

# Revelation Introduction Continued

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North Penn Church of Christ



## Theme

- Developed in the context of “no reasonable outs....”
- Victory of Christ and His church over the dragon and his angels....
  - War between God’s people and Satan’s....
  - Works of Satan personified by Rome....
  - It will get worse!
  - The outcome is already secure....

# Theme cont.

- God will not abandon His own....
  - He has never lost a battle.
  - When it looks like you're losing, you really aren't...
- The victory of the Lamb was through martyrdom – Rev. 5
  - God knows we will suffer, He understands suffering
  - The total God-head is involved in the remedy – Spirit in ch. 2-3, God, ch. 15:3-4 (sampler)
  - God prepares us for what we must face! (ch. 2-3)





## Theme cont.

- Don't give up!
- They overcome by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony – Rev. 12:10-11



# Terms

- Apocalypse – Simply means “Revelation.”
- Revelation – An unveiling of God and His purposes, ultimately as it is tied to Jesus – I Cor. 1:7, I Pet. 1:7; In Revelation, more of an understanding of God’s purposes in light of persecution.
- Witness – from the Greek, “μαρτυς” – martyr.
- Antichrist – Never appears in the book of Revelation, must not be inserted there. Does not belong. I John 2:18-22, 4:3, II John 7 – anyone who does not acknowledge Jesus as coming in the flesh.

# Characteristics of Apocalyptic Literature

1. Most often written in the context of persecution, suffering, and judgement.
2. Main lesson – don't give up – usually to a pagan threat, but not always
3. Never told in earthly terms, rather cosmic. To get us to see beyond our small, historical context.

# Characteristics of Apocalyptic Literature

## 3. cont.

C. Reveals the supernatural world and activities of supernatural beings

D. The final judgement against evil is a common theme

E. In light of these things, the recipients are exhorted to faithfulness.

4. Often written under a pseudonym – Revelation is an exception

## Characteristics of Apocalyptic Literature cont.

5. It is prophesy, but you never ask the question “when?”

6. It has historical importance

7. It is never told in an historical account

8. Popular from 200 BC to 200 AD