

## Revelation: Introduction

### Highlighting the first six chapters of Hendriksen's Commentary

#### *Purpose*

“In the main, the purpose of the book of Revelation is to \_\_\_\_\_ the militant Church in its struggle against the forces of evil.” (13)

#### *Audience*

“A sound interpretation of the Apocalypse must take as its starting point the position that the book was intended for \_\_\_\_\_ living in John's \_\_\_\_\_ and age.” (16)

#### *Author*

“The real author is not John but Almighty God Himself... To be sure, John the apostle, wrote Revelation. But God, through Christ, was the real \_\_\_\_\_. Therefore, what this book predicts is not the product of human fancy, prone to error, but the revelation of the mind and purpose of God concerning the history of the Church.” (21)

#### *Nine propositions to help guide interpretation*

1. The book of Revelation consists of seven sections. They are parallel and each spans the \_\_\_\_\_ dispensation, from the first to the second coming of Christ. (28)
2. The seven sections may be grouped into \_\_\_\_\_ major divisions. The first major division (chapters 1-11) consists of three sections. The second major division (chapters 12-22) consists of four sections. These two major divisions reveal a progress in depth or intensity of spiritual conflict. The first major division (chapters 1-11) reveals the Church, indwelt by Christ, \_\_\_\_\_ by the world. But the Church is avenged, protected, and victorious. The second major division (chapters 12-22) reveals the \_\_\_\_\_ spiritual background of this struggle. It is a conflict between the Christ and the dragon in which the Christ, and therefore His Church, is victorious. (30)
3. The book is \_\_\_\_\_. The principles of human conduct and divine moral \_\_\_\_\_ are progressively revealed; the lampstands give rise to the seals, the seals to the trumpets, etc. (41)
4. The seven sections of the Apocalypse are arranged in an \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, order. There is progress in eschatological emphasis. The final judgment is first announced, then introduced, and finally described. Similarly, the new heaven and earth are described more fully in the final section than in those that precede it. (44)
5. The fabric of the book consists of \_\_\_\_\_ pictures. The details that pertain to the picture should be interpreted in harmony with its central thought. We should ask two questions. First, what is the entire picture? Second, what is the predominant idea? (48)

6. The seals, trumpets, bowls of wrath, and similar symbols refer \_\_\_\_\_ to specific events, particular happenings, or details of history, but to principles-of human conduct and of divine moral government-that are operating throughout the \_\_\_\_\_ of the world, especially throughout the new dispensation. (51)
7. The Apocalypse is rooted in contemporaneous events and circumstances. Its symbols should be interpreted in the light of conditions that prevailed when the book was \_\_\_\_\_. (54)
8. The Apocalypse is rooted in the sacred Scriptures. It should be interpreted in harmony with the teachings of the \_\_\_\_\_ Bible. (58)
9. The Apocalypse is rooted in the mind and revelation of God. God in Christ is the real Author, and this book contains the purpose of God concerning the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_.” (59)