

REVELATION

~ Lesson 1 ~

“Introduction”

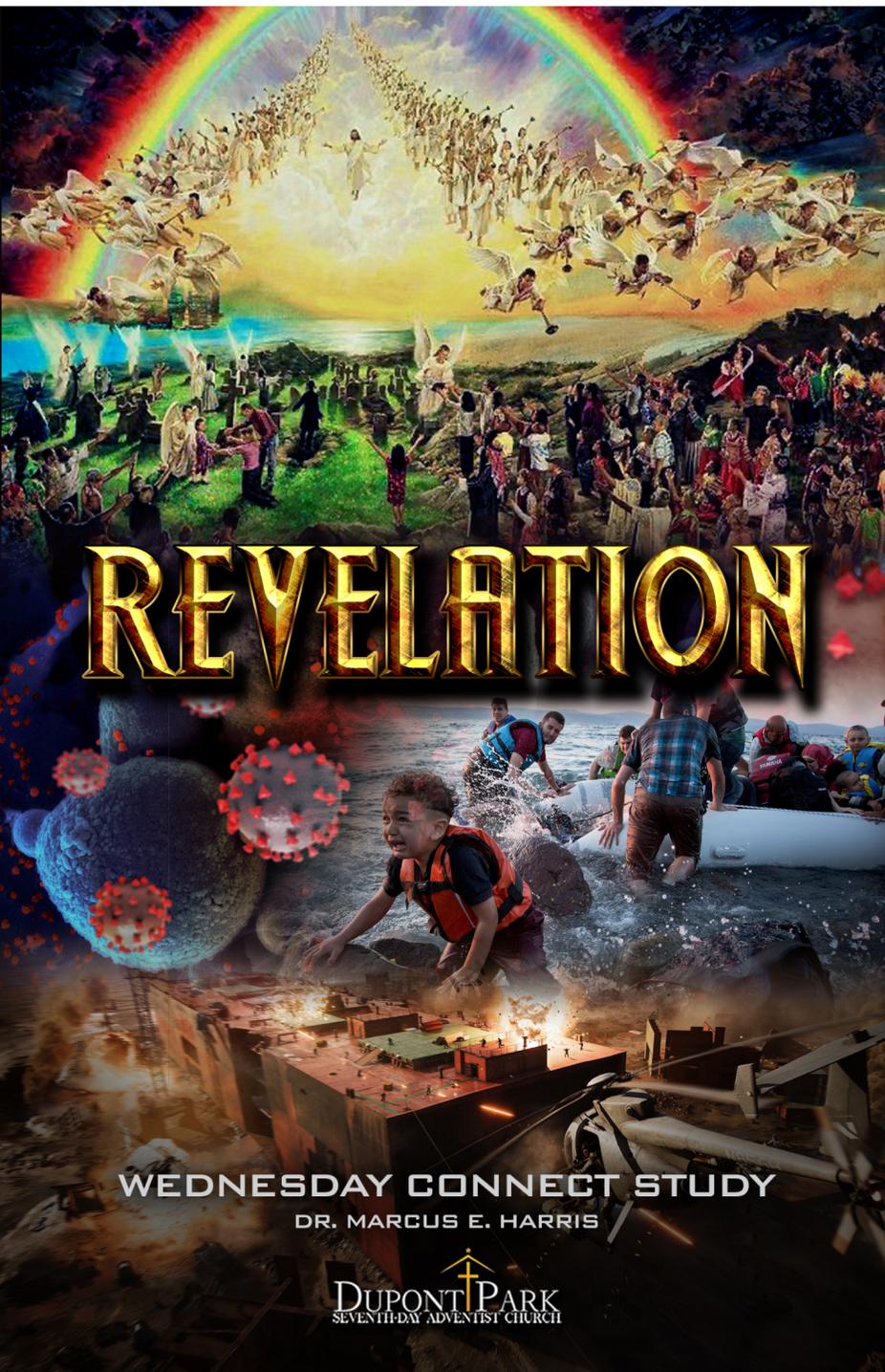
WEDNESDAY CONNECT STUDY

DR. MARCUS E. HARRIS



Introduction

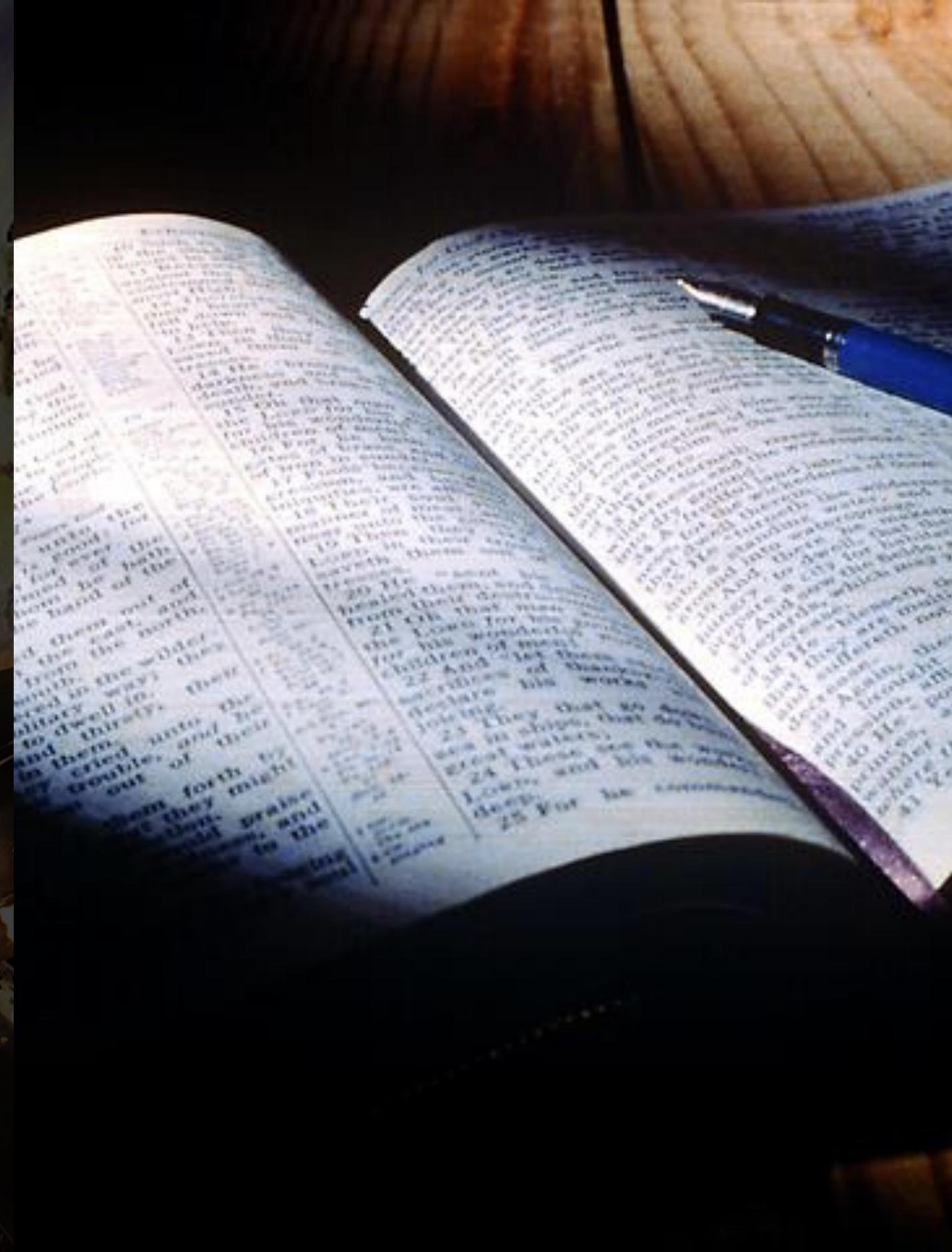
Our journey through this amazing book of the Bible begins. Many theologians consider Revelation the companion book of prophecy to the book of Daniel... Replete with dramatic scenes of prophetic symbolism, Old Testament Sanctuary imagery, and the unveiling of what the “last days,” or the “end of time,” will bring, the purpose of its message is clearly stated in the opening verses. With prayer and the aid of the Holy Spirit, we open these pages to hear what God is saying to His people in our day. In this introduction to the study of this book, as with Daniel, we will consider the stage, the backdrop - the historical context as we open this tremendous prophetic message.



Focus Text

Revelation 1:1–3 (NKJV)

The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants—things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John, ² who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw. ³ Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.



Background

- The Human Author of the Book
- The Date Of the Book
- Political Picture
- State Of The Church

REVELATION

The Backdrop

Imperial Rome has decided to stamp out Christianity and heavy persecution has fallen on the early church. All of John's fellow apostles have been put to death and he has been banished to the Island of Patmos. From a human point of view, this is a critical time for the struggling early church.

Kenneth Cox, Daniel Pure and Simple

A scroll of aged, yellowish parchment with a rough, torn edge. The scroll is unrolled and laid flat against a dark, textured background. The word "Revelation" is written in a large, white, serif font across the center of the scroll. The scroll is held in place by two small wooden rollers at the top and bottom edges.

“Revelation”

The Book

✦ **Authorship**

- ✦ John - Some Scholarly controversy.
 - ✦ **John The Apostle** – One of the original twelve disciples of Jesus and a member of the “Intimate Three.” Gospel
 - ✦ **John The Elder** – Thought to be the author of the 3 epistles of John. He is never mentioned in the New Testament, but was spoken of by the early church fathers.
 - ✦ **John The Seer** – Otherwise known as “John the Revelator.” The one exiled on Patmos and the recipient of the vision of the “things that must shortly come to pass.”



“Revelation”

✦ **Authorship**

- ✦ Traditionally held to have been written by the disciple John.
- ✦ He is the brother of James and the son of Zebedee.
- ✦ Several references to the phrase – “the disciple whom Jesus loved.”
- ✦ Five references in the Gospel: John 13:23; 19:26; 20:2; 21:7, 20



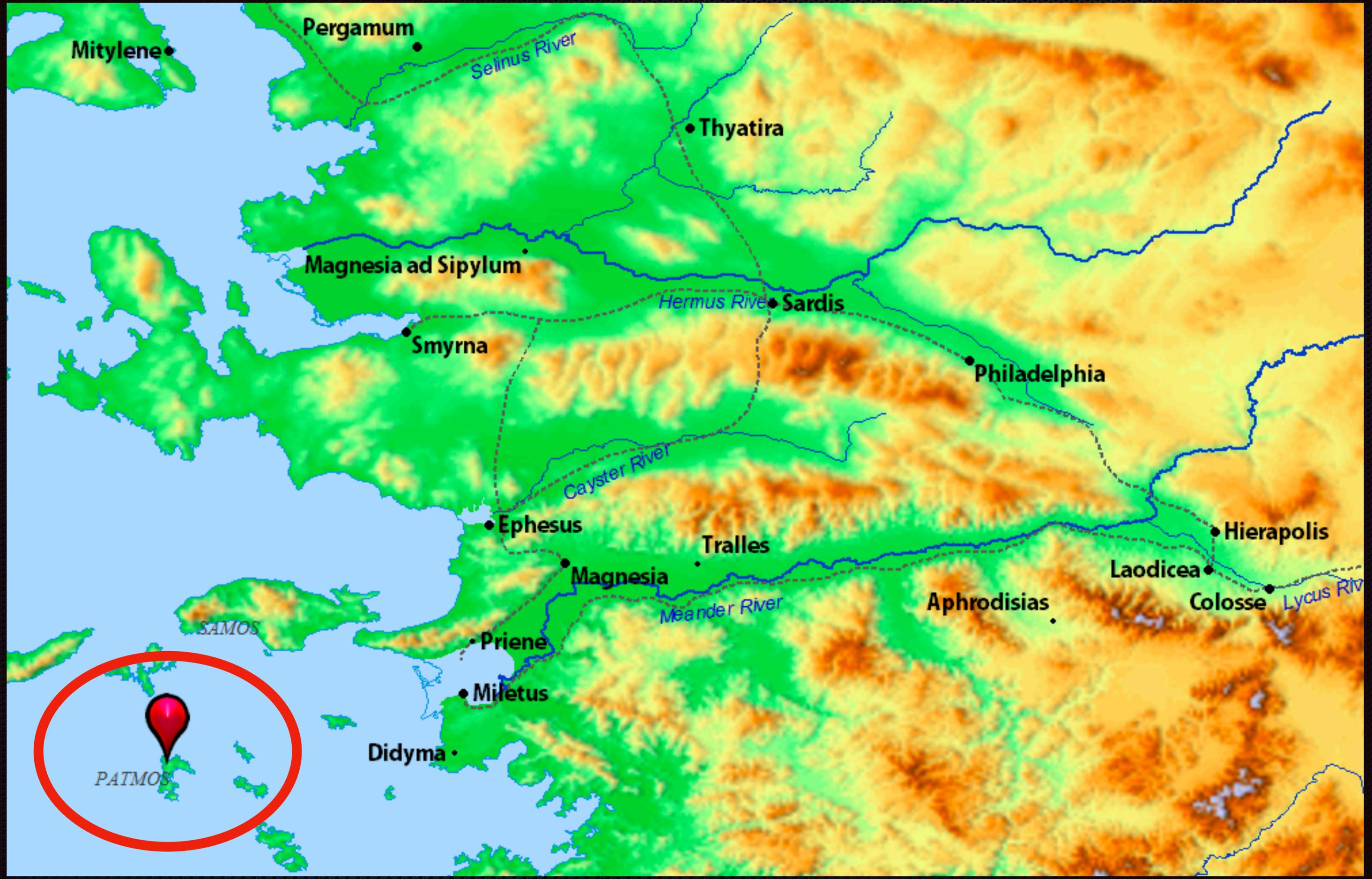
“Revelation”

✦ **Date**

- ✦ Best estimate - 80 -90 CE
- ✦ Reference point - his exile on Patmos during the reign of the Roman Emperor Domitian (A.D. 81-96).
- ✦ Believed that John was released in 96 CE by Emperor Nerva and returned to Ephesus where he finished writing and later died.
- ✦ Backdrop - Severe Christian Persecution



"Revelation"



✦ Purpose

- ✦ Written as a pastoral letter - a message of encouragement for the existing Christian Churches.
- ✦ For all Christians throughout history until the end of time
- ✦ God is in full control and is the Supreme Ruler of all.
- ✦ God will be victorious in the end!



"Revelation"

✦ Interpretative Approaches

- ✦ **Preterist** - A method of interpretation that places the whole significance of Revelation in the past.
- ✦ **Futurist** - Interprets the prophecies of Revelation exclusively from the end-time perspective. (Just before the 2nd coming of Jesus Christ)
- ✦ **Idealist** - Based on preterist ideas - the message was for 1st century Christians and churches and also predicts and describes the ongoing Great Controversy.
- ✦ **Historicism** - Revelation portrays, in symbolic presentations, the course of history unfolding from the first century until the end-time.



“Revelation”

The structure of Revelation is also designed according to the sanctuary services in the Old Testament. The book is replete with references to the temple and its articles of furniture. The heavenly temple in Revelation is seen as the center of all divine activity on earth. The entire book appears to be modeled on the Old Testament sanctuary services.

Stefanovic, Ranko. Plain Revelation (p. 19). Andrews University Press. Kindle Edition.



“Revelation”

● **The Seven Visions -**

1. Revelation 1:9–20— Christ, in the midst of the lampstands
2. Revelation 4–5 - The Heavenly Throne Room
3. Revelation 8:2–5 - Sanctuary Ministry of Intercession -Earth & Heaven
4. Revelation 11:19 - Christ's New Ministry in Heaven - Judgement
5. Revelation 15:5–8 - Christ's Mediatorial Ministry Ends
6. Revelation 19:1–10 - The Beginning of the End - Babylon Falls
7. Revelation 21:2–22:5 - The New Jerusalem



“Revelation”

● **Threefold Structure**

- (a) the messages to the seven churches, which primarily focus on the historical situation within these churches in Asia Minor during John's time (1:9–3:22);
- (b) the historical part, which primarily focuses on history's unfolding from the first century until the end of time (chaps. 4–11); and
- (c) the eschatological part, which primarily focuses on the time of the end and the events leading up to the coming of Christ and the establishment of God's kingdom (12:1–22:5).

Stefanovic, Ranko. Plain Revelation (pp. 22-23). Andrews University Press.



“Revelation”

The Book

1. The Apocalypse
2. Generates Curiosity and Interest
3. Strange Images - Frightening Declarations
4. Hard to read and interpret
5. Therefore - A sealed Book!



"Revelation"

Isaiah 28:12–13 (NKJV)

To whom He said, “This is the rest with which You may cause the weary to rest,” And, “This is the refreshing”; Yet they would not hear. ¹³ But the word of the Lord was to them, “**Precept upon precept,** precept upon precept, **Line upon line,** line upon line, Here a little, there a little,” That they might go and fall backward, and be broken And snared and caught.



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Revelation 1:3 (NKJV)

Blessed is he who **reads** and those who **hear** the words of this prophecy, and **keep** those things which are written in it; for the time is near.



"Revelation"

Revelation 22:7 (NKJV)

“Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed is he who **keeps the words** of the prophecy of this book.”



“Revelation”

Revelation 22:10 (NKJV)

And he said to me, “Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand.



“Revelation”

Terms Of Reference

Beasts – Daniel 7:23 _____ **Nations -Kingdoms**

Water – Revelation 17:15 _____ **People**

Day – Ezekiel 4:6 _____ **Year**

Stars – Revelation 1:20; Daniel 8:10 _____ **Angels**

Terms Of Reference

Angels – Malachi 2:7 **Messenger**

Dragon – Revelation 20:2 **Satan - Devil - Lucifer**

Lampstands – Revelation 1:20 **Seven Churches**

Outline

- Revelation 1 Prologue
- Revelation 2-3 The Seven Churches
- Revelation 4-5 The Throne Room & The Lamb
- Revelation 6-8:1 The Seven Seals & The Overcomers
- Revelation 8:2-9 The Seven Trumpets - 1 (1-6)
- Revelation 10 The Mighty Angel and the Little Book
- Revelation 11 The Two Witnesses & The 7th Trumpet

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Outline

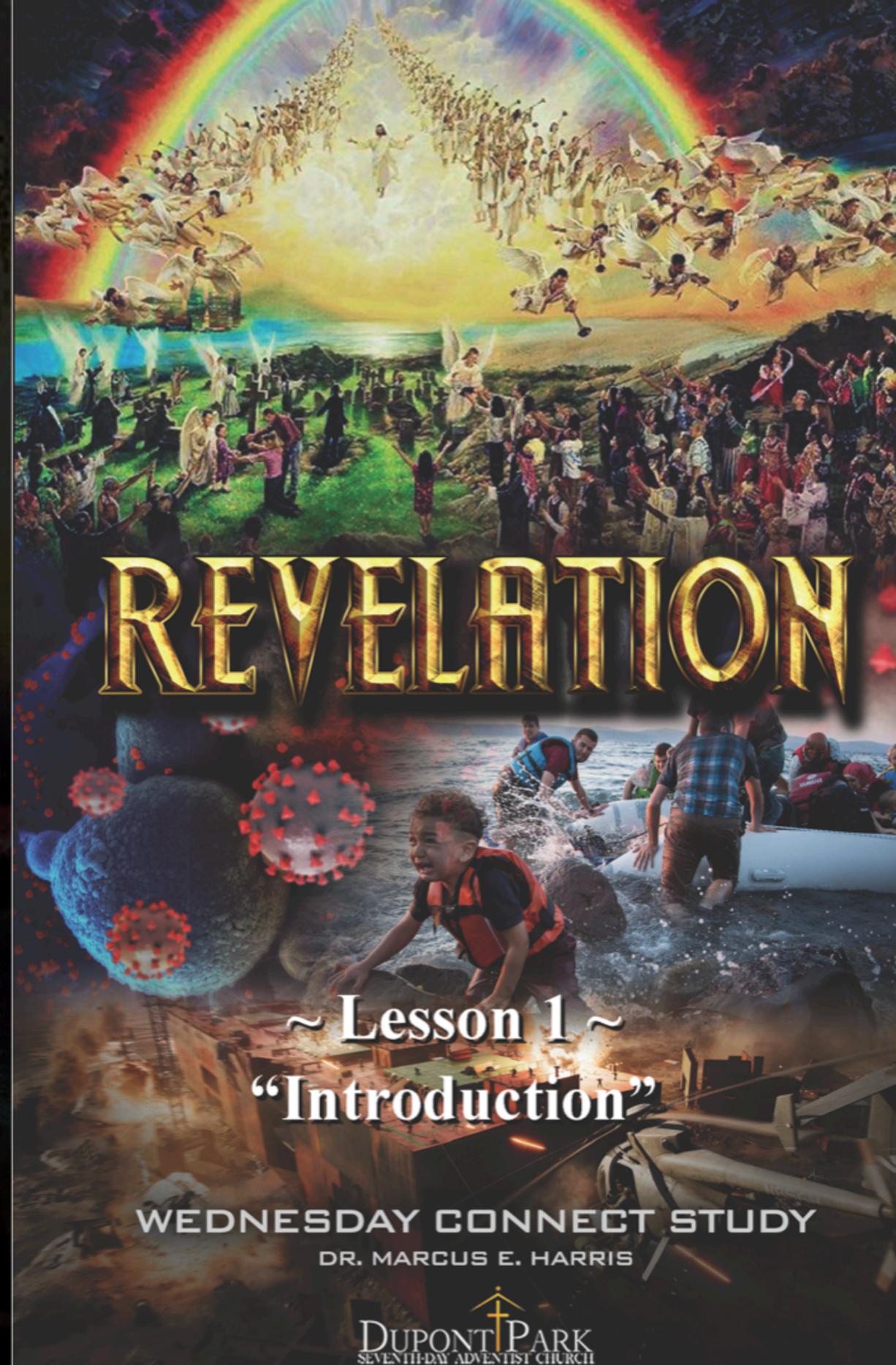
- Revelation 12 The Woman Clothed With the Sun
- Revelation 13 The Beast From The Sea And His Mark
- Revelation 14 The 3 Angels' Messages
- Revelation 15-16 The Seven Last Plagues
- Revelation 17-18 The Great Harlot & Babylon's Fall
- Revelation 19-20 The Two Suppers & The Millennium
- Revelation 21-22 The Third Coming & The New Earth

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Revelation 1 Outline

- Revelation 1:1-2 The Revelation of Jesus Christ
- Revelation 1:3 How to Find Jesus in Revelation
- Revelation 1:4-6 John's Greeting to the Seven Churches
- Revelation 1:7-8 The Alpha and the Omega
- Revelation 1:9-11 The Lord Tells John to Write
- Revelation 1:12-16 Jesus, Our High Priest and King
- Revelation 1:17-20 The Mystery Revealed

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WEDNESDAY CONNECT STUDY

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PART II

REVELATION



WEDNESDAY CONNECT
ONE HOUR PRAYER & BIBLE STUDY
7:00 P.M. ON ZOOM

CALL THE CHURCH AT (202) 583-7416 FOR LOGIN INFO.