

THE REVELATION OF ST. JOHN

About the Book and it's Author

For ease of discussion the Revelation of St. John will be referred to as the Book of Revelation. So much has been written about this book one would think that it would be an easy book to study, but because interpretations by the various writers seldom agree, they create confusion instead of understanding. Too many opinions and too much speculation infuse their writings as though they were facts. While many believe that it was the Apostle John, alias John the beloved, alias John the Revelator, who wrote the book; some believe it to be a different John. So, if we let the scriptures do the talking, we can cut through the chase and disqualify opinions and speculations as to who the author *on earth* really was; for it goes without saying that God in heaven is the real author.

*ref “the disciple whom Jesus loved;” [John 13:23; 19:26; 20:2; 21:7, 20] [D&C 7:1a-b]

[1 Nephi 3:238-251] The angel spoke unto me, saying, Look! And I looked and beheld a man, and he was dressed in a white robe; [239] And the angel said unto me, Behold one of the twelve apostles of the Lamb! [240] Behold, he shall see and write the remainder of these things; [241] Yes, and also many things which have been; [242] And he shall also write concerning the end of the world; [243] Wherefore, the things which he shall write are just and true; [244] And they are written in the book which you beheld proceeding out of the mouth of the Jew; [245] And at the time they proceeded out of the mouth of the Jew, or, at the time the book proceeded out of the mouth of the Jew, the things which were written were plain and pure, and most precious and easy to the understanding of all men. [246] And the things which this apostle of the Lamb shall write, are many things which you have seen; [247] And behold, the remainder you shall see; [248] But the things which you shall see hereafter, you shall not write; for **the Lord God has ordained the apostle of the Lamb of God that he should write them.** [249] And also others who have been, to them has he shown all things, and they have written them; ... [251] And I, Nephi, heard and bear record, that **the name of the apostle of the Lamb was John.**

When Was the Book Written

[Revelation 1:9] I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

John's use of the past tense, “was in the isle that is called Patmos,” indicates that he wrote the book after his return from exile. He was banished to the isle of Patmos during the persecution of the christians by Domitian who was the Emperor of Rome 81-96 AD. Domitian instituted the Second Imperial Persecution of Christians 95-96 AD, which, though short lived, was extremely severe. Over 40,000 christians were tortured and slain. John was allowed to return to Ephesus in 96 AD and it is likely that he began writing at that time. Early scholars claim that John wrote the book of John between 104 and 110 AD, after he wrote the Book of Revelation; later scholars say around 90 AD.

The Bible was plain and easy to understand when first written, but after it was altered by the church of the devil, which ironically, was custodian over the word of God for twelve hundred and sixty years, it became confusing. For concerning the Bible, an angel of the Lord told Nephi of “the foundation of a great and abominable church, which is most abominable above all other churches; For behold, they have taken away from the gospel of the Lamb many parts which are plain and most precious; And also many covenants of the Lord have they taken away; And all this have they done that they might pervert the right ways of the Lord; that they might blind the eyes and harden the hearts of the children of men.” He saw that the book would go unto all the nations of the Gentiles, (nearly 2100 years later) “even across the many waters which you have seen,” and that “because of the many plain and precious things which have been taken out of the book, which were plain unto the understanding of the children of men, according to the plainness which is in the Lamb of God; Because of these things which are taken away out of the gospel of the Lamb, an exceeding great many do stumble, yea, insomuch that Satan has great power over them.” [1 Nephi 3:165-175, 183]

[1 Nephi 3:243-245] Wherefore, the things which he (John) shall write are just and true; [244] And behold, they are written in the book which you beheld proceeding out of the mouth of the Jew; [245] And at the time they proceeded out of the mouth of the Jew, or, at the time the book proceeded out of the mouth of the Jew, the things which were written were plain and pure, and most precious and easy to the understanding of all men.

Another reason the ministers in this abominable church altered the bible, was so that the church leaders could live the life style they coveted, for Nephi said “I also saw gold and silver, and silks, and scarlets, and fine twined linen, and all manner of precious clothing; and I saw many harlots. *These* are the desires of this great and abominable church; And also for the praise of the world do they destroy the saints of God, and bring them down into captivity. [1 Nephi 3:140-144]

In spite of those changes in the Bible, the faithful have been promised understanding.

[3 Nephi 12:2-4] These things have I written, which are a lesser part of the things which *Jesus* taught the people; and I have written them to the intent that they may be brought again unto this people, from the Gentiles, according to the words which Jesus has spoken. [3] And when they shall have received this, which is expedient that they should have first, to try their faith, and if it shall so be that they shall believe these things, then shall the greater things be made manifest unto them. [4] And if it so be that they will not believe these things, then shall the greater things be withheld from them, unto their condemnation. [Ether 1:98-101]

[Ether 1:109-113] Come unto me, O ye Gentiles, and I will show unto you the greater things, the knowledge which is hid up because of unbelief. [110] Come unto me, O ye house of Israel, and it shall be made manifest unto you how great things the Father has laid up for you, from the foundation of the world; and it has not come unto you, because of unbelief. [111] When you shall rend that vail of unbelief which causes you to remain in your awful state of wickedness and hardness of heart, and blindness of mind, then shall the great and marvelous things which have been hid up from the foundation of the world from you; [112] Yes, when you shall call upon the Father in my name, with a broken heart and a contrite spirit, then shall you know that the Father has remembered the covenant which he made unto your fathers, O house of Israel; [113] Then shall my revelations which I have caused to be written by my servant John, be unfolded in the eyes of all the people.