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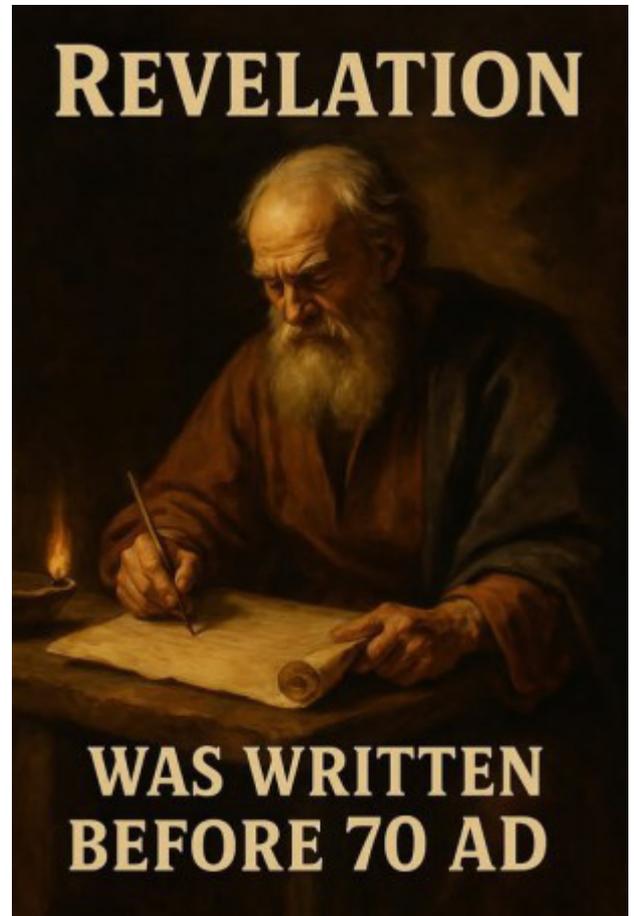
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Revelation Written - Revelation: When Was It Written?



By Dan Maines

Revelation: When Was It Written?

As a Preterist, I firmly believe that the Book of Revelation was written before 70 AD. This is not just a theory, but a conclusion based on internal scriptural evidence, historical records, and logical reasoning. If Revelation was written after 70 AD, it could not have served its intended purpose to warn first-century believers of the coming judgment upon Jerusalem.

Revelation 1:1 sets the tone: "The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things

which must soon take place..." How could the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD be "soon" or "near" if the book was written in 96 AD?

Revelation was urgent for those churches. If it was written after the temple fell, then the entire urgency becomes pointless. Yet modern futurists keep stretching words like "soon," "at hand," "quickly," and "this generation" to mean 2,000 years. How long until they redefine "urgent" too?

Historical Timing and Nero

The Apostle John was placed on the island of Patmos by **Nero**, who died in 68 AD. This proves Revelation had to be written during Nero's reign (54–68 AD), not under Domitian.

Irenaeus is the one source people use to push a 96 AD date. But Irenaeus did not say John saw the Revelation during Domitian's reign. In fact, the word used in the Greek text is **Domitius**, which refers to **Lucius Domitius Ahenobarbus**, known as **Nero**, not Domitian.

Christians were not being persecuted by Rome under Domitian in 96 AD. Rome's persecution under Nero, however, was brutal. Why would John be exiled in peace-time?

Revelation 2:13 mentions Antipas, a faithful martyr. History shows Antipas died under Nero, not Domitian. This aligns with a pre-70 AD authorship.

John and the Churches Were in the Same Tribulation

Revelation 1:9 – "I, John, your brother and fellow partaker in the tribulation..." John identifies with their suffering. He wasn't writing about a distant tribulation 2,000 years away. He was living it.

Revelation 2:2, 2:9-10, 2:13, 3:10 – These churches were in the middle of hardship. What event after 96 AD could John have possibly been warning them about with urgency? There is none.

The Temple Was Still Standing

Revelation 11:1 – John is told to measure the temple. How could he do that if it had already been destroyed in 70 AD?

The city is still standing in the text. Revelation 11:8 says the two witnesses are slain in "the great city which mystically is called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified." That is **Jerusalem**, still standing during John's writing.

More Proof of Pre-70 AD Writing

Revelation 2:2 shows apostles were still alive. If the book was written after 70 AD, this would be unlikely, as history shows most apostles had died by then.

Judaizers are mentioned in Revelation 2:9 and 3:9. After 70 AD, Judaizers were no longer a threat. They were destroyed along with the temple.

Laodicea was destroyed in an earthquake around 65 AD. Why would John write to them in 96 AD if they no longer existed?

Only 7 churches are addressed. By 96 AD, Christianity had spread rapidly. Why mention only 7 if others were prominent?

John's Gospel and Present Tense Language

John 5:2 – "Now there is in Jerusalem... a pool, which is called Bethesda..." He writes in the **present tense**. Bethesda was destroyed in 70 AD. This suggests his gospel, and Revelation, were written before then.

Political Clues: The Beast, the Kings, and Nero

Revelation 17:10 – "Five kings have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come..." The sixth king, "who now is," would be **Nero**, the sixth emperor of Rome. This means Revelation was written **before 68 AD**.

Revelation 13:18 – "His number is 666." Nero Caesar's name in Hebrew gematria equals **666**. Why would John urge readers to "calculate" this number if the person would not be born for another 2,000 years? That would be nonsense. The beast was alive when Revelation was written.

Nero persecuted Christians for **42 months** (Rev. 13:5) – from late 64 AD until his death in 68 AD. That fits perfectly.

Jerusalem Is Babylon the Great

Revelation 17:6, 18:24 – The city is "drunk with the blood of the saints." Jesus said the same of Jerusalem in Matthew 23:34-38. In verse 38, He declares: "Behold, your house is left to you desolate." Revelation 18:20-24 confirms the judgment of the prophets' killers. That was Jerusalem, not Rome, not a future one-world government.

Daniel 9:27 and Luke 21:20 tie into this. Luke says: "When you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then recognize that her desolation is at hand." That happened from 66-70 AD.

Final Considerations

Revelation 10:11 – John is told he "must prophesy again before many peoples and nations and tongues and kings." At 90+ years old in 96 AD, John could not travel and preach widely. But in the 60s AD, he could. Church tradition even notes that in his old age, John had to be carried to church and barely spoke.

The siege of Jerusalem began in 66 AD and lasted 3.5 years. Revelation 11:2-3 speaks of 42 months, or 1,260 days. That fits perfectly with the Roman siege that ended in 70 AD.

The two witnesses are killed in the city where Jesus was crucified – again, Jerusalem. Not Rome. Not America. Not some future Babylon.

Conclusion: Do Not Ignore the Time Statements

Revelation begins and ends with a clear time marker:

Revelation 1:1 – "Things which must soon take place."

Revelation 22:10 – "The time is near."

If we ignore these time statements, we risk misunderstanding the entire New Testament. The Bible interprets itself. The destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD is the fulfillment of the prophecy Jesus gave in Matthew 24. Revelation simply confirms and expands on it.

Revelation was not written in 96 AD. It was written around 67 or 68 AD, during the reign of Nero, while the temple still stood. It was fulfilled in the events leading up to and including the destruction of Jerusalem. It was not written for a far-off generation, but for the first-century saints who were told to expect those things soon.

Let us not misplace prophecy. Let us believe Jesus when He said, "Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place" (Matthew 24:34).

Revelation is not about our future. It is about **their** future, and **our** fulfilled past.

He did what He said He would do, when He said He would do it.

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