

" Revelation and I Corinthians: Wrap Up and Preview

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Read Acts 18:1 ff.

The Book of Revelation 15:

- 1. a Jesus book from start to finish
- 2. God's last word to the church
- 3. a very special kind of literature
- 4. an unveiling of the awesome wrath of God
- 5. a dramatic portrayal of Jesus as the triumphant Lord of history
- 6. a gift of solid encouragement for the followers of Jesus
- 7. Worth reading again and again and a gain

PAUL'S VISITS TO CORINTH

... motives and movements in connection with his visits to this city... difficult complex, but the following outline of events is likely, and... shall base our discussion of his Corinthian correspondence on this... instruction.

1. The founding of the church (Acts 18:1ff.).
2. Paul leaves Corinth and goes to Ephesus (Acts 18:18f.).
3. He sends the Corinthians a letter, to which he refers in 1 Corinthians 5:9, now lost, though some scholars believe that 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1 may be a fragment of it.¹⁰
 4. He learns from "members of Chloe's household" (1 Cor. 1:11) that the church in Corinth is split into factions.
 5. About the same time, Paul receives a letter from the Corinthians asking for his advice and guidance on certain issues affecting the ordering of worship and Christians' relations with the outside world (1 Cor. 7:1).
 6. He responds to the factiousness and answers their request for advice by writing the letter we know as 1 Corinthians. This letter is taken by Titus (cf. 2 Cor. 12:18, though this verse more probably refers to the "severe letter" visit of para. 10 below), who subsequently returns to Ephesus where Paul is.
 7. Timothy is sent to Corinth on a special mission (1 Cor. 4:17; 16:10).
 8. In the meantime a serious crisis breaks out in Corinth, fomented by the arrival of Jewish emissaries. Paul's authority is challenged (2 Cor. 10:10; 11:23; 12:6f.). Timothy is evidently at a loss to deal with it and returns with the news to Ephesus.
 9. On receiving Timothy's report, Paul pays a brief visit to Corinth, to deal with the issue in person. This he later refers to as the "painful visit" (2 Cor. 2:1). He is humiliated before the church, and has to return to Ephesus in great distress.
 10. He now writes a powerful letter of remonstrance, at great cost to himself, in order to deal with the crisis (2 Cor. 2:4; 7:8). This is known as the "tearful" or the "severe letter," which is either lost or only partially preserved in 2 Corinthians 10-13. Titus is instructed to meet Paul at Troas.
 11. According to the plan outlined in 1 Corinthians 16:5ff., but after some delay caused by the "intermediate visit" to Corinth (mentioned as para. 9 above), Paul leaves Ephesus for Macedonia. He comes to Troas, and cannot find Titus; so he goes on to Macedonia to intercept ~~him~~. ~~II Cor. 7:6~~ *him. II Cor. 2:12 ff.*
 12. Paul meets Titus, who relates that the worst is over, and the rebellion is quelled (2 Cor. 7:6-16).
 13. He writes the letter we have as 2 Corinthians, either in its entirety (in which case the last four chapters are aimed at clearing up the remaining pockets of resistance and opposition in the church) or in part (that is, what we know as chapters 1-9). This letter he sends from Macedonia through Titus, accompanied by two other brethren.
 14. Paul himself reaches Corinth (Acts 20:2).