

ESSAYS ON THE APOCALYPSE

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649213283

Essays on the Apocalypse by James J. L. Ratton

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

JAMES J. L. RATTON

**ESSAYS ON THE
APOCALYPSE**

ESSAYS ON THE APOCALYPSE

By

JAMES J. L. RATTON,

M.D. M.Ch., Q.U.I.

Lt.-Colonel I.A.M.S. Retired; Fellow of the Madras
University; Author of "The Apocalypse,
The Antichrist, and The End"

LONDON

BURNS AND OATES

NEW YORK, CINCINNATI, CHICAGO: BENZIGER BROS

1908



NOV 2 1908

Nihil obstat

GEORGIUS B. TATUM
Censor deputatus

Imprimatur

✠ GULIELMUS
Episcopus Arindelensis
Vicarius Generalis

Westmonasterii
die 18 Martii 1908

THE PREFACE

THESE Essays are an extension of a book written by me in the year 1905, and published in January, 1906, entitled, *The Apocalypse, The Antichrist, and The End*. They are meant to show the great importance of the date of the book in every department of its exegesis.

Every scrap of evidence we possess is in favour of dating the book in the year 67 A.D. If we accept that date, the book unfolds its message in an intelligible way. If we do not, it remains, more or less, a mystery.

It has been generally assumed by Catholic writers that the Apocalypse was written in the year 96, because St Irenæus, who lived in the second century, is supposed to have handed it down as the tradition of the early Church. But St Irenæus did not say that the Apocalypse was written, or that the visions were seen, at the close of Domitian's reign; but that "The Apocalypse" was seen then. The Apocalypse, meaning "The Revelation," was the title of the book which St John wrote. What St Irenæus said, therefore, was that the book was seen at the close of Domitian's reign. This does not necessarily mean that the book was written then. A detailed explanation of this matter is given in the second Essay.

As all these Essays deal, practically, with the same subject, there is some repetition, which is regrettable, but unavoidable.

I gather from the reviews of my first book on the Apocalypse that it is taken to be the official "Roman" view of that "Scripture," because the book bears the *Imprimatur* of the Vicar-General of the Diocese of Westminster. This, however, is simply a matter of diocesan official routine. When a loyal Catholic wishes to publish a book dealing more or less with religion, he applies for permission to do so to the Bishop in whose diocese his publishers reside. If the Bishop, in this case the Archbishop of Westminster, agrees to the publication of the book, he appoints a theologian to read the manuscript of the book and see that it is free from heresy. If the examiner, so appointed, finds that there is no heresy in the book he gives the author a *nihil obstat*. The author sends this to the Vicar-General of the Diocese, and asks for his *imprimatur*, which is then granted as a matter of course. It does not imply approval of the work, for neither the Vicar-General nor the Bishop have so far seen the book. The *imprimatur* is granted before it is printed. Unless the book has singular merits it very probably troubles the Church no more. Rome, in the meanwhile, has never heard of the book, and, possibly, never will. Official Rome, I mean the Church, sweeps majestically on with the centuries, taking little note of exegetics which do not survive her heroic tests of time and criticism.

Similarly, the Catholic Church knows nothing of these "Essays" which bear the *Imprimatur* of the Diocese of Westminster. The author, a mere layman, is well aware of the faults and failings of his work, and would not share the blame with anyone. As it appears in *The Catholic Who's Who* for 1908, that "Colonel Ratton has made a special study of the

THE PREFACE

vij

Apocalypse," he may as well confess here that he is the writer of these Essays, and of the book on "The Apocalypse" which appeared under his initials: "J.J.L.R.;" "J. J. Elar," his *nom de plume*, in 1906.*

JAMES J. L. RATTON

* Since this book went to press, the Encyclical of Pius X, on "Modernism," *Pascendi Gregis*, has been published. Books requiring the *Imprimatur* of the Church are now examined by a standing committee of theologians, to see that they are, *inter alia*, free from the taint of "Modernism." "Modernism" is a subtle blend of some old heresies with modern scientific thought and language. It is probable, therefore, that in future the *Imprimatur* will have an altered value.

THE CONTENTS

I The Writer and Date of Writing	I
II When and how the key was lost	45
III The Second Beast, called "the False Prophet"	71
IV On Rev. xiv, 20	91
V The Seven Churches of Asia	99