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How the First-Century, Asia Minor, Jewish Christians Understood the Book of Revelation
Abbreviations: FCAM JC – First-Century, Asia Minor, Jewish Christians; RE – Roman Empire; FW – Faithful Witness

Book of Revelation – 2. Overview Summary

Please see the important details of the following summary in each section at ShaleFragments.com in *The Book of Revelation* category.

a. Four Statements

1. It is a present prophecy. It is not a prediction of the future.
2. It made sense to the first people who heard and read it.
3. It gives an exalted view of Jesus, which was radical in the first century
4. It is Apocalyptic literature; therefore, this literary genre must be understood.

b. Five Main Elements

1. The Trinity
2. The Creation
3. God's people (the Faithful Witnesses)
4. The Opposition
5. The New Jerusalem

c. Themes

Two Core Themes

1. The full unveiling and realization of God's presence (4-5)
2. The cosmic struggle between us and satan (12-13)

Four Theological Themes

1. The Establishment of the Cosmic Rule of God
2. The Role of Faithful Witness
3. The Defeat of Evil
4. The Consummation of the Kingdom

Four Themes in Yeshua's teaching reflected in Revelation

1. The 7 Blessings (compare Matthew 5 and verses in Revelation)
2. The Fulfillment of the Kingdom (other similarities)
3. The Predictions of the Suffering and Vindication for Disciples (Matthew 24)
4. The Role of Faithful Witness (compare Matthew 28 and Revelation 11:3)

d. John's Four Sources

1. The Old Testament
2. The Second-Temple-Period Jewish Literature
3. Greco-Roman Mythology – John engages with these images familiar to the FCAM JCs
4. The Christian worship and visions at the time

e. Four Scenes or Movements

1. **The island called Patmos** (1:9 – 3:20)
1:10 “I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day and I heard behind me a voice like the sound of a shofar saying, write in a book what you see...”
2. **An open door into heaven** (4 – 16:21)
4:2 “I was in the Spirit and, behold, a throne was standing in heaven and One sitting on the throne...”
3. **The wilderness** (17 – 21:8)
17:3 “He carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness, and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast...”
4. **A high mountain** (21:9-10 – 22:21)
21:10 “He carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God...”

f. Who was the Apostle John?