



# THE END

A STUDY OF REVELATION

Rev. 1:1-3

Rev. 1:1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John:

2 Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw.

3 Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.

## Background Introduction

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The opening verses of the book state that "John" wrote it (1:1, 4, 9; cf. 22:8). From the first century to the present day, almost all orthodox scholars have concluded that this means the Apostle John. The date is A.D. 95-96.

John also alluded often to Exodus, Deuteronomy, Jeremiah, and Zechariah. One scholar claimed that 278 of the 404 verses in Revelation contain references to the Old Testament. William Barclay claimed that John quoted or alluded to the Old Testament 245 times, citing about 20 Old Testament books—his favorites being: Isaiah, Daniel, Ezekiel, Psalms, Exodus, Jeremiah, and Zechariah.

## INTERPRETATIONS

There have been four basic interpretations of Revelation throughout church history:

- The *idealist*, or allegorical, interpretation sees the book as an allegory, teaching the ideal of the triumph of good over evil.
- The *preterist* interpretation, after the Latin word *preater*, meaning "past," views the book as dealing only with events in the early history of the church, specifically: its conflicts with Judaism and paganism in John's day.
- The *historicist* view understands Revelation to be dealing with events in the total history of the church, not just the church until John's day.
- The *futurist* view sees the book describing mainly events in the eschatological future, specifically: the things described in chapters 4—22.

Why is there so much symbolism in this book? David Jeremiah offered three reasons:

- Symbolism is not weakened by time.
- Symbols impart values and arouse emotions.
- And symbols can be used as a secret code.

David Jeremiah, *Escape the Coming Night*, p. 18.

## GENRE

The Book of Revelation contains three types of literature mainly:

- Apocalyptic (cf. Ezek. 1:1-14)
- Prophetic (cf. Isa. 53:1-6)
- Epistolary (cf. 1 Cor.).

## MESSAGE

The Book of Revelation is one of the most encouraging books in the Bible. Revelation is about the *person* of Jesus Christ.

Three emphases in the book clarify His essential being.

- First, He is the *same* "human Jesus" who was born on earth at His first coming.
- Second, He is also fully divine: one in essence with the Father (1:12-18; 3:14).
- Third, He is the eternal God (1:8; 21:6; 22:13).

Nine titles give us a fuller appreciation of His place in history.

- The "Root of David,"
- The "Lion of the tribe of Judah,"
- The promised "Messiah" (3:7; 5:5; 22:16).
- "The Lamb of God" who takes away the sins of the world (5:6, 12-13; 6:1).
- "The firstborn from the dead, the victor over death and Hell" (1:5-6, 18; 2:8; 3:21).
- He is "the Lord of the churches" Who reigns over the churches (2:1; 3:1; cf. 22:20).
- "The Judge of all humankind" (2:12, 18; 3:14; 6:1; et al.).
- "King of kings and Lord of lords" (1:5; 17:14; 19:16).
- "The Morning Star" (22:16; cf. 2:28).

This book is also a revelation of the *power* of Jesus Christ.

- First, He has all *personal* power.
- Second, He has all *instrumental* power.
- Third, He has all *effectual* power.

The Book of Revelation also reveals the *program* of Jesus Christ (1:19).

- Christ's *immediate* purpose is to defeat and destroy Satan and sin.
- Christ's *ultimate* purpose is to dwell among His people and experience intimate fellowship with them.

The Book of Revelation, then, is *an unveiling of Jesus Christ*—His person, His power, and His program—for the rest of history. This is the message statement.



## Scriptural Introduction

Rev. 1:19 Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter;

Part One – THE PAST: REVEALING GOD – “...the things which thou hast seen...” Ch. 1

Introduction: 1:1-3

Rev. 1:1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John:

2 Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw.

3 Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.

## A. The Significance of the Book, 1:1a-b

1. The Person of Christ Unveiled, 1:1a “The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him...”

**Original Word:** ἀποκάλυψις

**Transliteration:** apokalupsis

**Definition:** an unveiling, uncovering, revealing, revelation.

*apokálypsis* ("revelation, unveiling") is principally used of the *revelation* of Jesus Christ (the *Word*), especially a *particular (spiritual) manifestation* of Christ (His will) previously unknown to the extent (because "veiled, covered"). <http://biblehub.com/greek/602.htm>

2. The Purposes of God Unveiled, 1:1b “...to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass...”

**Original Word:** δείκνυμι

**Transliteration:** deiknumi

**Definition:** I point out, **show**, exhibit; met: I teach, demonstrate, make known.

<http://biblehub.com/greek/1166.htm>

**Original Word:** τάχος

**Transliteration:** tachos

**Definition:** quickness, speed; hastily, immediately. (**shortly**)

*táchos* – swiftness (speed), i.e. done as quickly (speedily) as is appropriate to the particular situation.

<http://biblehub.com/greek/5034.htm>

Rev. 22:6 And he said unto me, These sayings *are* faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew unto his servants the things which must **shortly** be done.

Dan. 2:28 But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days. Thy dream, and the visions of thy head upon thy bed, are these;

29 As for thee, O king, thy thoughts came *into thy mind* upon thy bed, **what should come to pass hereafter: and he that revealeth secrets maketh known to thee what shall come to pass.**

## B. The Signature of the Book, 1:1c-2

1. The Marvelous Way He Received This Revelation , 1:1c  
“...and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John:”

**Original Word:** σημαίνω

**Transliteration:** sémainó

**Definition:** I **signify**, indicate, give a sign, make known.

<http://biblehub.com/greek/4591.htm>

2. The Meticulous Way He Recorded This Revelation, 1:2

Rev. 1:2 Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw.

## C. The Singularity of the Book, 1:3

Rev. 1:3 **Blessed** is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.

1. It Embodies a Special Promise, 1:3a “**Blessed** is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein ...”

**Original Word:** τηρέω

**Transliteration:** téreó

**Definition:** I keep, guard, observe, watch over.

*tēréō* (from *tēros*, "a guard") – properly, maintain (preserve);  
(figuratively) *spiritually guard* (watch), *keep intact*.

<http://biblehub.com/greek/5083.htm>

Rev. 14:13 And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, **Blessed** are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.

Rev. 16:15 Behold, I come as a thief. **Blessed** is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.

Rev. 19:9 And he saith unto me, Write, **Blessed** are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.

Rev. 20:6 **Blessed** and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

Rev. 22:7 Behold, I come quickly: **blessed** is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book. ...

14 **Blessed** are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.

2. It Embraces a Special Period, 1:3 "...for the time is at hand."

**Original Word:** καιρός

**Transliteration:** kairos

**Definition:** fitting season, season, opportunity, occasion, time.

*kairós* – time as opportunity. *kairós* ("opportune time") is derived from *kara* ("head") referring to things "coming to a head" to take full-advantage of. (*kairós*) is "the suitable time, the right moment, a favorable moment" <http://biblehub.com/greek/2540.htm>



## Conclusion

2 Tim. 3:1 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,

4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

1 Thess. 4:16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.