

# REVELATION REVISITED

## The Ground Rules

And so it seems that we should study this book. God has made it clear that he wants us to study it, and has promised us a blessing for doing so.

But how should we approach this study. What guidelines should we set up? How can we avoid the mistakes that others have made? In studying with others, I have found it helpful to state – before commencing the study – a set of fundamental expectations or guidelines that serve as the starting point for the study. A common understanding of how we will approach this book is the glue that will help us to study and learn together as we go forward.

1.

We must seek to be lead by the Holy Spirit. He is the one who reveals truth. It is not the smartest who will figure out the meaning of these prophecies, it is the one to whom the Holy Spirit reveals the truth. We must listen to Him – He is our teacher.

2.

As we study Revelation, those things that can be understood literally (and make sense when understood literally) should be taken at face value. Only if an obvious figure is being employed should we try to assign another value.

3.

Since “the Bible is it’s own interpreter”, it will be our primary textbook. We will look at what others have said or thought, but the Bible has primary control.

4.

No extra-Biblical source has greater authority than the Bible. Therefore, while we will consider the opinions of others who have studied this book before us, we will not base our decisions on the meaning of any passage solely on those opinions.

5.

Because of the two points just addressed, for purposes of this study Ellen White’s writings may be used descriptively, not authoritatively.

6.

There is no “Seventh Day Adventist” doctrine on Revelation. None of the 27 basic beliefs insist that one hold a particular view on any point of prophecy.

7.

Often, prophecy is understood only when the time for its fulfillment is near. Revelation’s “Mission Statement” is “to reveal the things that are soon to take place”, not those things that are in the irrelevant future.

8.

Allow the book of Revelation to engross the mind. Become immersed in it. A slowly simmered stew always tastes the best.

9.

Expect puzzles that can't be solved.

10.

Expect disagreements. Unanimity is not our goal.

11.

Expect new conclusions.

12.

**PRAY, ASK, SEEK, REASON**