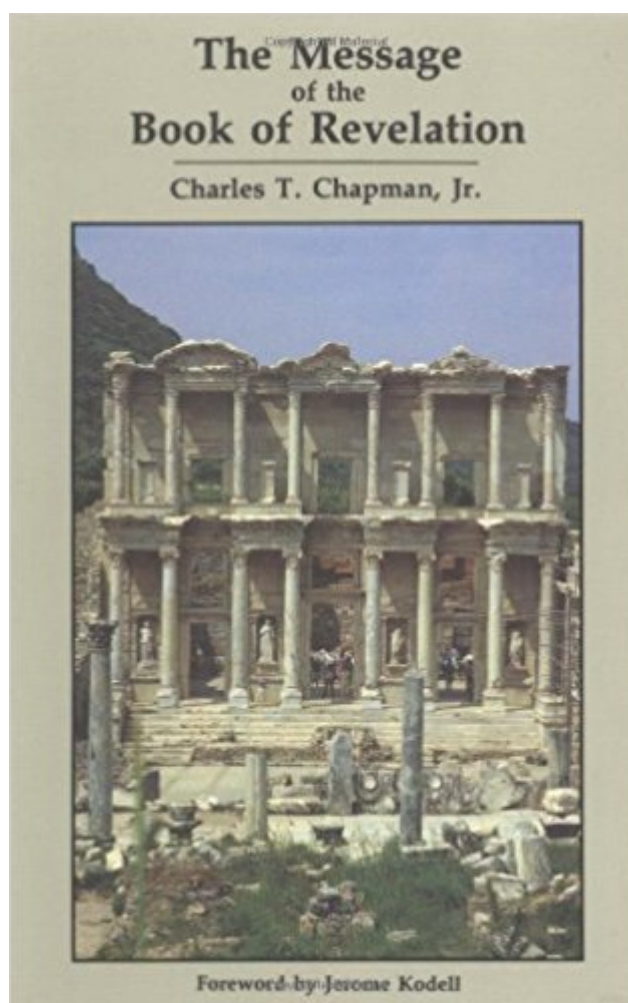


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The Message Of The Book Of Revelation



Synopsis

Perhaps no book in the history of the world has been as misunderstood and misappropriated as the Book of Revelation. Those people versed in the methods of scholarly interpretation (exegesis) may understand the symbolism of this work, but what about the general reader? How is he or she to know whether this book is being soundly interpreted or misinterpreted? Father Chapman writes for the general reader, for the many who need to understand the truth of The Message of the Book of Revelation -both its historical message and its message for Christians today. He explains, phrase by phrase, in clear, direct terms what has been learned about the genre of writings called apocalyptic literature - of which Revelation is a part - and how that knowledge can be properly used to interpret the images and symbols of Revelation. Faithful to the teaching of the Church, this explanation of Revelation "reveals" this biblical book to be an inspiring, hope-filled, poetic portrayal of the triumph of Christ and his followers over the powers of evil. The Rev. Charles T. Chapman, Jr., was raised and educated as a Southern Baptist. He joined the Episcopal Church in 1980 and was ordained priest in 1987. He holds degrees from Union University and The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, with further training at the Episcopal Theological Seminary of the Southwest. With Bible teaching and writing among his principle interests, Fr. Chapman offers this commentary in the hopes that reason and scholarship can shed light on a biblical work where baseless, extravagant imagination has long cast its shadow.

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Customer Reviews

This helpful book interprets Revelation phrase by phrase, putting into terms understandable to the lay reader the sometimes baffling symbols and metaphors of this great New Testament book. The Bible Today. . . excellent scholarly analysis and good pastoral insights. The Catholic Answer

Charles Chapman leads the reader phrase by phrase behind the 'scenes' of the Book of Revelation, explaining in clear, direct, no-nonsense terms what a hundred years of study have discovered about the book.

Clear. Makes this very difficult book of the bible understandable and actually inspiring.

It is amazing. Each sentence is explained

I'm studying this book of the Bible this year. It breaks it down verse by verse with clear information.

good

Good book so far, taking me awhile to get through it though, just me ;-)

Reverend Chapman reminds us that Revelation was not written as a prediction of 21st century events. It was one Apocalyptic story among many and barely made it into the canon of New Testament scripture. It was attributed to a man named John who was very unlikely to have been John the Apostle. Revelation is filled with bizarre dreams and symbolism which are best interpreted within the context of the time and place. In the first couple of centuries CE when apocalyptic literature alluded to the enemy of God - that enemy was Rome. The anti-Christ was Rome's emperor. The whole of Revelation (translation - "New American Bible") is provided, and after each few paragraphs of verse, Chapman gives detailed explanations of the strange language and mysterious symbols that make up Revelation. He shows that if it is interpreted within the context of the day, it is not nearly so unclear. He assists the reader further with a helpful "Thinking Aloud" segment each few pages. To modern day Christians, Chapman gives this overall interpretation: Christians who suffer can be assured that God is in control over the forces of evil and believers can be confident that he will prevail. Interestingly, Chapman is an Episcopalean minister and his book came to me through the Catholic Church my wife attends. I recommend it highly for those faithful Christians who desire a scholarly interpretation of Revelation as opposed to the common belief that

the book predicts impending doom in the modern world.

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