



The Book of Revelation is without doubt the most complicated, controversial, and esoteric of the entire Bible! Some even doubt that it should even be in the Bible at all, and assert that its place in the Bible Canon was controversial from the start. This is false. Why? The early acceptance of Revelation by the Christian Church is proof that the book is divinely inspired.

1. We have early, widespread and consistent reception of Revelation. Papias (c 125), Justin Martyr, Irenaus, the Muratorian Fragment, Hippolytus, Clement of Alexandria, Tertullian, and Origen all accepted Revelation as authentic. That's impressive! Every one of these accepted Revelation as inspired, on the basis that John, the apostle was the recorder. B W Bacon was so impressed with the initial widespread acceptance of Revelation, that he wrote: "There is no other book in the entire NT whose external attestation can compare with that of Revelation, in nearness, clearness, definiteness, and positiveness of statement" (The Making of the New Testament, 190).
2. Objections to Revelation were later and limited. Gaius in the early 3<sup>rd</sup> century rejected Revelation, thinking it was a forgery of the apostate Cerinthus. This is the first real objection.
3. Objections to Revelation were not on any historical basis. Gaius rejected the literal millennial reign of Christ, so he thought the reference in chapter 20 of such had to be a product of the apostate Cerinthus.
4. Any such objections were resolved early. It was accepted by the synods of Hippo (393) and Carthage (397), by Philastrius of Brescia (c 385), Rufinus of Aquileia (c 404), Jerome (c 414), and Augustine (c 426). They accepted Revelation as authentic because it was

accepted by the early Christians as authentic.

5. There are many quotations from Revelation by early writers, who quoted it as being authentic.
6. The writings of the Apostles were viewed as authentic (Jude 17,18; 2 Peter 3:15,16).