

# “I AM THE ALPHA AND THE OMEGA”

## The Book of Revelation to John

**Who wrote The Book of Revelation?**

The Book of Revelation has traditionally been attributed to the Apostle John the writer of the 4<sup>th</sup> Gospel.

**How did The Book of Revelation get its name and/or what does that name mean?**

The Letter is named for its author, the Apostle John. The Greek word for Revelation is Apocalypse.

**When did these events take place?**

John wrote The Book of Revelation while imprisoned on the island of Patmos, a Roman penal colony.

**For more on The Book of Revelation:**

See page 1372 in the [Fireside Catholic Youth Bible](#).

Have you ever woke up suddenly in the middle of a weird dream only to sit in the darkness trying to figure out what it meant? I'm not talking about a nightmare. I'm talking about one of those kinds of dreams that just couldn't happen in real life because it didn't make sense. Maybe you dreamed that your favorite 8<sup>th</sup> grade teacher was playing tennis with your grandmother while on vacation in Minneapolis. Yet, when awake, you realize that you've never been to Minneapolis and your grandmother passed away even before you were in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Or maybe you dreamed that you were looking for your pink cat in the basement when your cell phone rang. Once awake, you realize that you don't have a cat (pink or any other color), your house doesn't have a basement and although you have been begging for one for months, your parents have yet to agree to you owning a cell phone. At times like these, you are probably relieved to know that science has proved that we never remember most of the dreams we have.

Psychologists tell us that most of the things we do remember about our dreams are explainable – not literally, but symbolically. Even the bizarre images or strange events (things we would never expect to actually see or experience) probably represent something very real in our lives. Understanding this symbolism and imagery helps us to make sense out of what otherwise might sound like silliness. Often, once it is analyzed carefully in this context, a dream can actually be explained and make a lot of sense.

Think about The Book of Revelation in the same way. When you do, it will become much more than 22 chapters full of wild stories about fire-breathing dragons and monsters with multiple heads. You won't have to worry that the oceans are going to turn to blood and that all humanity is about to be devoured by monsters or taken into the netherworld in one swoop. Instead, what emerges once the symbolism is understood is a majestic story about how God will protect everyone who lived their lives believing in Him. There is no doubt that The Book of Revelation reveals that there will indeed be tough consequences for everyone who turned their back on God and failed to accept Him into their lives. But, it also paints a picture in the end of how beautiful heaven will be for those of us who lead Christ-like lives in the grace of God.

Like the radar showing the location of an approaching storm, the Book of Revelation is a warning that will give you peace of mind. Don't be afraid to read and study it's message. While it warns us all about the consequences of turning our backs on God, it will also reveal for you how safe God will keep you when you are prepared.

**Interesting Fact:** The Apostle John wrote The Book of Revelation in a style of literature called apocalyptic which was very popular between about 200 B.C. and 200 A.D.

**Bonus Point:** Which chapter and verse speaks of Christ's second coming?