

Revelation— Revealing the Future!



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The Book of Revelation was written so we would *know* what will happen—and maybe soon and surely quickly. The Book of Revelation reveals the future—describing things that will take place—suddenly and without further warning.

The disciples were marveling at the magnificent stones of the temple when Jesus described how it would all be thrown down—He said Mark 13:15 “*Let him that is on the housetop not go down into the house, neither enter therein, to take any thing out of his house:*” and 23 “*Take ye heed: behold, I have foretold you all things.*”

The apostle Peter warns us about remaining faithful in trusting God by faith in the shed Blood of Jesus—as we are inspired of the Holy Spirit. 2 Peter 3:17 “*Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness.*”

This last book enables us to look beyond the *physical* realm and into the *supernatural* realm of Heaven. Revelation gives a glimpse of those things that are outside this world. God is *not* bound by time—minutes, hours, days, or years. God knows the *future* as we know *yesterday*.

When He says something *will* happen—it will happen! God is not affected by time as we are; 2 Peter 3:8 “*Do not forget this one thing, that*

with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.” God already knows the future, so He is able to predict the future with 100% accuracy.

Over half of the Bible is prophecy—and one-half of the predicted events have already taken place as were foretold. There is no reason for anyone to *doubt* that the remaining prophecies will *also* take place as God says they will. The Bible is the only Book that can be trusted—completely.

Revelation is written in figurative language because what God showed John in visions, would be difficult to describe in the language of his day. John had to use symbols, metaphors, images, similes, and comparisons to communicate what he was seeing but not completely understanding.

Revelation means *unveiling*—it *reveals* more than it *conceals*. The Book *uncovers* what is to happen in our world; what will happen in Heaven; and about the world to come. It is like the latest 2022 model car at an auto dealer—at some point this new car will have the covering cloth lifted—giving everyone their first look at the latest vehicle.

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: 2 Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw.*” Revelation *reveals* the realm of angels and demons; it tells about the Great Tribulation; the Battle of Armageddon; and the Antichrist. Most importantly, however, it reveals our resurrected Lord and Savior, Jesus—who He *is*; what He *says*; and why we *must listen* to Him.

Jesus is He Revelation 1:5 “*Who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him*

that loved us and washed us from our sins in his own blood.”

Revelation has three primary sections—Chapter 1 opens with Revelation 1:19 “*Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter.*” The apostle sees the glorified Christ who is in control of all that is about to happen.

“*And the things which are*”—refers to the seven churches of chapters 2 and 3. This section not only describes seven churches of that day, but also gives a chronological look at church history from the beginning to the present. “*And the things which will take place after this*”—are the future events of chapters 4 to 22.

Revelation is *from* Jesus, *through* the angel, and *to* the apostle. Peter, James, and John were present at Jesus’ transfiguration on the mountain with Moses and Elijah. John was also in the Garden of Gethsemane when Jesus prayed, Luke 22:42 “*Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.*”

John was at the foot of the cross during the crucifixion—keeping watch of all that was taking place. Looking down, Jesus says to John: John 19:27 “*Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home.*”

After the resurrection, Peter and John both ran to the sepulcher—with John getting there first; looked in; saw the linen cloths lying there and believed—but did not go *into* the tomb. Peter *did* go in, but it is not recorded that he believed—just that he left wondering what it all meant. John 20:9 “*For as yet they knew not the scripture, that he must rise again from the dead.*”

John is very perceptive—it was he who said from the boat: John 21:7 “*It is the Lord!*” John had the privilege of writing this last book of the Bible. Five NT books are from John—the fourth Gospel; three epistles; and Revelation. The Gospel was written that *we might believe*; the epistles that

we might be sure; and Revelation that we might be ready!

John received the revelation from Jesus during a time of exile on a small island in the Mediterranean—Patmos; a time when the church was under much persecution—when believers in Christ were arrested, imprisoned, or executed. God gave the aged apostle John this amazing preview of the future which became the book of Revelation.

Within the chapters of Revelation, there is mystery, deception, conspiracy, conflict, rebellion, economic collapse, and the war to end all wars. It ends with sin and death being *banished* forever, and God living with *believers* forever.

A great voice out of Heaven says Revelation 21:3 “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. 4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.”

At the beginning of Revelation, we are told to—*read, hear, and keep* the truths contained in the Book. Revelation 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.”

We are to *read* Scripture every day and asking God to enlighten us to its meaning. We are to *hear* words of prophecy with discernment—as Jesus said many times Matthew 11:15 “He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.”

We must *keep* God’s Truth alive in our heart—regardless of what we are going through or the difficulties we are facing. Keeping the words alive means applying the principles of truth in our life, our situations, and our daily experiences. Understanding the *future* helps us to live

scripturally in the *present*—realizing the soon and sudden arrival of the Lord Jesus.

Revelation begins with a profound statement for all believers: Revelation 1:4 “John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne; 5 And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, 6 And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.”

There is no better source of information on you—than you; so the best source of who Jesus is would be Jesus Himself. He says that He is “The faithful witness.” That sets Him apart from others, because not every witness is *faithful*, and not everyone tells the *truth*. We can, however, be absolutely sure that Jesus has always been *faithful*, and *truthful*, and *loving* toward us—“To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood” 1:5.

In fact, He loves us so much that He paid a huge sin-debt for us. The prophet verifies that truth—God appeared to him saying Jeremiah 31:3 “Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.”

The love of God is so different from the love of humans in our culture today. The world loves us when we are *attractive* and *helpful*; but God loves us when we are *not* attractive and *not* helpful—Romans 5:8 “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

The *world* loves us when we are famous and well-known; but *God* loves us when we are unknown and overlooked. The *world* loves us when

we are rich and powerful; but *God* loves us when we are penniless and poor. The *world* loves the *extraordinary*; God loves the *ordinary*. Jesus “Washed us from our sins in His own blood” 1:5—proving His intense love for us: John 15:13 “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.”

Revelation 1:7 “Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him.” This return of Christ is said to appear in more than 500 verses in the Bible. This gives hope to the hopeless in the world. Millions see no hope for a better future; but God says there is a living hope.

We are 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.”

Everyone will see the return of Christ—the entire world! 7b “And they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.” The Jewish people will now realize that Jesus is their long-awaited Messiah—and they will mourn for having denied Him. 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.”

Now that we have *read* and *heard* of what will take place, we must make the commitment to *keep* God’s Truth in our heart. 2 Peter 3:14 “Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless”—blameless by repenting; free from sin by confessing; and at peace with everyone by *forgiving* everyone! By faith and trust on the shed Blood of Jesus, our future is bright!



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