (vertical and horizontal axis) • $7 (4 + 2 + 1)$ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ this combination is used to structure some parts of Revelation • $10 (4 + 3 + 2 + 1)$ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ a triangle number ◦ meaning: completeness • $12 (3 * 4)$ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ meaning: the people of God (12 tribes; 12 apostles) • $42 (6 * 7)$ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ meaning: the period that Israel wandered in the wilderness (42 years, but also 42 camping-sites, before they entered the promised land) ◦ alternative descriptions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 42 months ▪ $1260 \text{ days} = (42 * 30)$ ▪ times, a time and half a time = three and a half year • $1000 (10 * 10 * 10)$ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ meaning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ great totality ▪ concerning years it is a reference to eternity • $144.000 (12 * 12 * 1000)$ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ $12 * 12 =$ a square number. ◦ meaning: probably a reference to an army

BACKGROUND – OLD TESTAMENT	
Introduction:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You cannot understand the Revelation without thorough knowledge of the Old Testament:
Old Testament Books	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exodus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Oppression – Deliverance – Promised land ◦ especially: the Tabernacle ◦ especially: Exodus 19:5,6 and Exodus 19:16 • Genesis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ The Paradise ◦ The promise (Genesis 3:15) • Daniel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Prophet of the Exile ◦ The kingdoms – beasts ◦ The vision of the Son of Man (Daniel 7:13-14) ◦ The vision of Michael, the archangel • Ezekiel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Prophet of the Exile ◦ The commission of the prophet, eating of the scroll (Ezekiel 3 – Revelation 10) ◦ The vision of the throne in heaven (Ezekiel 1) ◦ The destruction of the city of Tyre (Ezekiel 26-29 – Revelation 17-18) ◦ The vision of the dry bones (Ezekiel 37 – Revelation 20:1-6) ◦ Gog and Magog (Ezekiel 38 – Revelation 20:7-10) ◦ The vision of the New Temple (Ezekiel 40-48) • Isaiah <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ The vision of the throne in heaven (Isaiah 6) • Zachariah <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Prophet of the exile, or shortly afterwards • The book of Psalms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Psalm 2 – Son of God, receiving the all power and of judgment ◦ Psalm 96, 98 – A new song
Old Testament themes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The deliverance out of Egypt • paradise – tabernacle – temple – Jerusalem – the new Jerusalem – new paradise • The Priestly Kingdom (Exodus 19:5,6) • The spiritual war between the offspring of the serpent and the offspring of the woman (Genesis 3:15) • Cities: Jericho, Sodom, Egypt, Babylon (Tyre), Jerusalem

	THEOLOGICAL THEMES
Theological important “themes”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Trinity • The NAME of God • The Creation • The people of God <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Old Testament – Israel ◦ New Testament – the Church • The New Creation • The Lord's Day – Day of Judgement • The wrath of God • The LAMB, his crucifixion, resurrection and enthronement, his second return to judge the world

	GREEK-ROMAN BACKGROUND
Cities in Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Revelation was sent to christians living in the actual situation of their day. • The Revelation was meant to encourage them, to rebuke them, and to help them to understand their situation in the light of the government of Christ. • In some passages Christ is referring to the local circumstances.
False Religion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roman Emperor Worship • Greek-Roman religion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Especially the worship of the two gods: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Asklepios, the god of healing ▪ Apollo (the father of Asklepios), the god of (averting) disaster ◦ Off coarse, the Roman and the Greek were worshipping many more gods and goddesses

	VIEWS OF INTERPRETATION
4 possible views	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historicist, which sees in Revelation a broad view of history; • Preterist, in which Revelation mostly refers to the events of the apostolic era (1st century); • Futurist, which believes that Revelation describes future events; • Idealist, or Symbolic, which holds that Revelation does not refer to actual people or events, but is an allegory of the spiritual path and the ongoing struggle between good and evil.
Again some views	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Another classification is dealing with the millennial reign of Christ (20:1-10) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Amillennialism – the reign of Jesus extends from his enthronement towards his second coming (Reformed position); ◦ Postmillennialism – there will be a reign of peace after the second coming of Christ

VIEWS OF INTERPRETATION	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Premillennialism – Christ will return a first time and there will be a rapture of the church, during a period of great persecution. After this period there will be a period of peace during which period the Jews will come to faith in Jesus – many variations• Remark: Post- and Premillennialism are very oriented towards the church-history in the West and neglect the church in the other parts in the world. They tend to read the Bible literalistic.• It is found especially in the United States.

