

# Challenge

*Revelation Was  
Written Before 70AD*

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Modern theology has the date of the writing of the Book of Revelation as being around 96 AD.

If it was written earlier, say 66 AD, it's impact and purpose would be completely different.

What's wrong with the  
'proof' for the late date?

## Challenge

*“Polycarp’s statement, with all of its uncertainty, is the only evidence used to support the “late date” theory of Revelation authorship. It has been accepted by later generations of people without anyone questioning or examining it in the light of the internal facts of the book itself (until now)! →*

## Challenge

→ *The late date theory has been passed on to us in the same way it was passed on to Eusebius, one must admit that "it [was] handed down by tradition".*"

But, tradition is not the proper way to interpret Scripture historically to establish dates of writings and events.

And...

With Irenaeus' writings, he's not totally clear.

*“There is some degree of uncertainty regarding what Irenaeus meant. Was it Domitian or Domitius (Nero) that Irenaeus was referring to?”*

Let's check out the reasons  
for a writing date that puts it  
pre-70AD



The Syriac versions of Revelation has this in the title statement: *"The Apocalypse of St. John, written in Patmos, whither John was sent by Nero Caesar"*.

Nero died in 68 AD, so Revelation was written prior to 68 AD.

The Muratorian Fragment (170AD) states *"...Paul himself, following the order of his predecessor John, he wrote to only seven churches by name..."*.

Paul was killed by Nero in 68AD. Since Paul copied John's example of writing to the 7 churches, then John must have written Revelation prior to Paul's death in 68AD.

Clement of Alexander writes around 180AD, *"...a true account of John the apostle that has been handed down and preserved in memory. When after the death of the tyrant he removed from the island of Patmos to Ephesus"*.

"The tyrant" suggests Nero whose name became synonymous for everything evil.

Revelation was written during the reign of the 6<sup>th</sup> Roman Emperor – *"There are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, and the other has not yet come. And when he comes, he must continue a short time."*  
(Revelation 17:10)

The 6<sup>th</sup> Roman Emperor was Nero. The 7<sup>th</sup> was Galba, killed after 6 months in office.

## REVISION: The “7 Kings” (Caesars)

- Julius Caesar (49-44BC)
  - Augustus (27BC-14AD)
  - Tiberius (14-37AD)
  - Gaius [Caligula] (37-41AD)
  - Claudius (41-54AD)
  - Nero (54AD to June 68AD) ← 1 is
  - Galba (68-69AD *6 months*) ← 1 to come & short
- 5 fallen

Revelation was written during a time of great persecution of believers – *"Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days."* (Revelation 2:10)

The first persecution, under Nero was 67AD.

The temple was still standing in Jerusalem when Revelation was written - *"Then I was given a reed like a measuring rod. And the angel stood, saying, "Rise and measure the temple of God, the altar, and those who worship there".* (Revelation 11:1-2)

**The temple was destroyed in 70AD.**

John was told *“the time is at hand”*, that the information was about things which must *“shortly come to pass”*. The letter closed with this: *“for the time is at hand”* and *“behold, I come quickly”*.

This is not a prophecy about some time after the 20<sup>th</sup> century, but the events of 70AD.



John was told that he *"must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings"*. (Revelation 10:11)

If Revelation was written in 95-96AD, John would have been over 90 years old at the time of the writing. He would have been too frail to have done what was required of him.

Early in AD 60's was the time when there were only 7 churches in Asia.

Paul established 9 churches there, but Colosse, Hierapolis, and Laodicea were destroyed by an earthquake around 61AD. Laodicea was rebuilt soon afterwards, but the other two cities weren't. This left 7 churches.

Jesus told John that an "hour of temptation" was "about to come upon all the world" i.e. on the Roman Empire. (Revelation 3:7-13)

The first persecution of Christians took place under Nero in 64AD. Revelation must have been written before that time.

Jesus said that *"Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles"*. (Luke 21:24) He made a similar statement to John, *"But the court...is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months"*. (Revelation 11:2)

In context, Luke 21 is about the 70AD destruction of Jerusalem and the temple.

Here are 2 similar verses about the destruction of Jerusalem in 70AD:

*"Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds [Gk phule] of the earth shall wail because of him."*

(Revelation 1:7) →

→ *"And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes [Gk phule] of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory." (Matthew 24:30)*

There's no point describing the destruction of Jerusalem if it's already been destroyed.

Gentiles trampled the city of Jerusalem for 3½ years as it was predicted (Revelation 11:2) from 66-70AD during the 2 sieges.

These were Zealots, Galileans, Idumeans and Romans. Every one of these were considered by the Jews as gentiles.

The Song of Moses that the overcomers sang is not recorded, only the Song of the Lamb. (Revelation 15:3-4)

The Song of Moses prophetically warned Israel not to cause God to get angry at their behaviour so he'd destroy them. (Deut. 31:27-29)





## **LINKS**

“What you were never told about the Book of REVELATION” [article]

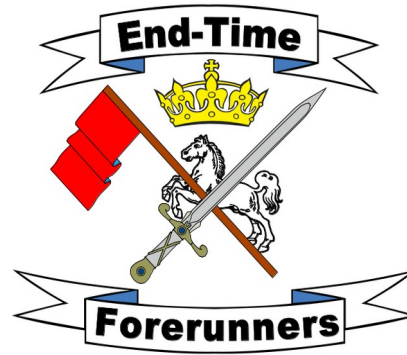
[www.academia.edu/4609411/What\\_you\\_were\\_never\\_told\\_about\\_Revelation](http://www.academia.edu/4609411/What_you_were_never_told_about_Revelation)

“4 Reasons The Book Revelation Was Composed Early—And Is Not Overly Futuristic” [article]

[www.academia.edu/36006795/4\\_Reasons\\_The\\_Book\\_Revelation\\_Was\\_Composed\\_Early](http://www.academia.edu/36006795/4_Reasons_The_Book_Revelation_Was_Composed_Early)



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