The Date of the Book of Revelation

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Abstract
Preterists teach that the Book of Revelation is primarily a prophecy about the Roman war against the Jews in Israel that began in A.D. 67 and ended with the destruction of the Temple in A.D. 70. In order for Revelation to be a prediction of the future (Rev. 1:1, 3, 11, 19; 22:6-10, 16, 18-20) and if it was fulfilled by August A.D. 70, then it had to have been written by A.D. 65 or 66 for the preterist interpretation to even be a possibility. Preterist Ken Gentry has noted this major weakness when he said of fellow early date advocate David Chilton, "if it could be demonstrated that Revelation were written 25 years after the Fall of Jerusalem, Chilton's entire labor would go up in smoke."1 Actually, all one would have to do is to show that Revelation was written any time after the destruction of Jerusalem.

The futurists interpretation is not dependant upon the date of Revelation since it does not matter when these events take place since they are still future to our own time. However, the date of Revelation is essential to the preterist position and explains why they are so focused upon defending an early date. There are two lines of evidence: external (evidence from outside the Revelation) and internal (evidence from inside the Revelation).

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The Book of Revelation is the last book of the Bible, and describes the tribulations visited upon mankind at the end of the world (which is often referred to as the "end times"), the ultimate battle between...
good-and-evil, and, finally, the Second Coming of Christ. Authorship of the book has been questioned over the centuries, but the prevailing view is that it was written by a man named John of Patmos, a.k.a., John the Theologian, who was neither John the Apostle nor John the 1This is the revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants what must soon come to pass. He made it known by sending His angel to His servant John, 2who testifies to everything he saw. This is the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. 3Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear and obey what is written in it, because the time is near. John Greets the Seven Churches. 4John  Footnotes: 4 a Literal seven Spirits; also in chapters 3, 4, and 5 8 b TR includes the Beginning and the End 11 c TR includes I am Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last, and 13 d Or a son of man; see Daniel 7:13. 2. Revelation 2. Par 1. To the Church in Ephesus (Acts 19:8-12).