

Revelation— Keep this Information!

#3111 0211 24P This study: Revelation 1:1-7 wds1698

Revelation has important information for us that we must *keep* in memory.

It describes the Tribulation; the plagues, the Battle of Armageddon; the Antichrist; and it reveals the Lord Jesus as our Savior—*who* He is; *what* He says; and *why* we must *keep* His words!

This last Book of the Bible gives us a glimpse into Heaven. God knows the beginning to the end of everything—He knows the *future* as we know the *past*. When He says something will happen, it *will* happen!

Five books of the New Testament are from the apostle John—the fourth Gospel; three epistles; and Revelation.

John seems observant and very aware—he was close to Jesus. After the resurrection, it was John who said from the boat NKJV John 21:7 “*It is the Lord!*”

So, John is given the *privilege* of writing this last book of the Bible. The Gospel of John was penned that we *might believe*; the epistles (letters) were written that we *might be sure*; and Revelation was recorded that we *might be ready!*

The apostle John receives these amazing visions when he was banished to the island of *Patmos* by Emperor Domitian—in 95 A.D. It was when the church was under much persecution.

John is the last surviving of the twelve apostles whom Jesus had selected.

Revelation explains what is going to happen in our world as we get ever closer to the End of the age.

It is like an auto dealer receiving the latest model car, but has it covered until the announced time—then the cover is lifted—giving the public its first look at the new model.

Over half of the Bible is prophecy—and one-half of the predicted events have already taken place. There is no reason to doubt that the remaining prophecies will *also* take place exactly as God has said.

Some of Revelation is written figuratively because the visions the apostle John saw would be described with the language of his day.

John had to use symbols, metaphors, and images to communicate what he was *seeing* and *hearing*. He says, “*looked like*” and “*sounded like*” many times.

We should understand this Book, as it *reveals* more than it *conceals*—it was not written to *scare* us but to *prepare* us!

AV Revelation 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.*”

Revelation was given *from* Jesus; *through* the angel; and *to* the apostle John.

He says, “*Things which must shortly come to pass,*” but that does not mean it would happen soon from the time it was written. It is a Greek phrase meaning when it *does* come to pass it will happen *quickly and rapidly*—like dominos falling.

God uses the assistance of angels in delivering these symbolic things to the apostle. Angels are mentioned 76 times in Revelation.

AV Revelation 5:2 “*And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?*”

AV Revelation 1:2 “*Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw.*”

The apostle is to write down what he sees—but writing as an Easterner not a Westerner. He gets these visions one after another and says “*things he saw*” 36 times, and “*things he heard*” 27 times in Revelation.

NKJV Revelation 1:3 “*Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near [at hand AV].*”

We are blessed by *reading* Revelation or *hearing* it read and blessed by *keeping* its prophecies in our heart.

Reading the Scriptures every day *blesses* us and *enlightens* us—it gives us hope to *know* of these future events and how God can save us from the coming wrath.

Blessed are those who *read* and *hear* these words of prophecy “*for the time is near.*”

There are *seven* beatitudes in Revelation—this is the first of seven: Revelation 1:3, 14:13, 16:15, 19:9, 20:6, 22:7, 22:14. These are blessings—[in Greek: *O how happy!*]

AV Revelation 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.*”

Thirteen times in three Gospels and in Revelation, Jesus commands: AV Matthew 11:15 “*He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.*” It is repeated so we will know the importance of *reading*, *listening*, and *keeping* in memory what is described in this prophetic Book.

Revelation contains many warnings for us, and by reading, we are *warned* of the need to

make *changes* in our life and in our attitudes, as God shows us where we need to repent and return to Him in faith.

Knowing the **future** helps us live godly in the **present!** We should be alert and to expect the sudden arrival of the Lord Jesus from Heaven at any time.

NKJV Revelation 1:4 “*John, to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne,*

5 “*and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood,*

6 “*and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.*”

The best source for this information is Jesus—who is “*the faithful witness.*”

Not every witness is faithful and not everyone tells the truth, but we can be sure Jesus will always be *faithful* and *truthful* with us—because He loves us—“*To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood*” 1:5.

The prophet verifies that truth—NKJV Jeremiah 31:3 “*Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you.*” What a contrast the love of God is, to the conditional love of people today!

The world loves us when we are attractive and beneficial, but God loves us when we are unattractive and not beneficial; the world loves us when we are famous and well-known, but God loves us when we are unknown and overlooked.

The world loves the *extraordinary*, God loves the *ordinary*. AV Romans 5:8 “*But God*

commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

The love of God and the same love Jesus has for us is far beyond any type of human love. AV John 15:13 “*Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.*” And Jesus laid down *His* life for *us*—and even before we showed any love for Him.

As we read and study Revelation—it will remind us that Jesus is in Heaven and waiting for the Father to give the command for Him to return for His true followers!

This truth concerning the *return* of Christ is said to appear in more than five hundred [500] verses in the Bible. This gives *hope* in a *hopeless* world. Millions today have no hope for a better future; but God says there *is* hope—it is a *living* hope through faith in the *living* Savior.

In the meantime, as we go about our lives and continuing to *read* and *heed* and *keep* the words God wrote—reminding ourselves throughout the day, and not allow the devil to distract us with a *plethora* [excess] of unimportant things in the world today.

We are hopeful because we are AV Titus 2:13 “*Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; 14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.*”

Good works is producing *good fruit* by giving *good treatment* to someone, and giving *good greetings* to a person along the path of life.

We continue to “*look for that blessed hope*”—the return of the Lord Jesus, and by His mercy and grace, may we be able to stand before Him *unashamed* of our attitudes toward people;

unashamed of our treatment of family members; and *unashamed* of our conduct in general.

AV Revelation 1:7 “*Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.*”

Everyone on planet earth will *witness* the return of Christ—the Jewish people will now know that He *is* their long-awaited Messiah.

They will be truly *sorry* for denying that previously. AV Zechariah 12:10 “*They shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son.*”

We do *not* set dates, but we *do* read the signs of the times—and the signs tell us that Jesus is ready and waiting for the command to return.

Two angels said AV Acts 1:11 “*Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.*”

It is *time* to wake from sleep; *time* to *not* be distracted by so many things Satan places in front of us today; and *time* to **read**, to **hear**, and to **keep** this important information in memory!

NKJV Revelation 1:3 “**Blessed** is he who **reads** and those who **hear** the words of this prophecy, and **keep** those things which are written in it; for the time is near.”



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